

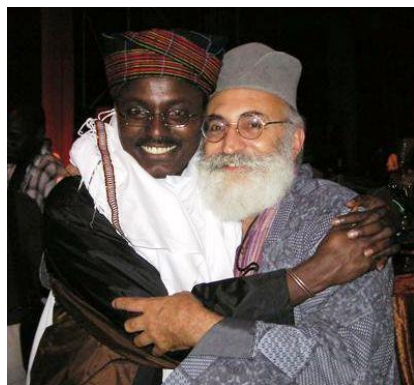
THE ICCA CONSORTIUM NEWSLETTER

Issue #4 – May 2013

Edito

The ICCA Consortium will co-lead the development of the Governance Stream at the next World Parks Congress, Sydney 2014

By M. Taghi Farvar, President of the ICCA Consortium



Boku Tache Dida (Ethiopia) and Taghi Farvar (Iran) at the World Parks Congress of Durban, 2003

Dear Members and Honorary members of the ICCA Consortium, I have asked to leave space for me in this fourth issue of the Consortium Newsletter to announce an important decision that was recently communicated to us by the International Steering Committee for the next IUCN World Parks Congress: **the proposal prepared by the ICCA Consortium** in association with, and on behalf of, a Team of institutional partners—including GIZ, UNDP, the Indigenous Protected Areas Sub-Committee of Australia and the CBD Secretariat— **has been selected to develop Stream 6**

(“Broadening governance”) **of the next World Parks Congress (Sydney, October 2014).** The Consortium is simply delighted about this important decision and we will

work with our partners, the IUCN Protected Areas Programme and the IUCN Commissions to deliver at our best. First of all, let me thank Grazia and Ashish, who have taken the lead for the Consortium to develop the partnership and the document that was approved. Let me then briefly outline why I believe that this is an important decision, and what we hope the Consortium can achieve through that...

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Regional issues

Asia

The Philippines establish the first national ICCA Consortium

By Samson Pedragosa, Regional Coordinator for South-East Asia / PAFID (Member)



Founding IP Leaders and resource persons at the start of the meeting (Courtesy: KASAPI)

The ICCA Consortium in the Philippines was formally established during a three-day meeting among representatives of indigenous peoples from all over the country called for this purpose in Quezon City on 19 – 22 February 2013. The meeting was jointly organized by KASAPI and PAFID with support from the UNDP-GEF and the Philippine Tropical Forest Conservation Foundation (PTFCF). In a unanimous decision, the participants in the meeting adopted the name **Philippine ICCA Consortium** for the new organization expected to promote the appropriate recognition of and support to ICCAs in the Philippines. The Philippines ICCA Consortium will develop a national program for ICCAs in the country, which is hoped will serve as a framework for cooperation among agencies, donor institutions and support organizations interested in advancing the ICCA agenda in the country. The establishment of this national Consortium fulfils one of the calls expressed in the Manila Declaration developed and signed by indigenous peoples during the First National Conference on ICCAs in the Philippines held on 29 – 30 March 2012.



Cong. Teddy Baguilat: *"I would like to be able to support this cause where I know I can make a difference, and that is at the halls of congress."* (Courtesy: KASAPI)

A 7-member steering committee comprised of representatives from all "ethnographic regions" in the country was created in February 2013 to work on the other details and organizational concerns of the Consortium. The first meeting of the committee will be on 23 – 26 June 2013 to finalize the Constitution and By-laws of the Consortium, and other legal requirements. The meeting will also discuss the details of the proposed national program on ICCAs.

To support the steering committee, an interim secretariat led by the KASAPI Secretary General was also created. The interim secretariat includes representatives from several organizations that are Philippines Member of the global ICCA Consortium such as the NTFP and AnthroWatch, and the UNDP-GEF supported DENR-PAWB-NewCAPP Project. In addition to the IP representatives, a number of organizations, agencies, and institutions participated in the conference. These include the Asian NGO Coalition (ANGOC), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau (PAWB), the national commission on indigenous Peoples (NCIP) and the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP).

ALDAW Study Reveals the Adverse Impact of Oil Palm Expansion in Palawan (The Philippines)

By ALDAW – Ancestral Land/Domain Watch (Member)

In addition to the adverse impact of nickel mining on Palawan province (a UNESCO Man & Biosphere Reserve in the Philippines), indigenous peoples and lowland farmers are now being confronted with the threats posed by oil palm development, which is being strongly



Coconut palm gardens are part of the livelihood resources of indigenous communities in Palawan. (Courtesy: Grazia Borrini-Feyerabend, 2009)

promoted by the Provincial Government. The main oil palm operations are being run by Palawan Palm & Vegetable Oil Mills Inc. and its sister company Agumil Philippines Inc. Both have been established through a joint venture between Filipino, Singaporean and Malaysian investors. As of now, at least 15,000 hectares out of the targeted 20,000 ha of oil palm plantations are being developed by both companies and by a few private investors. At least 4,000 ha have already been planted and are encroaching on the areas and territories that belong to, and are conserved by, indigenous peoples and local communities.

In some municipalities, oil palm development is competing with or even becoming more important than subsistence agriculture. One of the indigenous peoples main complains is also that ‘new’ pests are spreading from oil palm plantations to cultivated fields, destroying hundreds of coconut palms, i.e. the basis of local income



And, from the palm oil plantations, thousands of bugs like these spread out, destroying the heart of coconut palms. With those, go the livelihoods of families... (Courtesy: gbf, 2009)

generation. In addition, old and secondary forest is being cleared to make space for plantations. With that, many natural resources, including medicinal plants, game animals, wild honey, and many other non-timber forest products (NTFP) pivotal for household survival, are being are becoming very scarce.



