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A toolkit to support conservation by indigenous peoples and local communities:

Building capacity and sharing knowledge for Indigenous Peoples' and Community Conserved Territories and Areas (ICCAs)

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Produced by United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC)
219 Huntingdon Road, Cambridge, CB3 0DL United Kingdom
Tel: +44 (0) 1223 277 314

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Cover Artwork

'Persian nomadic camel rug design (detail)', personal collection.

Citation

Corrigan, C. and Hay-Edie, T. 2013. 'A toolkit to support conservation by indigenous peoples and local communities: building capacity and sharing knowledge for indigenous peoples' and community conserved territories and areas (ICCAs)' UNEP-WCMC, Cambridge, UK.

Foreword

Local communities and indigenous peoples make substantial contributions to global conservation efforts and sustainable development. While these communities are often the primary 'resource stewards' who rely on ecosystems to meet food security, livelihood and health needs, their contribution to the achievement of global conservation targets have not yet been fully recognized.

This trend, however, is gradually changing. Awareness of the substantial role that local civil society initiatives have in conserving ecosystems is growing. Importantly, the significance of community-based action for biodiversity, ecosystems and sustainable livelihoods is captured in the Aichi 2020 targets under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), including in Aichi Target 11 (Protected Areas, including "other effective area-based forms of conservation"), Target 14 (Ecosystem Services), and Target 18 (Traditional Knowledge). The present publication offers a suite of tools to support the effectiveness and viability of ICCAs as governance structures for the protection of biodiversity and ecosystems.

This toolkit presents a selection of practical resources, developed by numerous organisations, making them readily accessible to community-based organisations who manage ICCAs. In addition to being a valuable resource to practitioners, the toolkit provides a reminder that the achievement of the emerging post-2015 sustainable development goals (SDGs) will need to be linked to a comprehensive valuation of ecosystem services, and be spearheaded by local civil society initiatives coming from the grassroots.

It is our hope that the toolkit will be distributed widely to empower local communities and indigenous peoples as part of the priorities of the UN system to contribute to the recognition of human rights, poverty reduction, biodiversity conservation and ecosystem protection.

Jon Hutton, UNEP-WCMC
Veerle Vandeweerd, UNDP

Vhomakhadzi Vhuthanda, custodian of her clan's Sacred Natural Sites in Venda, South Africa.
Photo credit: Dzomo la Mupo and Mupo Foundation.

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Introduction

A number of partners, including UNEP-WCMC, UNDP, the GEF Small Grants Programme, the Government of Norway, the German Agency for International Cooperation, and the ICCA Consortium, worked closely to develop this toolkit for governing and managing Indigenous Peoples' and Community Conserved Territories and Areas (ICCAs). The purpose of the toolkit is to complement ongoing efforts to build capacity of ICCAs as they gain greater recognition on a global scale.

Just as national governments require guidelines and benchmarks for managing their designated protected areas, indigenous peoples and local communities need to access a set of tools and resources appropriate to their needs. The toolkit includes a range of case studies to highlight the diversity of approaches that communities already use to manage their own areas, and to show how these lessons can be applied to form a "global learning network" of ICCAs.

The majority of conservation tools developed to date have been designed primarily for protected area managers, practitioners, or government agencies. In parallel, a growing number of tools and guides are being written for community-based organisations, particularly for those living in particular habitats (i.e. forests, coasts etc.), or those facing specific threats (i.e. linked to global climate change or extractive industries). The present toolkit was designed to bring together a number of these resources for the purpose of building local capacities to effectively manage ICCAs. Given the increasing recognition of community-based conservation and governance at the global level, the publication is one modest contribution towards the achievement of CBD Aichi 2020 targets, as well as the UN post-2015 sustainable development agenda.

Afang girls collecting NTFPs from the Ekuri Community Forest, eastern Nigeria
Photo credit: Edwin Ogar

Photo : Almanario flipchart approach, GEF SGP Guatemala

How to use this toolkit

Any community that governs and manages a spatial area of land or water, motivated by a variety of potential reasons, could find something of value in this toolkit. The content is organized into five main areas that build upon each other: (i) documenting presence; (ii) management planning; (iii) monitoring and evaluation; (iv) communication; and (v) finance and values. Some groups may find several of the themes to be useful, others may only be concerned with one particular theme. The toolkit also includes visual examples and stories from communities who are successfully using various approaches to conserve, protect and restore ICCAs.

The toolkit has been designed as a resource kit with a large number of URL links to the internet to facilitate the downloading of documents and visiting web-pages. For anyone who receives a hard copy of the publication, please download the PDF version of the document from one of the following websites in order to browse the available materials on-line: www.iccaregistry.org and/or www.iccaforum.org.

What is a tool?

"A tool is something that can be used to perform a particular task. Examples of tools include appropriate technologies, printed materials, mapping devices, on-line resources, story-telling, as well as other methods."

What are Indigenous Peoples' and Community Conserved Territories and Areas (ICCAs)?

Indigenous peoples and local communities are defined by their relationship with and dependence on natural resources, including land and water resources.[1] This long association and reliance upon local resources has resulted in the accumulation of local and traditional knowledge that contains insights, innovations and useful practices that relate to the sustainable management and development of these areas. The CBD now recognizes these communities collectively as "Indigenous Peoples' and Community Conserved Territories and Areas" (ICCAs).

Location of ICCAs mentioned in this toolkit

1 See Convention on Biological Diversity document Guidance for the Discussions Concerning Local Communities within the Context of the Convention on Biological Diversity (ref. UNEP/CBD/AHEG/LCR/1/2).

Case Studies in this ICCA Toolkit

Country	Tool or Approach
Peru	Kite mapping
Ethiopia	Partictory mapping
Colombia	UNESCO intangible heritage list
Mexico	Global ICCA registry
Gambia	National protected area system
Cambodia	Monitoring and ordination of trees
Australia	Interactive management plan
Global	International landscape game
South Africa	Eco-cultural mapping
Senegal	Monitoring by boat
Philippines	Fixed-point photography
Australia	Cyber-tracking data
Indonesia	Photo-stories
Cambodia	Community consultations
Iran	Tribal investment funds
Ecuador	Ecotourism
Global	Participatory videos

According to the established definition, all ICCAs should exhibit the three following characteristics:[2]

1. **Community:** A well defined people or community possesses a close and profound relation with an equally well defined site (territory, area, or habitat) and/or species. This relation is embedded in local culture, sense of identity and/or dependence for livelihood and well being.