But palm oil plantations are spreading ... (Courtesy: ALDAW)

Now, a well-researched report released by ALDAW (Ancestral Land/Domain Watch) challenges the premises of “sustainable development” and “rural poverty eradication” that underlie the Government discourse on oil palm development and brings to light the concerns and sufferings of the indigenous communities directly impacted by the massive agro-industrial schemes. The report can be downloaded from the ICCA Consortium website.

- Download ALDAW Oil Palm Geotagged Report 2003 [Part 1](#) and [Part 2](#)
- [Watch the video](#) “Oil Palm Aggression on Palawan UNESCO MAB Reserve”
 - More information on ALDAW [Facebook page](#)

Second Meeting on the Asia Regional Initiative on Biocultural Community Protocols Held in India

By Holly Shrumm, International Policy Assistant / Natural Justice (Member)



Break-out discussions during the meeting (Courtesy: Natural Justice)

From 18-20 February at the Srishti School of Art, Design and Technology in Bangalore, India, Natural Justice, the Law, Environment and Design ([LED](#)) Lab, and ETC-Compas organised the second meeting of the Asia Regional Initiative on Biocultural Community Protocols ([ARI-BCP](#)). Non-profit and community-based organisations from India, Sri Lanka and Nepal shared their experiences with

supporting the rights and livelihoods of Indigenous and tribal communities, fishing communities, communities affected by extractive industries, traditional healers, and farmers. Several participants were also part of the ICCA Consortium, including Vasundhara, the International Collective in Support of Fishworkers, and Wim Hiemstra (Honorary Member). The meeting was kindly supported by The Christensen Fund and the Ford Foundation.

The overall emphasis was exploring how protocols can be strategically utilised by Indigenous peoples and communities as part of ongoing efforts to secure their territories and areas of collective stewardship, including ICCAs. Discussions focused on activities undertaken and lessons learned to date with the development and use of community protocols in South Asia; how protocols can be used within the Indian legal context, particularly vis-à-vis the Biodiversity Act 2002 and the Forest Rights Act 2006; the innovative use of design and technology to support participatory documentation (of biodiversity, customary practices, etc.) and community advocacy efforts; and next steps in South Asia, including greater emphasis on participatory legal empowerment and possibly litigation.

- The full report of the meeting is available at: <http://bit.ly/11x3uto>.
- For more information, please visit: www.community-protocols.org or contact Holly (holly@naturaljustice.org) and Kabir Bavikatte (kabir@naturaljustice.org).

Seeking the Revival of Sustainability for the Island of the *Tao* People

Sutej Hugu, Regional Coordinator for East Asia and Syaman Vongayan, Lead Director, *Tao* Foundation

We call ourselves *Tao*, a population of about 4,000 people. *Pongso no Tao* (literally the 'Homeland of *Tao* people') is a small northern volcanic outlier of the Batanes Islands, southeast of Taiwan (now labeled 'Lanyu' or 'Orchid Island' on the official atlas). Not far from the starting point of the *Kuroshio* Current and nurtured by the richness of its large marine ecosystem, the *Tao* people have lived 'the original affluent society' with their comprehensive traditional ecological knowledge base on their home island for millennium. There are non-hierarchical and unspecialized egalitarian tribal communities, without chiefs



A family field of taro, the typical staple food in *Pongso no Tao*.
(Courtesy gbf, 2013)

or ruling elders but functional leaders responsible for various production and ceremony activities, and only with a simple complementary sexual division of labour within households. Following the unique time reckoning system of *Tao* people, which is an original calendar with thirty names of the phasing moon and an intercalation calibrated by the annual revisiting of flying fishes, our ancestors seasonally alternated their migratory fishing and coral reef fishing, maintained their wet taro fields with irrigation channels and supplemented that by shifting cultivation (firing and fallowing) of dry taro, yam, and millet. They also maintained forests through their caring and ecologically-wise timber harvesting for plank boat-building and house building. The accumulated social and ecological knowledge and a related elaborate '*makaniaw*' (taboo) system are continuing today...

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ICCAs in Taiwan—musing from a recent mission...

By Grazia Borrini-Feyerabend, Global Coordinator



Indigenous people keep visiting the highlands they were forced to abandon. They do so also to keep asserting their collective rights to their traditional territories. (Courtesy gbf, 2013)

"The last hope for conservation of nature in Taiwan: its indigenous peoples!" I find this note in one of the pages of my notebook from the mission that brought me there in February 2013. I cannot even remember if this was a quote from someone or my own thought... It could well be both. Although Taiwan is very far from Europe, travelling there was inexpensive, just a stop en route on my way back to Europe from the Philippines, where the UNDP and the Philippines ICCA Consortium about to be constituted had been kind enough to invite me as an advisor. The idea of stopping in Taiwan was to spend a few days discussing ICCAs issues with a few people from civil society, including our Member Tao Foundation, key government officials and the academia. And so it happened. The mission, although short, proved intensive much beyond what I had imagined...

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Important steps towards securing collective rights to ICCAs in Iran: mobile pastoralist tribes document their livelihoods, knowledge, and innovation via participatory GIS on a Google Earth platform

By Mina Esteghamat and Fatemeh A. Kamali, CENESTA (Member)



A systematic training programme on participatory GIS techniques for representatives of a dozen tribal confederacies and independent tribes and core CENESTA staff is being planned with the support of national and international partners. In preparation for that, three practical experiences were carried out with the Abolhassani tribal confederacy, the Heybatlou sub-tribe and the Farsimadan Tribe, to determine the geographical coordinates of the borders of their territories. The objective was to find a better model of development for those communities, document their knowledge and demarcate their ancestral territories...

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Latin America

The beating heart of ICCAs in Central America

By Bas Verschuuren (Honorary Member) and Felipe Gomez, Oxlajuj Ajpop (Member)



Gonzalo Raguay explains the case of the community-managed forest of Palín to participants in the ICCA meeting in Mesoamerica. The forest is a strong ICCA example from Guatemala, recently recognised under the collective property of its caretaker Pocoman indigenous people. About 30 sacred ceremonial sites exist in the forest of Palín. (Courtesy: gbf, 2013)

From the 17th till the 27th of March participants from various Mesoamerican countries and beyond shared knowledge and experiences in two exciting meetings.

The first focused on the role of cultural, spiritual and sacred values in sustainable forest management. The meeting, organized by [Oxlajuj Ajpop](#), [SNSI](#) and supported by [Natural Justice](#) served to capacitate participants from three indigenous communities on the development of [Biocultural Community Protocols](#) as a tool to help protect their sacred natural sites and forests. The second was the first regional meeting of the ICCA Consortium and was co-organized by Oxlajuj Ajpop, [Ut'z Che](#), [GDF](#) and

[SNSI](#). A range of presentations on indigenous and community conserved areas from the region showed a richness of experiences in traditional, use and conservation and governance of ecosystems...

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A first ICCA Consortium's regional meeting in Mesoamerica kindles interests in indigenous conserved territories and community conserved areas, develops an action plan and identifies new Consortium co-coordinators for the region

By Grazia Borrini-Feyerabend, Consortium Global Coordinator



Among the best conserved in Mesoamerica, the forest of the Maya K'iche' of the 48 Cantons of Totonicapán, under the direct governance of its rightholder indigenous people, preserves the upper watershed of Lake Atitlan and reproduces ancient ways of caring for natural resources – water and timber in particular – which are essential for local livelihoods. (Courtesy: gbf, 2013)

Our territory is not a “thing”, nor a set of resources to be used and exploited (...) our territory with its forests, mountains, rivers, lakes and wetlands... our territory with its sacred sites... our territory with its black, red, sandy and clay soil... is a living entity that gives us life. It gives us water and air and nurtures us. It gives us food and health, knowledge and energy. It connects our generations and provides us with history, a present and future. Our territory gives us identity and culture, autonomy and freedom. With our territory goes our life, and with our life goes our dignity. Our territory is our self-determination as peoples." These words of Cacique Chorotega of Nicaragua were among the

many inspiring exchanges recalled and pronounced in Totonicapán (Guatemala) from March 17th to March 27th 2013. It happened as part of an exciting meeting that gathered ICCA Members and colleagues from various countries in Mesoamerica and beyond....

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La primera reunión regional del Consorcio TICCA en Mesoamérica enciende el interés sobre territorios indígenas de conservación y áreas conservadas por comunidades locales, desarrolla un plan de acción e identifica dos nuevos co-coordinadores del Consorcio para la región

By Grazia Borrini-Feyerabend, Consortium Global coordinator

"Nuestro territorio no es una cosa, ni un conjunto de cosas utilizables, explotables, ni tampoco un conjunto de recursos (...) nuestro territorio, con sus selvas, sus montañas, sus ríos, sus lagunas y humedales, con sus lugares sagrados, con sus tierras negras, rojas y arenosas y sus arcillas es un ente vivo que nos da vida, nos provee agua y aire; nos cuida, nos da alimentos y salud; nos da conocimientos y energía; nos da generaciones y una historia, un presente y un futuro; nos da identidad y cultura; nos da autonomía y libertad. Entonces, junto con el territorio está la vida y junto a la vida está la dignidad; junto al territorio está



Los participantes al taller TICCA pintaron su propia visión de que significan los TICCA en Mesoamérica, incluyendo varios símbolos Maya, árboles nacionales, animales, gente, y la *milpa* necesaria a la vida de tantas comunidades en la región. (Courtesy: gbf, 2013)

nuestra autodeterminación como pueblos". Estas palabras del Cacique Chorotega de Nicaragua fueron algunas de las muchas que se intercambiaron y inspiraron gente en Totonicapán (Guatemala) del 17 al 27 de marzo 2013. Sucedió en el marco de una reunión emocionante que reunió a los miembros del Consorcio TICCA y sus colegas de varios países de Mesoamérica y más allá...

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Oposición popular a la minería

Por Jorge Varela Márquez / Premio Goldman 1999 (Miembro Honorario)



Oposición en contra la Ley de Minería
(Courtesy: Jorge Varela Márquez)

Los empresarios mineros en Honduras han sido ampliamente satisfechos en sus deseos de acomodar la Ley de Minería a su favor. El Neoliberalismo en su más despiadada expresión logra para beneficio económico de las transnacionales mineras una nueva Ley que atenta en contra del ambiente, la sociedad, la economía del país y de la humanidad en general. La sociedad civil hondureña – sin recursos financieros – responde con manifestaciones de protesta en la ciudad capital, Tegucigalpa. Entre otras acciones, una “caminata” inicia el 25 de Febrero de 2013 con

la participación de indígenas, garífunas, mestizos, frailes, monjas, y acompañantes internacionales y recorre 200 Kilómetros a pie hasta llegar a Tegucigalpa después de 9 días, difundiendo sus mensajes en contra de la Nueva Ley de Minería, exigiendo su derogación y advirtiendo sobre los impactos de la misma en contra de la Creación. Otro sector de la sociedad civil incorporado en una “Coalición Nacional de Redes Ambientales” también tiene su Asamblea el 14 y 15 de Marzo, para discutir la estrategia de oposición a la susodicha Ley. De los cuatro confines de la Nación arriban los delegados de ONGs, acompañantes internacionales, y de la iglesia que no sigue las pautas del Cardenal hondureño (Oscar Rodríguez) que favorece a la minería. En los “caminantes” predomina la decisión de impedir a toda costa la “exploración minera” previa a la “explotación”, en sus regiones; idea que comparten la mayoría de los “Asambleístas” quienes además se preparan para impugnar la Ley. Honduras, al legislar en contra de los intereses de su pueblo y de la humanidad, muestra su obediencia a la política neoliberal, al igual que lo hacen casi todos los países del resto del Mundo.