2. **Decisions:** The people or community is the major player in decision-making and implementation regarding the management of the site and/ or species, implying that a local institution has the capacity to develop and enforce decisions, either by law or practice. Other stakeholders may collaborate as partners, especially when the land is owned by the state, but the local decisions and management efforts are predominant.

3. **Conservation:** The people's or community's management decisions and efforts lead to the conservation of habitats, species, genetic diversity, ecological functions/ benefits and associated cultural values, even when the conscious objective of management is not conservation alone or per se (e.g., objectives may be livelihood, security, religious piety, safeguarding cultural and spiritual places).

2 Adapted from Borrini-Feyerabend, G., et al. (2010) Bio-cultural diversity conserved by indigenous peoples and local communities—examples and analysis, ICCA Consortium and Cenesta for GEF SGP, GTZ, IIED and IUCN/CEESP, Tehran.

Photo : UCRT, Use of GPS for mapping by Hadzabe hunter-gatherers, northern Tanzania

"This toolkit has been designed to help civil society organisations access information and resources that can help support and document their livelihoods and conservation work."

Five key themes

All the resources in this toolkit are sorted into five "themes". These themes build on each other and can be considered similar to the "layers of a seed".

1. **Theme 1: Documenting Presence.** A community can establish proof of its physical presence on the land or sea through various formats, such as paper claims or maps. Clear, well-marked or mapped boundaries can support documentation of presence.

2. **Theme 2: Management Planning.** Another important element in local conservation is planning for management, as well as making long term decisions that have an impact on the conservation areas.

3. **Theme 3: Monitoring and Evaluation.** After realistic plans have been prepared, communities can engage in monitoring of the natural resources and livelihoods. Evaluating progress at regular intervals, especially through participation of community members, ensures that monitoring is locally meaningful, and can be used for adaptive learning.

4. **Theme 4: Communication.** Good communication complements and supports all of the above processes. Various methods are presented for local organizations to draft and create their own narratives and communications.

5. **Theme 5: Values and Finance.** Communities who govern and manage ICCAs need to access appropriate resources, including finance, which are in line with their local value systems, and can help support their conservation initiatives.

Eco-cultural mapping in Venda, South Africa. Photo credit: Dzomo la Mupo, Mupo Foundation, Gaia Foundation

Assessing the ICCA

Communities face a variety of challenges influenced by social, geographical, environmental, political and economic elements. These factors may include biophysical changes (i.e. as in rainfall patterns), as well as socio-economic or political changes (i.e. when a new government is formed). The level of community cohesion, organisation and internal governance varies among different groups. By understanding some of the key needs of a community, it is possible to identify one or more relevant tools.

Building on the comprehensive 'Resilience and Security Tool' of ICCAs, the following overarching questions can be used to rapidly "reflect on" the current situation in the ICCA:

- What is the strength of the bond between members of the community: is this improving or weakening over time?
- Is there a change in the capability of the community to take meaningful decisions over the future of natural resources in the area? Has this increased or decreased?
- What is the quality of the natural resources conserved? Are these improving or declining?

The following table shows a few examples of real challenges that communities may face when governing and managing ICCAs. For each challenge, a possible goal is suggested, and one or more relevant tools are listed.

Potential challenge	Community Goal	Toolkit Theme	Possible Tools
The community's physical boundaries are often in dispute, or not clearly marked	The community has a clear understanding of boundaries	Documenting Presence	Participatory 3-D Mapping
Little or no documentation of the ICCA exists	The ICCA is recognized in some way by local, national, or international government or institution	Documenting Presence	Global ICCA Registry
Threats from unwanted development are damaging daily life	A community protocol is documented, developed and used for the conservation area	Documenting Presence	Biocultural Community Protocol
Conflict or distance between communities distracts from priorities	The community is effective at communicating with outside parties	Communication	Community Radio
			Improving Negotiation Skills
Species once abundant are now rare	A monitoring plan for natural resources in the ICCA is set up so community members can track species	Monitoring and Evaluation	Species Inventory
Climate change is impacting rain patterns and tree growth	A management plan for the ICCA includes adaptive actions and community is learning from peers	Management Planning	Climate Frontlines website
			Climate Witness Community Action Plan
Financial resources are limited	Maintain local traditions and livelihoods while protecting the ICCA	Values and Finance	Marketing local products
			Community Based Eco-tourism

Diversity of Names

Though ICCAs are diverse, they are also distinct as compared with other formal protected areas (PAs) and conservation mechanisms. Many ICCAs exist in places where communities reside and have a traditional and historical association with the land or sea. There different reasons why places are set aside for conservation as ICCAs, including for enhancement of biodiversity, protection of spiritual or cultural sites, historical memory, as well as investments for future generations.

Many different local names can be used to describe ICCAs. These vernacular names vary at the local level, among countries, and sometimes at the global scale. While there is a diversity of names used to describe community-led conservation, many of these areas have common characteristics. At the local level, communities generally have a self-determined name. At the national or regional level, a more general term may be used, such as 'Indigenous Protected Area' (Australia); 'Village Forest Reserve' (Tanzania); or 'Voluntary Conserved Area' (Mexico). The national term may, or may not, be used by the communities themselves. At the international level, aside from the abbreviation 'ICCA', several other terms may be used to describe community-driven conservation, such as 'Locally Managed Marine Areas' (LMMA), as well as 'Sacred Natural Sites' (SNS).

Abbreviations

ICCA= Indigenous Peoples' and Community Conserved Territories and Areas

LMMA= Locally Managed Marine Area

SNS= Sacred Natural Site

President of women shellfish collectors, Kawawana ICCA, Senegal
Photo: Grazia Borrini-Feyerabend

The table below shows the diversity of cultures and languages that influence the terminology of ICCAs.

Country	Local Name	National Description	Global Name
Australia	Brewarrina Ngemba Billabong	Indigenous Protected Area	ICCA
Belize	Bermudian Landing Community Baboon Sanctuary	Private Reserve	ICCA
Brazil	Rio Branquinho	Indigenous Area	ICCA
Cook Islands	Pouara	Ra'ui	LMMA/ICCA
Democratic Republic of Congo	Forêt Kabamba Iwama – Province de Maniema	Aboriginal Area and Territory and Community Heritage	ICCA
Guyana	Konashen	Community Owned Conservation Area	ICCA
India	Gursikaran forest	Community Forest	ICCA
Indonesia	Wilayah Adat	Traditionally managed land	ICCA
Fiji	Oi Mada Wara	Wildlife Management Area	ICCA
Kenya	Kaya Kinondo	Kaya	SNS/ICCA
Mexico	Area de Conservacion y Proteccion San Jacobo	Voluntary Conserved Area	ICCA
Philippines	Bilang-bilangan	Marine Sanctuary	ICCA
Tanzania	Mzungui Village	Village Forest Reserve	ICCA
The Gambia	Bolongfenyo Nature Reserve	National Protected Area	ICCA
USA	Monument Valley Navajo	Tribal Park	ICCA
Vietnam	Thanh Phu	Nature Reserve	ICCA

THEME 1

Documenting Presence:
Community presence and boundaries are known and clear, and documentation is completed

Demonstrating a clear relationship with the land or sea is an important step for communities who manage and govern their ICCAs. Communities are not however always required to "own" the land or marine environment in order to manage or govern it. In many cases, the community may have a historical tie to the natural resources, and can show an association to the land by demonstrating their occupation. Clearly defined ICCA boundaries generally increase the security and opportunities for the long-term well-being of local communities. Tools and approaches in this section could be useful for communities who:

- ✓ Want to secure ICCA boundaries;
- ✓ Are seeking assistance with mapping community boundaries;
- ✓ Are limited in their access to traditional territories, including migration routes;
- ✓ Want to increase the transfer of knowledge between generations.

"Documenting the presence of an ICCA is a critical element for recognition."

1. Mapping and Physical Documentation

The advantages for documenting an ICCA may include:

- ✓ Providing information about the existence of a community and the management of biodiversity;
- ✓ Facilitating effective management by providing a spatial reference for monitoring and assessment; and
- ✓ Creating opportunities for the community to "come together" and discuss future plans for the ICCA.

The methods of documentation may include:

- ✓ Creation of maps;
- ✓ Registration of ICCAs within the UNEP WCMC Global Registry;
- ✓ Seeking other forms of international recognition;
- ✓ Generation of photographs and sources of evidence of presence; and
- ✓ Participatory modeling of ICCAs using three-dimensional models.

Mapping ICCAs is a key type of documentation because it provides evidence of boundaries (where known), as well as traditional occupation of an area. Maps are usually essential for acquiring land titles from government agencies in cases where titles do not already exist. The process of creating community maps allows recollection of the past, and consideration of the present through inter-generational dialogue. Participatory planning processes also generally contribute to gender equity.

Participatory Geographic Information Systems (PGIS):

A participatory GIS process results in maps that are referenced to specific spatial and/or geographical features. As part of the planning process, communities choose map features that are most relevant to them.

- 'Extreme Citizen Science' is a website developed by scholars from University College London which equips citizens across the world to "perform scientific measurements" without long-term support from scientists.

- 'Guidelines for PGIS: Training Kit on Participatory Spatial Information Management and Communication' is an online training programme produced by CTA in The Netherlands that teaches facilitators how to conduct and draw conclusions from PGIS exercises in the field.

Balloon mapping:

This approach uses simple balloon equipment attached to a camera in a protective casing to create aerial photographs (in low-wind conditions). The high-quality images can be used for many purposes including up-to-date maps.

- 'Balloon mapping quick start guide' is created by The Public Laboratory to help prepare balloon mapping. The guide includes check-lists of what to plan and pack, along with illustrations and presentations. Support is available for individual problems such as difficulties with camera set-up. There is also guidance on using "map-knitting" software to make maps from aerial photos.

Kite mapping

Kite mapping is almost identical to balloon mapping, though it is used more often in areas with stronger winds where kites are the preferred way to mount digital cameras. The photographs can then be integrated into high-quality and up-to-date maps.

- For more information, visit the Public Laboratory website which provides guidance on whether to choose a kite instead of a balloon.

CASE STUDY 1

Alpaca farmers in Peru use kite mapping to document the impacts of extractive industries

Photo credit: Anita Chan

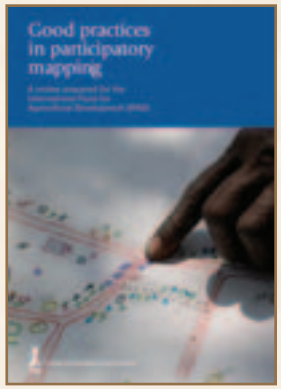
Peru's Altiplano region is the world's primary producer of Alpaca wool. Many local people depend on the animals for their livelihoods, whilst healthy ecosystems also provide habitat and fodder for herds. At the same time, the slopes of the Altiplano are rich in minerals, attracting extractive industries that have polluted a substantial amount of the land. As a result, local farmers often complain that "*entire hills disappear in a matter of weeks*" due to mining activities.

In 2012, Alpaca farmers decided to undertake kite mapping exercises to monitor the environmental impacts of mining, and did so under the guidance of the 'Center for Innovation and Technology' and the Pubic Laboratory. Kites were built using readily available materials, such as plastic bin bags and t-shirts, to make the kite tail. Kite-making is a traditional Peruvian practice, so the exercise revived an ancient craft, passing the knowledge on to younger generations. The photos taken with the kites were then used to create up-to-date local maps. The process to take the photos was completed in a few hours, and then "pieced together" using 'MapKnitter' software to create high quality maps.

Creating maps proved to be a powerful way to document the intensive landscape modifications that resulted from mining. The technique is also useful in providing evidence and illustrating environmental externalities that occur over time from extractive industries.

Participatory mapping:

- 'Good practices in participatory mapping' produced by IFAD is a review of several techniques in participatory mapping including GIS, 3-dimensional models, scale maps, and images.



- 'Ground Truthing' is a short article describing how participatory mapping in North America was used to connect local communities to decision-makers, thereby creating awareness about issues in the community and influencing policy.

- Based on the work of Robert Chambers, 'Using participatory mapping to explore participation in three communities' is a presentation that illustrates case studies showing how participatory mapping was conducted in three communities in the UK, and why it was successful.