La venta de servicios ambientales en México

Por Carlos del Campo, Global Diversity Foundation (Miembro)



Los bosques comunitarios proporcionan muchos diferentes tipos de comida a las familias campesinas. (Courtesy: BCST)

Aunque la venta de servicios ambientales es presentada por las corporaciones conservacionistas como una oportunidad en la que comunidades locales reciben compensación por proteger los ecosistemas, y dar acceso a la biodiversidad, en la práctica, se trata de una forma de venta del derecho de uso del territorio, garantizando exclusivamente el derecho de las corporaciones y compradores interesados. Las funciones de la naturaleza como son la generación de agua, oxígeno y biodiversidad son consideradas como recursos y servicios ambientales. Las comunidades indígenas y campesinas que venden sus recursos como servicios

ambientales, pierden el control sobre los mismos, ya que en la práctica hipotecan y ceden el control de sus territorios, conocimientos, bienes y recursos. Una amenaza que se cierne después de décadas de luchas por recuperar sus territorios. En el presente se pasa desde un enfoque de derechos territoriales a un mercado de servicios transables que genera utilidades...

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Africa

Etablissement et reconnaissance légale des APACs : Un besoin urgent et une solution au défi de sécurisation foncière des terres traditionnelles des peuples autochtones

Par Joseph Itongwa, Coordinateur Régional pour les écosystèmes forestiers d'Afrique Centrale; et Christian Chatelain, Coordinateur Régional pour l'Afrique Centrale et de l'Ouest

Réunis en atelier de sensibilisation et de plaidoyer sur les droits spécifiques des autochtones dans le paysage N° 10, du 18 au 20 décembre 2012, au chef lieu du territoire de Walikale, plus de 60 représentants des peuples autochtones et communautés locales ainsi que les chefs coutumiers traditionnels se sont dits favorables à la protection et à la valorisation de leurs territoires traditionnels et sites sacrés à travers la dynamique de reconnaissance et appui aux Aires du Patrimoine Autochtone et Communautaire (APACs).



Participants à l'atelier de sensibilisation et de plaidoyer sur les droits spécifiques des peuples autochtones dans le landscape 10 (Courtesy Joseph Itongwa)

Les écosystèmes forestiers du territoire de Walikale hébergent une diversité biologique de haute importance et attirent l'attention et la convoitise des grandes organisations de conservation et des sociétés multinationales. Alors que certains programmes de conservation de ces écosystèmes ont déjà été amorcés dans cette zone, les peuples autochtones et communautés locales n'en sont pas informés et n'y sont pas impliqués ni consultés. De même, leurs droits traditionnels et leurs intérêts non seulement ne sont pas pris en compte mais surtout sont menacés.

Profitant des riches informations reçues pendant cet atelier de la part de Mr Joseph Itongwa, les participants ont accueilli avec espoir l'approche APAC pour la gouvernance de la biodiversité – un espoir pour le défi de sécurisation de leurs terres traditionnelles. Ils ont ainsi souhaité que le processus d'ancrage des APACs sur le terrain soit amorcé rapidement. Pour cela, ils ont recommandé à la coordination du Consortium en RDC d'organiser dans un bref délai d'autres ateliers de terrain pour identifier les zones traditionnelles à vocation d'APACs dans plusieurs paysages bio-culturels du pays. Ce processus a été discuté et décidé lors de l'atelier sur les APACs organisé par le REPALEF avec l'appui de la GIZ et du Consortium APAC à Kinshasa en novembre 2012.

3^e édition du FIPAC 2013 : Les APACs s'invitent à l'ordre du jour !

Par Joseph Itongwa, Coordinateur Régional pour les écosystèmes forestiers d'Afrique Centrale; et Christian Chatelain, Coordinateur Régional pour l'Afrique Centrale et de l'Ouest



La cérémonie officielle d'ouverture de la deuxième édition du FIPAC (Courtesy Joseph Itongwa).

Le Forum international sur les Peuples Autochtones d'Afrique centrale (FIPAC), est un cadre de concertation, d'échange, de dialogue entre les peuples autochtones et les représentants des Etats d'Afrique centrale. Il est organisé tous les 3 ans depuis 2007 et réunit chaque fois plus de trois cent cinquante participants. Sa troisième édition est prévue avant la fin de cette année 2013 à Impfondo dans le département de la Likouala, au Nord de la République du Congo. Ce cadre constituant un espace de plaidoyer important pour le respect et la reconnaissance des droits des peuples autochtones en matière de conservation de la nature, la présence du Consortium APAC à Impfondo en 2013

paraît indispensable. Y serait promue la reconnaissance du rôle positif des pratiques traditionnelles des autochtones sur l'état actuel la biodiversité du bassin du Congo – deuxième massif forestier de la planète – et le concept d'APAC lui-même serait diffusé auprès de tous les acteurs directs de la conservation des milieux forestiers de l'Afrique centrale.