- 'Mapping For Rights: A New Tool to Help Facilitate Participatory Mapping' is an online toolkit with eight training videos on mapping-related issues. The training starts with why participatory mapping is valuable, and provides insights into Global Positioning Systems (GPS) and Global Information Systems (GIS).

CASE STUDY 2

Participatory mapping motivates Ethiopian community for the future

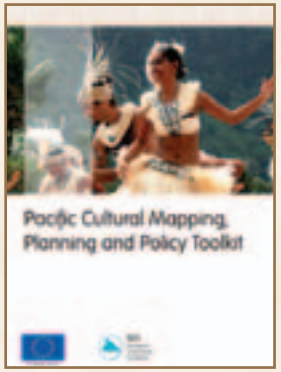
A small NGO in Ethiopia called the 'Movement for Ecological Learning and Community Action' (MELCA) uses participatory mapping to engage communities in understanding their local areas. Various types of maps, including sketches and three-dimensional models, looking at past, present and future conditions, have been produced by communities in the *Oromia* Region. The maps have included information on the decline of wild species and the significant changes that have happened within the landscape, such as the drying of rivers, and the loss of seed diversity. Producing the maps also allowed different generations to connect and share knowledge. Community elders congregate around the model and describe how the landscape used to be in the past, whilst in the evenings the community shared stories, drank local drinks, and danced traditional *Oromo* dances.

The exercise enabled the entire Oromo community to discuss what they wanted the "future landscape" to look like, as well as to draw up an 'Eco-calendar' to show their annual activities on the land. The use of participatory mapping motivated the *Oromo* community into action, with one member noting "*I felt very sad doing the maps because we can see how our land was and how it is now. But I also felt happy because I know what we have to do now*." Following the mapping process, the community of *Telecho* organized itself and became engaged in rehabilitating their environment. One segment of the community also officially registered '*The Adere Environmental Protection Association*' as a community organization. The community now have increased confidence, momentum and a sense of self-belief in what they are doing.

Photo credit: Mersha Yilma

Cultural mapping:

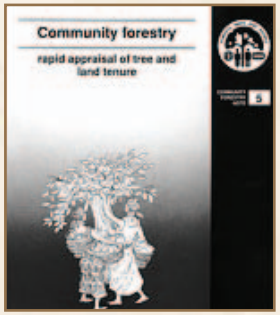
- With useful insights for other regions, the 'Pacific Cultural Mapping, Planning and Policy Toolkit' produced by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), explains how to integrate mapping exercises with planning and policy in the context of communities around the Pacific.



- 'Building Critical Awareness of Cultural Mapping: a Workshop Facilitation Guide' is a step-by-step guidebook developed by UNESCO for workshop facilitators on conducting cultural mapping workshops or exercises.

Obtaining land and tree tenure:

- 'Community Forestry: Rapid Appraisal of tree and land tenure' is an e-book produced by the FAO explaining rapid appraisal of tree and land tenure to determine and establish the legal ownership rights over trees.



Global documentation:

- The Global ICCA Registry is a voluntary global registry for indigenous peoples and local communities. The Registry, housed by UNEP WCMC in parallel with the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA), aims to document the diversity of community-governed conservation, and raise awareness about the value of ICCAs for local and global conservation targets. The Registry also provides an opportunity to enhance the exchange of experiences and practices between communities worldwide.

- The 'UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage' protects and ensures respect for the practices, representations, expressions, knowledge, skills, instruments, objects, artifacts and cultural spaces that communities identify as part of their cultural heritage. The Convention does this by increasing awareness of intangible heritage at the local, national and international levels; as well as by encouraging international cooperation and assistance.

CASE STUDY 3

Benefits of the Global ICCA Registry for Mexico's San Crisanto community

San Crisanto is a Mayan community in Yucatan, Mexico. In the early 1990s, mangrove protection had been eroding over a number of years, resulting in a sharp decline in migratory avian species, such as flamingos and storks. In 1997, an '*Unida de Manejo Ambiental*' (UMA) was established, helping the community reclaim the rights to their lands through a Mexican federal mandate (conditional on the land being "traditionally managed").

In 2010 the San Crisanto community decided to participate in the Global ICCA Registry, one of the tools described in this Toolkit. As a result of the voluntary listing, the community was able to increase international recognition for their conservation restoration efforts, lending credibility to the UMA land claim. In addition, publicity from the inclusion in the ICCA Registry stimulated locally managed eco-tourism efforts by the Mayan community, helping to boost eco-tourism as a source of income. The community also used the recognition to support their application for the Equator Prize in 2010. The ICCA Global Registry now lists several links to the community website, including details on upcoming festivals, as well as eco-tourism leaflets and bird lists. According to Jose Ines Loria, San Crisanto's Operational Director, "*being published on a website created by an important international organization helps raise the profile of our work and activities.*"

Photo credit: Jose Ines Loria, Flamingoes, Fundacion San Crisanto

icaaregistry.org

Paraná River, Colombia. Photo credits: Sergio Bartelsman Gaia Amazonas and Asociación de Capitanes y Autoridades Tradicionales Indígenas del Pirá Paraná (ACAIPI).

child with feathers used in rituals, Pirá Paraná. Photo credits: Sergio Bartelsman Gaia Amazonas and Asociación de Capitanes y Autoridades Tradicionales Indígenas del Pirá Paraná (ACAIPI).

CASE STUDY 4

UNESCO listing of Intangible Cultural Heritage for indigenous communities of the Pirá Paraná River, Colombian Amazon

In the Colombian Amazon, the indigenous people of the Pirá Paraná River chose to register their traditional knowledge, *Hee Yaia~Kubua Baseri Keti Oka*, as Intangible Cultural Heritage for the defense of their culture and of their sacred territory. The local population of 2,000 live in small settlements and *malocas* (traditional communal houses) scattered along the banks of the Pirá Paraná River. In 1996, they formed the 'Association of Indigenous Captains and Authorities of the Pirá Paraná' (ACAIPI), led by their elders and traditional authorities. With support from Colombian NGO 'Gaia Amazonas', they worked to strengthen their cultural identity as the basis for governing their ancestral lands. Their territory, which covers 5,400 km^2 of tropical forest, is afforded protection as a collectively owned indigenous territory (resguardo) that cannot be sold or embargoed, but the subsoil rights remained vulnerable to mining and other interests.

In August 2010, the *Hee Yaia~Kubua Baseri Keti Oka* was registered on Colombia's 'Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of the Nation', followed in 2011 by inclusion in the UNESCO list of Intangible Cultural Heritage. A 'Special Safeguard Plan' has since been approved, which puts in place a partial disclosure policy for traditional knowledge and indigenous wisdom. The plan also stipulates that tourism should not intrude on cultural privacy, and that the location of sacred sites should not be revealed.

2. Declaration and Legal Empowerment

One of the biggest challenges for communities who manage ICCAs is to ensure that their occupation of lands and waters, as well as their governance of the resources, are recognized by local and national authorities. Customary laws and community-specific procedures can conflict with state laws, and then remain either unrecognised, or inappropriately recognised by the government and courts. In practice, the range of legal support and actions that can be used to secure rights are often specific to the context of a place, and depend largely on the national legal system. These actions also depend on the capacity and experience of both the community and supporting civil society organisations to engage with each other over long periods of time.

Various opportunities exist to participate in international and regional policy-making processes. These include, participating in meetings of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD); providing community experiences to the UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP); submitting complaints to UN Special Rapporteurs and Independent Experts; bringing a case to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights; or IFC 'Compliance Advisor Ombudsman' (CAO).

A range of legal instruments and resources are available that can be used by communities to secure their rights over ICCAs. Two specific studies on legal rights (see box) explore ways in which indigenous peoples and local communities are working within international and national legal frameworks.

Some countries include ICCAs in their national systems of protected areas (The Gambia); some can seek legal titles to their ancestral lands and territories (Philippines); whilst others consider them as separate entities (Brazil). It is important for communities to reach out to supporting organizations and networks to learn more about how to secure their rights in light of the national legal and political contexts.

Studies that can help communities secure rights:

1. An analysis of international law and jurisprudence relevant to ICCAs which includes regional overviews and 15 country level reports from Africa, Americas, Asia and Pacific.
2. An analysis of the legal and non-legal forms of recognizing and supporting ICCAs which includes 19 country level reports from Africa, Americas, Asia, Pacific and Europe.

Tools and approaches for legal recognition:

Legal empowerment: The following tools empower communities to secure their rights such as land titles by setting up protocols through participatory processes, or similar procedures. Some of the materials are for a wide audience, and some are more specific to the country context.

- 'Biocultural Community Protocols: A Toolkit for Community Facilitators' is a toolkit produced by the NGO Natural Justice that enables communities to document, develop and use their own community protocols to articulate community-determined values, procedures, and priorities. Biocultural community protocols (BCPs) set out rights and responsibilities under customary, state, and international law as the basis for engaging with external actors such as governments, companies, academics, and NGOs. BCPs can be used as catalysts for constructive and proactive responses to threats and opportunities posed by land and resource development, conservation, research, and other legal and policy frameworks. The BCP toolkit contains four parts which can be downloaded in both English and Spanish.

- The 'Community Protocols' website includes legal reviews and e-learning modules on key legal frameworks, films, case studies, links to Facebook pages, and dozens of workshop reports, books, and other publications that provide in-depth documentation and analysis of experiences from Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

- 'Legal tools for citizen empowerment: Increasing local participation and benefit in Mali's mining sector' is a handbook produced by IIED that specifies the national legal context, and explains the rights of local communities. The publication indicates possible "routes of action" to improve local participation in negotiations, and enhance benefit sharing from mining activities.

- 'Legal empowerment in practice: Using legal tools to secure land rights in Africa' provides further guidance from IIED on land rights in Africa, and gives examples from across the continent on how to secure human rights in the face of mining operations.

- 'Community-Based Paralegals: A Practitioner's Guide' is a guide produced by the Open Society to set up a paralegal programme in communities with no access to other legal services.

- 'Namati' is a network designed to promote legal empowerment, featuring a range of tools.

Photo credit: REDERC, Discussing protected area with villagers, northern Benin

Photo credit: Colleen Corrigan

Photo credit: Badara Bajo

CASE STUDY 5

Gaining recognition as part of a national protected area system in The Gambia

In 1992, following the United Nations Earth Summit, a small village in The Gambia developed the 'Gunjur Environmental Protection and Development Group' (GEPADG) based on the vision of a single community member. The group aimed to reverse the destruction of forests, mangroves and coastal ecosystems through improved community management practices. In addition to holding the first national conference on environmental issues at the community level in Gunjur village in 1998, the organization continued to address poverty issues by introducing a range of of livelihood options such as eco-tourism and bee-keeping. In 2008, the 320 hectare 'Gunjur Community Wildlife Reserve' became the first community-managed conservation area included in The Gambia's national system of eight PAs. Since Gunjur was designated a PA, it has gained national and international recognition. It has increased employment opportunities, provided a sustainable source of income for local inhabitants, and supported the local biodiversity of the reserve using conservation techniques such as the preservation of breeding grounds for aquatic fish. Overall, GEPADG has been pivotal in maintaining regular communication, increasing environmental awareness, and fundraising for the area. It has also been involved in establishing the fair distribution of benefits arising from the sustainable use of local resources.

Rights of Indigenous peoples:

- The 'United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People (UNDRIP)' documents the individual and collective rights of indigenous peoples, setting out responsibilities for UN agencies, and a clear standard to assist communities in combating discrimination and marginalization.

- Using multiple case studies from around the world, 'Indigenous Peoples and Conservation - from Rights to Resource Management' produced by the NGO Conservation International illustrates four topics: (i) human rights and conservation; (ii) natural resource management; (ii) traditional knowledge; and (iv) innovative approaches.

- The 'United Nations Development Group Resource Kit on Indigenous Peoples' Issues' is a tool focused on the inclusion of indigenous perspectives in development processes, such as monitoring and reporting processes, Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs), UNDP Human Development Reports (HDRs), and the UN 2015 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

- 'Indigenous Peoples and the Convention on Biological Diversity - An education resource book' highlights the impacts, rights and relevance of the CBD for indigenous peoples.

- 'Indigenous & Tribal People's Rights in Practice - A Guide to ILO Convention No. 169' is a guide to the rights of indigenous and tribal peoples in various sectors, including land and resources, education, traditional occupations, labour rights, and vocational training.