Le coordonnateur du Consortium APAC pour les écosystèmes forestiers d'Afrique Centrale a profité de l'assemblée générale du Réseau des populations autochtones et locales pour la gestion durable des écosystèmes forestiers en Afrique centrale (REPALEAC) tenue à

Brazzaville du 14 au 17 janvier 2013, pour solliciter l'organisation d'une séance spécifique d'explication / promotion des APACs en Afrique centrale lors du prochain FIPAC.

Our Consortium member from Casamance (Senegal) is fighting another battle to conserve the local environment: any advice from you?

Dear ICCA Consortium Members, the Association of Fishermen of the Rural Municipality of Mangagoulack (Casamance, Senegal) – famous for its ICCA Kawawana and Member of the ICCA Consortium – is facing a sudden and serious threat to its local environment: its Mayor has just signed off to charcoal making the local natural forest at the heart of the municipality. Following a US AID project that is said to have promoted charcoal making (apparently in other area of the country), the local mayor has hastily had a few people “trained” in the practice – which is totally unknown locally – and signed off its agreement to an NGO to carry out the initiative. Fortunately, Kawawana has awoken the environmental consciences of the local



Trees of Casamance (Courtesy gbf, 2011).

residents, who well know that charcoal making will rob them of much of their forest, biodiversity and wild foods, and will affect the local climate, including rainfall crucial for their rice production. The APCRM and our Honorary member Salatou Sambou are up in arms and have been visiting as many people as they could to inform them of the issue and related problems... They have also spoken with the people who have been trained to carry out the “charcoal making operations” and these people have already demanded a meeting with the Mayor to get more information on the consequences of what they are supposed to do.

Unfortunately this is yet another example of what is going on in many countries: local politicians with a stated end aim of “development” are using up – sometimes shamelessly – the natural resources of their constituencies and leaving behind a desert. Development often remains a dream looming on the horizon... at times confused with the car dust of the politicians living to find better quarters elsewhere. Some of us are eager to discuss these “problems with representative democracy”, common in both the North as in the South of the world... Please let us know if you are interested as well.

You can download [here](#) the leaflet in French that Salatou and his colleagues have prepared to awaken the local consciences. If you have any information, any study or any advice about how to tackle this kind of issues and save the local natural forest, please contact Grazia (gbf@iccasnortium.org) and Salatou (sambousalatou@gmail.com). Thanks in advance!

Europe

Strategic sellout– legal support withdrawn from ICCAs and other public goods in Croatia

By Iris Beneš, Regional Coordinator for Northern, Central and Eastern Europe

In Croatia the rare ICCAs cases that can still be identified are those of rather ancient communal land that, after World War II, managed to escape pervasive State control and continued to exercise their common rights *de facto*. People living in such areas are in need of legal, organizational and financial support. The sporadic engagement of civil society organisations can only provide temporary relief for some burning issues. A glimpse of a positive policy evolution was seen in 2011 with the introduction of participatory management and the so-called Pasturing Communities (PCs) model. Unfortunately, the newest Agricultural Land Act, approved early in 2013, does not favour any community conservation modality and actually abolishes the legal figure of Pasturing Communities all together!



A traditionally conserved floodplain in Croatia.
(Courtesy: Iris Benes)

Several laws, programs, local strategies and action plans important for ICCAs management are currently under discussion in Croatia, a country which will become the 28th European Union State in July 2013. Two main acts reached Parliamentary procedures after a long and non-transparent path through various Ministries. The new Nature Protection Act has not offered legal grounds for ICCA sites in spite of the supportive comments made by Green forum, a network of 42 NGOs in Croatia. Another important piece of legislation is the draft Law on Strategic Investment Projects,

which was produced through a eight-day (!) public consultation process and urgent procedure in the Parliament. The Ministry of Economy justified the preparation of the new Law with the “need to urgently launch a new investment cycle as main stimulus for growth and development of the national economy”. Numerous groups from civil society, unions, and even Catholic Church warned that the real goal of the Law is to clear the ground for grand civil construction projects, regardless of the ultimate cost to the natural and cultural wealth of the country. The Law on Strategic Investment Projects undoubtedly ensures a short-cut for exploitation of natural resources in Croatia... it actually eliminates all distinctions between private and public domains and seeks to monetize the public domain altogether. It is very likely that the economic crisis and the short-sighted political decisions that go with that will sign the death sentence of what is left of public domains and community conserved areas in Croatia.

David against Goliath: multinational mining company threatens outstanding National Protected Area and transboundary common lands in the Pyrenees

Sergio Couto González, Regional Coordinator for South and West Europe, with an introduction by Ashish Kothari, member of the Steering Committee / Kalpavriksh (Member)

Although aggressive macro-mining projects threatening ICCAs are more common in the countries of the global South— where more natural resources may still be available for exploitation and environmental laws are weaker – they are not exclusive there. Current socio-economic crises in some Northern countries – with unemployment rates breaking historical records - provide a convenient context for mining companies to resurrect and promote old mining projects, formerly rejected because of their environmental impact. In this article we analyse one of these cases in Navarre, Spain, which is currently threatening a National Protected area nearly entirely (98%) composed of land under the common property and management by local communities. The mining project plans to cut down an old forest, which has been recognised by the European Union and Spanish national laws for its outstanding environmental values. Moreover, it will also destroy grazing areas that are shared with French neighbouring local communities on the basis of a treaty signed in 1856. The debate between the short-term jobs that the mining could provide and the preservation of highly environmentally valuable forest and pasture is currently causing political and social turmoil in the area...

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Neighbours of Zilbeti forest painted a real size 3D Pablo Picasso's "Gernica" - one of the most famous Spanish paintings - to draw public attention to their opposition to the mining company's plans to destroy this protected forest. The painting was made with biodegradable paint and was sabotaged some days after by unknown individuals. (Courtesy: SEO/BirdLife)

Publications, videos & forthcoming events

***En todas as mans* ('In the hands of us all') – A documentary on the reality of forest commons**

By Trespés. Soc. Coop. Galega



Currently, forest improvement is predominant in the *montes veciñales*.
(Courtesy: Trespés Soc. Coop. Galega)

In Galicia there are more than 700,000 Ha of **forest commons**, i.e., forests collectively owned by a community of users (in Spanish: *montes veciñales en man común*). The forest commons represent 25% of the surface of the country and are managed through 3,000 entities that involve 150,000 people. These numbers can indeed support a call for the *montes veciñales* to acquire greater importance in Europe. "*En todas as mans*", a documentary currently under production by the cooperative Trespés, was born from the question: "Do communally-held forests occupy the place that they deserves in Galician society?" According to many concerned

organizations, the answer to this question is unquestionably negative, as the *montes veciñales* are nothing less than socially invisible. The intention of the documentary is to point out the cultural value embedded in these ancient institutions and practices. The *monte vicinal* is, in fact, a millenarian form of territorial management that survived through time despite multiple attempts at replacing it...

Fortunately, many communal forests remain, today, in the hands of their legitimate collective rightsholders. In front of those who see communal ownership as a problem, we understand it as an opportunity. Our documentary project looks towards the future and the place that the *monte veciñal* should then occupy in territorial politics (and god knows if we need such polices!). The project is funded, among other means, through crowd-funding, which has accounted for a good part of the budget. We would like to thank the people and entities who believed in the project and contributed to its funding. The première of the documentary is foreseen for 2014.

► More information at www.entodasasmans.com

Submission on Access to Justice to the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

By Holly Shrumm, International Policy Assistant / Natural Justice (Member)

On 11 February, Natural Justice made two submissions to a Human Rights Council-mandated study by the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples ([EMRIP](#)) on access to justice in the protection and promotion of the rights of Indigenous peoples. The draft study will be presented at the sixth session of EMRIP in July.



Orang asli (Indigenous peoples) of Malaysia celebrate a successful High Court judgment in 2012 (Courtesy: The Star)

The first submission had a global focus and included inputs and experiences from several countries in Asia, Africa, and North and South America, with particular emphasis on the protection and stewardship of Indigenous peoples' customary territories and resources. These were primarily drawn from a series of legal reviews coordinated in 2012 by Natural Justice and Kalpavriksh on behalf of the ICCA Consortium. It

focused on the following themes before setting out key recommendations from the legal reviews:

- The relationship between access to justice and a range of other Indigenous peoples' rights;
- Systemic and structural threats to Indigenous peoples' rights and their territories and resources;
- Judicial systems themselves as a barrier to justice;
- Landmark judgments;
- Landmark legislation; and
- Continuing challenges with implementation and compliance.

The second submission was a joint submission in French in collaboration with Programme d'Intégration et de Développement du Peuple Pygmée au Kivu (PIDP-Kivu) and focused on the particular challenges that the Indigenous peoples of North Kivu face in relation to access justice. These and other submissions by Natural Justice are available at: <http://bit.ly/169N5h5>.

Key Resources on Community Protocols Now Available in French and Spanish

By Holly Shrumm, International Policy Assistant / Natural Justice (Member)

Protocoles Bioculturels Communautaires



Articuler la
Gérance



Valoriser les
Droits



Affirmer les
Responsabilités

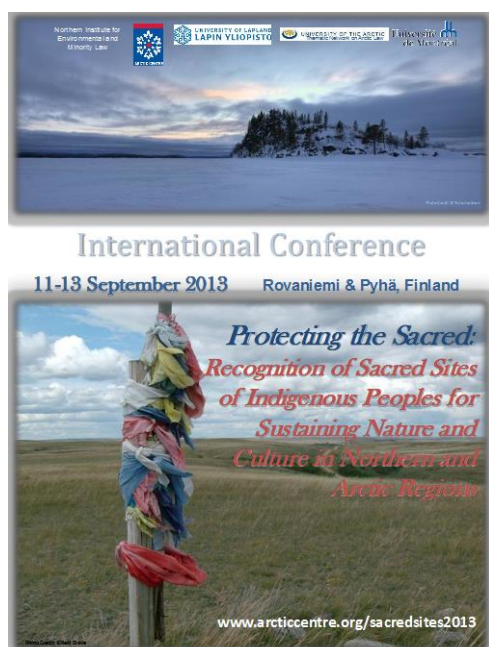
Indigenous peoples and traditional communities have long-standing customary protocols and rules that regulate their conduct with outsiders and vice versa. Addressing such protocols directly to external actors (such as government agencies, companies, researchers, and NGOs) puts them on notice about self-determined values, procedures, and priorities, as well as rights and responsibilities under customary, state, and international law that must form the basis for engagement. Failure to understand and respect such protocols can easily lead to conflict and violations of various laws.

Community protocols can be used as catalysts for constructive and proactive responses to threats and opportunities posed by land and resource development (e.g., mining, logging), conservation (e.g., imposed exclusionary protected areas, market-based mechanisms such as payment for ecosystem services), and research (e.g., invasive questions about sacred sites, commercial development of traditional knowledge). Although there is no template or way to “do” a protocol, the process may involve strengthening customary institutions and community organisations, community mapping and documentation, social mobilisation, legal empowerment, consolidation and clarification of the overall message and priorities, and strategic advocacy and engagement with external actors.