Monks Community Forest, Cambodia (Venerable Bun Saluth)

CASE STUDY 6

Enforcing forest protection through monitoring and ordination of trees in the Monks Community Forest, Cambodia

The Buddhist monks of *Samraong* Pagoda in Northwest Cambodia obtained the legal rights to protect over 18,000 hectares of lowland evergreen forest after protecting the area since 2001. The monks prevent encroachment and deforestation by patrolling and tree ordination. The forest is a habitat for various threatened species including the sun bear, gibbons and leopards.

Daily patrols on sections of the territory and demarcated forest boundaries ensure that no further area is lost due to agricultural expansion. Forest inventories help to monitor the loss of trees due to illegal felling. The incessant efforts of the monks to patrol the forest and collaborate with local communities, NGOs and government offices, have made the 'Monk Community Forest' one of the largest and best-protected areas in Cambodia.

In addition, the monks have introduced the practice of "tree ordination". During a tree ordination ceremony, the tree is declared sacred and wrapped in orange textile similar to a monks dress. Thereafter, felling of the tree would be a sin equal to harming a monk. Deeply anchored religious beliefs in Cambodia are thus successfully used in this case to conserve old trees, which are a key component in the ecosystem, and are otherwise at high risk of being cut down.

3. Free Prior Informed Consent process (FPIC)

The ability to either provide or refuse consent through a Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) process is an important principle for any activities undertaken by outside entities affecting communities' rights and livelihoods.[3] FPIC is a key principle embedded in international law related to indigenous peoples. FPIC is an important consideration for communities who are situated in areas directly, or indirectly, impacted by extractive processes such as mining and oil, road development, unsustainable tourism, and other activities. Even where communities have strong existing documentation of their natural resources and rights, the FPIC process may still be an important exercise to undertake. FPIC is a "continual process", and if any changes in a project are proposed, consent needs to be renegotiated.

Free Prior and Informed Consent:

- The 'Handbook on Free, Prior and Informed Consent: For Practical Use by Indigenous Peoples' Communities' is a guidebook explaining what FPIC represents, where it comes from, what it involves, and what to do if the right to FPIC is violated or not respected.

- The UN-REDD Programme Guidelines on Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) and associated Legal Companion outline a normative, policy and operational framework for seeking and obtaining FPIC in the context of REDD+.

- 'Applying Free Prior and Informed Consent in Viet Nam' illustrates the FPIC process in eight steps in the context of the REDD+ implementation in the country.

- Free, Prior and Informed Consent for REDD+ in the Asia-Pacific Region: Lessons Learned presents recent field-level experiences in the application of free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) from the region and distills useful lessons learned and recommendations.

- 'Attitudes, Behaviours and Ethics: Free Prior and Written Informed Consent' is Module 2 of the 'Guidelines for PGIS – Training Kit on Participatory Spatial Information Management and Communication'. The PGIS Training Kit elaborates the rationale for FPIC, provides definitions, and asks pertinent questions for affected communities.

- 'An Overview of the Principle of Free Prior and Informed Consent and Indigenous Peoples in International and Domestic Law and Practices' provides a brief overview of a 2005 workshop hosted by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA).

- 'Free Informed and Prior Consent in REDD+: Principles and Approaches for Policy and Project Development' explains what FPIC entails with regard to REDD+ projects. The process is divided into preparation, implementation, monitoring and recourse.

3 From Forest Peoples Programme, http://www.forestpeoples.org/

- 'Indigenous Peoples Guidebook on Free Prior and Informed Consent and Corporation Standards' produced by the NGO 'First Peoples' reviews the FPIC standards and rights-based approaches of international, regional and national institutions.

- 'FPIC Module' is available in Indonesian language and was created by 'Sawit Watch', an NGO created to address palm oil issues.

4. The ICCA Consortium

The ICCA Consortium, a non-profit international association has regional coordinators across the world working specifically with ICCA communities. To find a regional coordinator closest to your community, visit the Staff home page at www.iccaconsortium.org. As an association, the Consortium has almost fifty members representing organizations from NGOs, indigenous peoples, civil society and local communities. The Consortium provides a platform for networking amongst the members, as well as for linking local communities with the appropriate support bodies they might need.

PGIS Chad, Photo credit: Nigel Crawhall

THEME 2

Management Planning:
Plans are clear and community vision guides decisions

1. Management Plans

A number of guidelines exist for managing government listed PAs. Some recent initiatives are now developing guidance for ICCAs managed by communities and indigenous peoples. The advantages of developing and using a clear management plan are that they:

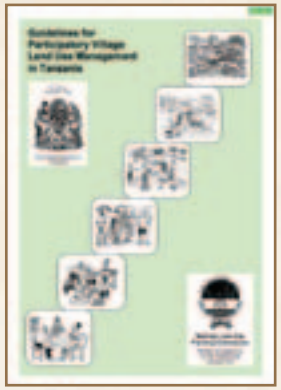
- ✓ Create documented records of the biological, socio-economic and historical aspects of an area, and its relationship to international standards (such as IUCN PA management categories) ;
- ✓ Include measurable objectives demonstrating how the management approach will achieve biodiversity conservation, cultural integrity and community benefits;
- ✓ Represent communities and ICCAs in a dynamic way: in Australia, communities who manage Indigenous Protected Areas (IPAs) have developed "visual management plans" which incorporate photographs and indigenous art paintings, allowing ICCAs to include cultural aspects not always easily described, or represented in textual format.

"Management planning is the process by which an ICCA develops the vision, strategy and actions required for managing the community area."

Developing a management plan:

- The Australian government has worked closely with aboriginal communities to develop national guidelines for IPA Management Plans. The report 'Our Country Our Way: National Guidelines for Indigenous Protected Area Management Plans in Australia' leads indigenous peoples through the process of successfully managing an IPA.

- 'Guidelines for Participatory Village Land Use Management in Tanzania' is a guide for District Councils on supporting villagers in managing their land and resources optimally and sustainably. It provides detailed information on how to implement village land-use management through "six key steps".