Several resources on community protocols have recently been translated into Spanish and/or French, including:

- A dedicated [website](#) with embedded Google Translate function,
- A brief on the regional initiatives on community protocols in [English](#) and [French](#),
- A short film in [English](#), [Spanish](#) and [French](#),
- A comprehensive toolkit in [English](#) and [Spanish](#) (French is currently underway), and
- A special issue of IIED’s Participatory Learning and Action Journal entitled “Biodiversity and Culture: Exploring community protocols, rights and consent” in [English](#) and [Spanish](#).

Protecting the Sacred: Conference on Indigenous Sacred sites in the Arctic



The Arctic Centre at the University of Lapland is organizing an international conference on the issue of indigenous sacred sites in the Arctic. The conference *"Protecting the sacred: Recognition of Sacred Sites of Indigenous Peoples for Sustaining Nature and Culture in Northern and Arctic Regions"* will be held in Rovaniemi and Pyhänturi, Finland, the next 11-13 September 2013. The conference will gather for the first time in Finland sacred sites custodians, indigenous peoples’ organizations, scientists, policy makers and other interested people, to talk about ways of better recognizing, legally protecting, conserving and managing Sacred Sites and Sanctuaries of Indigenous Peoples in Northern and Arctic regions. Participants will come and speak in relation to the entire circumpolar area. Besides practitioner and academic discussions, the conference also aims to produce recommendations for policy-making related to Sacred Sites and Sanctuaries in the Arctic as well as start a participatory educational research project to advance the transmission of spiritually-relevant and culturally-embedded knowledge and

practices related to sacred sites to younger generations. The aim is to make also a publication on the protection of the SNS in Northern and Arctic regions.

► For more information, visit [this webpage](#)

► Or contact [Leena Heinämäki](#), Arctic Centre / [Thora Herrmann](#), University of Montreal

Life of the Consortium

Staff announcements

For the first time since the birth of the Consortium we are announcing some staff departure. We are saying goodbye and good luck to **Jorge Andreve**, who was Consortium Regional Coordinator for Central America until September 2012, and to our very special Communications Officer **Vanessa Reid**, who is moving on to a new assignment for a Biodiversity Journal. While only some of us have been closely in touch with Jorge – and those will not forget his kindness and passion for the indigenous cause – we have all been in one way or another “messed to” and touched by Ness, who has been with the Consortium since its founding days in July 2010. It is a fact of life that young professionals do move ahead, but we will all miss Ness’ ease of contact, readiness to help, friendliness and contagious enthusiasm! In some way, Ness brought us all back to our early twenties... and this for a cause that some of us have pursued for decades. This we will always be grateful for, while we wish Ness the most satisfactory of experiences in her new tasks ahead! And we all hope, as she says, that she will “never leave the Consortium!”.

In the same breath let us all also welcome **Isis Alvarez**, who will take over from Ness as of May 1st. Many Consortium Members, Honorary members and staff already know Isis as she has been Communication Officer for the Global Forest Coalition and in close touch with the Consortium during several international events where she represented GFC, and occasionally played a most generous role also as translator for our Spanish speakers. We are all delighted that Isis has accepted to take over from Ness... and the two ladies are already in touch for the passing of the torch. **Welcome Isis!**

Last but not least we are announcing that **Francois Depey** — who has been volunteering for the ICCA Consortium since the Spring of 2012 – is ready to pass on the role of Consortium Coordinator for North America to a person of First Nations, Inuit, American Indian, Alaskan Native or Native Hawaiian descent. Youth and women are particularly encouraged to apply. This is a semi-volunteer, part-time position that provides little financial compensation but offers opportunities to learn and engage with the Consortium. Ideally, the person will be recruited before a Consortium co-organised international workshop on ICCAs, which is expected to take place in British Columbia (BC) in the Fall of 2013. A succinct job description can be downloaded [here](#). Francois is not leaving the Consortium, but you can expect him to focus, in the next months, in the organisation of the BC workshop. We take this opportunity to highlight his dedication to the cause of indigenous peoples in Canada, and to thank him for the sympathy, contagious good humour and “French touch” he is bringing to the Consortium. Francois can be reached either at francois@iccaconsortium.org or at icca.consortium.francois@gmail.com.

And now the description of our new staff recruits:



We welcome to the Consortium a new **Regional Coordinator for East Asia: Sutej Hugu**, from Pongso No Tao (Lanyu Island, Taiwan)! In 2000 Hugu co-found and was elected as first Chairperson of the Cultural Taiwan Consortium, a local NGO that set out to work towards an integrated Indigenous Tao national identity. From 2010 to 2012 he assumed the position of CEO for the Tao Foundation, which became an ICCA Consortium Member in 2012. As part of that, Hugu has been championing a campaign to remove a nuclear waste repository that was “temporarily” set in Lanyu Island about thirty years ago. The island – better referred to as *Pongso no Tao* – is the ancestral domain of the Tao indigenous people, which is claiming tribal sovereignty over it. Among Hugu’s other initiatives is the ‘Social Co-operative Business Movement’, which focuses on recruiting radical cooperative entrepreneurs and innovative managers to develop initiatives of sustainable livelihoods that conserve the bio-cultural diversity of Pongso no Tao. Hugu’s most extensive background and expertise lies in ICT industries (he worked there as manager for a number of years), but his experience is rather eclectic, spanning the development of various specialized companies—from producing organic cotton and eco-textiles to shooting aerial films for cinema and documentary productions. Hugu also spent a few years living in secluded voluntary simplicity. Since his encounter with the Consortium, Hugu has been embracing the promotion of ICCAs and is now vigorously pursuing that throughout the East Asian region. Contact: sutej.hugu@gmail.com

We are equally happy to welcome **Felipe Gomez and Marvin Fonseca Borrás** as our new **Regional Co-Coordiators for Central America**. While Felipe is an indigenous Maya and will be dealing in particular with issues of relevance for indigenous peoples in the region, Marvin will be coordinating with particular reference to issues of local communities, in both terrestrial and marine and coastal environments.