Community forest reserve, Kenya, Photo credit: Terence Hay-Edie

CASE STUDY 7

Mandingalbay Yidinji Indigenous Protected Area uses management plan in interactive poster format

The *Mandingalbay Yidinji* IPA lies to the east of Cairns in far North Queensland, Australia. As much as half of *Mandingalbay Yidinji* Country is within government listed PAs, which include the Grey Peaks National Park and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. The area is significant both for its cultural and environmental values, and contains many sacred sites and dreaming tracks, as well as being home to rare and endangered species.

After struggles to gain recognition for land rights and interests in land, water and resources, the *Mandingalbay Yidinji* people developed a Strategic Plan for their country in 2006. The plan outlined their aspirations for the use, management and governance of the country. As a result, in 2011 *Mandingalbay Yidinji* was designated as an IUCN Category V protected landscape, and the first IPA to be established overlapping with an existing government protected area.

The implementation of the strategic plan for the IPA included an "interactive management plan" in a poster format, clearly setting out the visions, values, uses and management priorities for the area in a simple and accessible format. Both the strategic plan and the management plan have been essential in providing the *Mandingalbay Yidinji* people with a voice and on-ground engagement in the management of traditional country.

Mandingalbay Yidinji IPA Management Plan

Other guidelines for management plans:

- 'Applying IUCN Protected Area Management Categories' provides guidance on management of protected areas. Each of the six main categories of management can be applicable to ICCAs, ranging from areas that are exclusively protected for nature, to those that include sustainable use, as well as cultural monuments.

- 'Locally-Managed Marine Areas – A guide to support community-based adaptive management' is a detailed guide on how to establish, design, manage and monitor LMMAs, a concept which originated in the Pacific and has spread to different parts of the world.

- 'Sacred Natural Sites: Guidelines for Protected Area Managers' (IUCN Best Practices PA Series #16) provides guidelines for sacred natural sites.

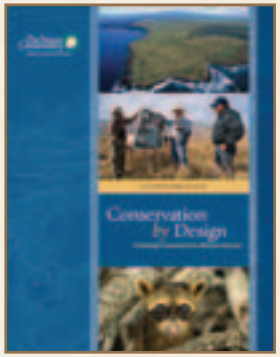
- 'Participatory Action and Learning: A training Manual' is a guide that provide "20 steps" in the process of establishing community forest management in the context of Nepal.

Conservation planning:

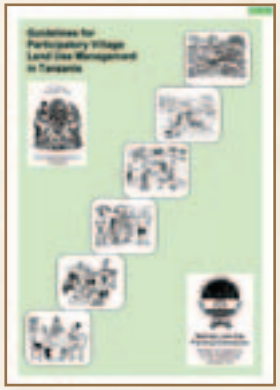
- 'Conservation Action Planning' is a website which provides various resources to plan conservation action, and manage areas for conservation. It is divided into an introduction, a toolbox, excel tools, and an additional resources section.

- 'Indigenous People and Protected Areas Management' describes legal and managerial issues surrounding indigenous peoples and protected area management with case studies from Latin America.

- The Nature Conservancy uses a collaborative, science-based conservation approach to identify priority biodiversity that needs to be conserved, to decide where and how to conserve it, and measure effectiveness. Together this set of analytical methods is called 'Conservation by Design'. The overview document introduces three key analytical methods: major habitat type assessment, eco-regional assessment, and conservation action planning. The document is also available in Spanish, Portuguese and Chinese.



- 'Mapping our community's future: why and how to practice participatory land-use planning' is a guide for communities to produce and implement a land-use plan.



Community Engagement:

- 'Ways to improve community engagement – working with Indigenous knowledge in natural resource management' is a simple brochure illustrating how indigenous knowledge can be harnessed to manage local resources.

- 'The Landscape Game' was created by the Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) to help address land tenure issues. It is a board game for communities to use as a way to discuss land management systems, and how to tackle encroaching, external forces.

Participatory mapping, Ethiopia, Mersha Yilma

CASE STUDY 8

International Landscape Game improves understanding of sustainable forest management

Research from the Centre for International Forestry Research (CIFOR) shows that around a million people across the world are dependent on forests for their livelihoods and basic survival. A "people-oriented approach" is therefore increasingly being adopted for sustainable forest management. The 'Landscape Game' pioneered by CIFOR Scientist Harry Purnamo is based on the idea of popular board-games like 'Monopoly' and 'Sim city'. It is an alternative way to view sustainable management, use and governance of landscapes. It is a non-computerized game, comprising of players with a set of possible strategies and pay offs. The main premise of the game revolves around competing land-use issues and how to maximize benefits, and create policy to sustain a predominantly forested landscape. It is intended to explain the complexity of landscape management while providing lessons on what can happen to landscapes and incomes when players apply different strategies.

Mr. Purnamo says "*local communities, policy makers, students and academicians are the intended audience. It is essentially an alternative way to engage all of them into considering how best to manage landscapes and consider all the various factors.*" Players choose to invest in plantations, ecotourism, timber logging, carbon offsetting or mining, while policy makers are expected to exercise different policies and rules to sustain the landscape. It is ideally played by six or more people with roles representing at least one "banker" and one "government official".

Photo credit: Harry Purnanmo

2. Governance and making decisions

ICCAs are defined by communities' capacities to make decisions either under their own legal authority or in practice. While some communities have strong existing customary laws that support their decision-making processes, others may be in the midst of developing these legal frameworks.

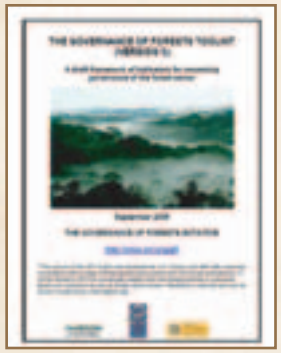
Good governance and rights:

- 'Governance of Protected Areas: from understanding to action'[4] is part of the IUCN Best Practices Series and serves as a key resource to help assess and develop the capacity of institutions and individuals who govern and manage protected areas.

- 'Good Governance and Indigenous Peoples in Asia' is a report produced by the NGO 'Minority Rights' on the rights of Indigenous peoples with regard to governance, and highlights the reasons for their marginalization.

- 'ICCA Consortium Resilience and Security Tool' helps communities to assess and measure the security of their community internally and with relation to outside actors. It also looks at factors that could affect community resilience to challenges.