Felipe is a Maya K'iche', a renowned spiritual leader and the coordinator of Oxlajuj Ajpop (National Council for Mayan Spiritual Leaders)— an organisation with whom Felipe has been involved since 1991 and that is now a Member of the ICCA Consortium. Felipe advises a number of Guatemalan key individuals and bodies, including the Guatemalan Commission that deals with Sacred Sites— established after the end of the civil war that devastated Guatemala from 1960 to 1996, and the Sacred Natural Sites Initiative, which is an ICCA Consortium member (pending approval) working with custodians to protect, conserve and revitalise sacred natural sites around the world. Among Felipe’s national and regional duties are the coordination of the initiative to develop a new Law on Sacred Sites in Guatemala and the coordination of the COMPAS network for Central America. The COMPAS network supports conservation approaches to bio-cultural diversity and endogenous development based on indigenous worldviews. Felipe is the editor and author of various articles and booklets, including the [Agenda Socio-ambiental](#) (*Desde el piensameinto de los Indigenas Maya, Garifuna y Xinkas de Guatemala por los derechos de la Madre Tierra*) and a document

of directives for the governance, management and use of water in Guatemala. Recently Felipe was awarded the international PKF Award for 2012, entitled “A world of solidarity is possible”. For the ICCA Consortium, Felipe is in charge of promoting the appropriate recognition and support of the ICCAs of indigenous peoples in Mesoamerica. Contact: felipe@iccaconsortium.org or felipegomez13@yahoo.com



Marvin is an associate with CoopeSoliDar, an NGO working in support of conservation by and for local communities in Costa Rica. He is a professional in the area of geography, graduated with an Honors Master degree from the University of Costa Rica (UCR) – a recognition confirmed by its Graduate Studies System. Through fifteen years of work, Marvin developed a rich experience developing conservation projects – in particular for the sustainable use of natural resources, promoting new governance types of protected areas, supporting citizens’ participation in natural resource management and transforming socio-environmental conflicts. He has been involved in interdisciplinary and interagency definition of national policies; in process and methodologies for local participation in the use and conservation of natural resources; in the governance of protected areas in terrestrial and marine environments; and in initiatives dealing with human rights and conservation. Marvin has work experience with governmental agencies in Costa Rica, teaches at the University of Costa Rica and is a Member of the Board of Directors of CoopeSoliDar. Contact: marvin@iccaconsortium.org or mfonseca@coopesolidar.org.



Isis Alvarez is a Colombian biologist, MSc. in Environment & Resource Management experienced in work with different local and international environmental NGOs in Latin America, Europe and Africa. She has been involved in projects such as the rehabilitation of confiscated capuchin monkeys in La Macarena, Colombia and leopard-human conflicts in the Waterberg Reserve, South Africa. In 2005, Isis moved to the Netherlands to pursue her Masters degree and later worked at the international secretariat of Friends of the Earth in Amsterdam. In 2009 she participated in IUCN-NL’s Nature and Poverty program developing the ‘[Local Ownership of Conservation Agendas](#)’ pages, which gather case studies of effective community based conservation and sustainable use. Her will to get to know local experiences took her in 2009 to volunteer in Chiapas, Mexico where she got involved with Tsotsil communities assisting in a project for the auto-assessments of community needs. In 2010, she participated in the activities of the school of agro-ecology in Santander, Colombia, supporting ‘Fundaeexpresión’, a local NGO, raising awareness of false solutions to climate change, and providing support to the management plan for newly established peasant nature reserves. In 2011 Isis joined the Global Forest Coalition as a volunteer and later as the Communications and Media Outreach Officer. With GFC and beyond, Isis is actively engaged in campaigns and advocacy work, mainly addressing gender aspects in forest management. Contact: isis@iccaconsortium.org.

New Members & Honorary Members

The Consortium is delighted to welcome three new Member organisations:



[Krapavis](#) from India



[Samvardhan](#) from India



[Living Oceans Society](#) from
Canada

We are also warmly welcoming 20 new Honorary Members:

1. Vivienne Solis, Costa Rica
 2. Vincent Gravez, Ecuador
 3. Tahir Rasheed, Pakistan
 4. Salatou Sambou, Senegal
 5. Raul Petsain, Ecuador
 6. Nilufer Oral, Turkey
 7. Maung Myang, Bangladesh
 8. Liz Wily, UK
 9. Kanyinke Sena, Kenya
 10. Juan Carlos Jintiach, Ecuador
 11. José de los Santos, Colombia
 12. Jaime Levy, Ecuador
 13. Jailab Rai, Nepal
 14. Helen Newing, UK
 15. Guillermo E. Rodriguez-Navarro, Colombia
 16. Gladman Chibememe, Zimbabwe
 17. Elaine Hsiao, Canada
 18. Dominique Bikaba, Democratic Republic of Congo
 19. Armando Calvano Zuniga, Colombia
 20. Anwarul Islam, Bangladesh
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The ICCA Consortium

www.iccaconsortium.org
<http://iccaconsortium.wordpress.com>

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