- 'The Governance of Forests Toolkit (Version 1)' produced by the World Resources Institute (WRI) describes and explains a framework for indicators of forest governance.



- 'What makes a good policy indicator?' is a paper produced by 'The Policy Practice' using a polical economy perspective to provide guidelines on policy indicators and frameworks to evaluate good governance.

4 Borrini-Feyerabend, G., N. Dudley, B. Lassen, T. Jaeger, N. Pathak, A. Phillips and T. Sandwith (2013). *Governance of Protected Areas—from Understanding to Action*, IUCN Best Practice Protected Area Guidelines Series No.20, Gland (Switzerland). In press.

3. Addressing key threats within ICCAs

Threats to an ICCA can arise for different reasons. These include internal factors, such as social conflicts and loss of traditional knowledge; or from external factors, such as impacts from industrial development, logging or mining. In some cases, communities can build their capacity to address some of the threats directly. Many partner organizations also exist for the purpose of providing support to ICCAs and the communities who manage them. Some threats, such as climate change, are quite complex and their impacts may require "partial responses", such as ecosystem-based adaptation (EBA), rather than a "complete resolution" of the problem.

Examples of threats to ICCAs:

1. 'Internal threats' to a community may include:

- ✓ Disagreements within the community due to changing mindsets and values, particularly between youths and elders;
- ✓ Misrepresentation of women within community decision-making;
- ✓ Domination by certain individuals, or elites with greater power, leading to disharmony and resentment in the community;
- ✓ Loss of traditional cultures as a result of competition for the benefits that perceived "modernity" brings;
- ✓ Difficulties in maintaining sustainable livelihoods due to temptations to sell land, or overharvest natural resources, to satisfy globalised demand; and
- ✓ Mass urban migration where youth leave rural areas.

2. 'External threats' to a community may include:

- ✓ Extractive industries such as logging, mono-cropping palm oil plantations, industrial fishing and mining, where communities are often forced to leave their land without their consent;
- ✓ Manipulation from outside influences, including bribery, threats to sell land, or false promises of development benefits;
- ✓ Violent conflict and war leading to the movement of refugees;
- ✓ Extreme natural disasters including floods, hurricanes, tsunamis and drought;
- ✓ Inappropriate recognition of ICCA status from state or national authorities; and
- ✓ Political insecurity sometimes fuelling conflicts and divisions within communities.

"There are many threats to ICCAs, in part because of the lack of demarcated boundaries and official recognition of their presence and governance systems."

Addressing or mitigating threats:

Reconciling development and conservation

- 'Opening Pandora's Box: The New Wave of Land Grabbing by Extractive Industries and the Devastating Impacts on Earth' is an overview of the impacts of competition for scarce land and a new rush to acquire agricultural production areas in developing countries.

- 'Negotiation and Implementation of Impact and Benefit Agreement' commissioned by the Walter & Duncan Gordon Foundation is a detailed guide on how to negotiate successful benefit-sharing agreements for communities.

- 'Social & Biodiversity Impact Assessment Manual for REDD+ - Part 1 Core and Guidance for Project Proponents' is a guide produced by the NGO 'Forest Trends' to assess project circumstances and opportunities for reducing deforestation and forest degradation.

- 'Indigenous opportunities under the Carbon Farming Initiative (CFI) Reforestation Methodology' is a summary report published by the Australian government listing opportunities for indigenous peoples to undertake ecological restoration initiatives.

- 'Education for sustainable development toolkit' is a toolkit produced by UNESCO explaining what sustainable development means, and how education can help to achieve it.

Enforcement:

- From The Nature Conservancy's Parks in Peril series, the case studies in 'Enforcement & Coastal Development for Marine Conservation' provide examples of how marine habitat conservation measures can be enforced.

Climate Change adaptation:

- 'Climate Witness-Community Toolkit' explains a "two day procedure" developed by the NGO the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) for producing a community conservation action plan to address climate change.

- 'Adapting to a Changing Climate in Micronesia' is an interactive presentation enabling inhabitants of Micronesia and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the Pacific to "climate-proof" their community. The tool includes a "flipchart presentation" format so that workshop facilitators can conduct adaptation workshops.

- 'The State of Marine and Coastal Adaptation in North America: A Synthesis of Emerging Ideas' documents adaptation efforts and opportunities for coastal and marine parts of North America.

- 'Indigenous and Traditional Peoples and Climate Change' is a report on the vulnerability of indigenous peoples to the effects of climate change, explains the reasons for their vulnerability, and possible consequences.

- 'Framework for Community-Based Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment in Mountain Areas' is a study on the vulnerability and capacity of mountain-dwelling communities.

- 'CARE's Community-Based Adaptation Toolkit' is a comprehensive guide that supports communities to determine the threats and impacts of climate change, and successfully implement adaptation measures.

- 'Climate Frontlines' is a website hosted by UNESCO which features an online open forum for sharing observations, adaptive responses, and monitoring of climate impacts.

Mining/unsustainable developments:

- 'Impact and Benefit Agreements Community Toolkit' is a guide for Canadian Aboriginal communities on negotiating agreements with mining companies. Many of the processes discussed are also relevant to other extractive industries, protected areas, and the forestry sector.

CASE STUDY 9

Using Eco-cultural mapping in Venda, South Africa to remember culture and map the future

Since 2009, the *Netshidzivhe, Netvhutanda, Ramunangi* and other Clans in Venda, a rural province in the north-eastern Limpopo, South Africa, have been carrying out an "eco-cultural mapping" exercise. Eco-cultural mapping allows community members to tune-in to their local surroundings and actively map their local landscape without the need for technical skills, expensive equipment, or materials. Most importantly, it enables a reconnection with the territory, which is vital in areas where culture, language and traditional ecological practices have been eroded. In Venda, development projects, tourism, agro-industrial plantations, infrastructure developments, as well as extensive use of chemical fertilizers and genetically engineered crops, have all impacted on the local environment. To gain recognition of their rights as custodians of Venda's network of sacred forests, the Clans needed support in gathering data, preparing maps and expressing their traditional ecological knowledge (TEK).

As they began to explore ways to map their territory, a deeper understanding of how their sacred natural sites are embedded in their territory and cultural identity emerged. The mapping strengthened community cohesion and the confidence to assert historical rights and responsibilities as custodians of the sacred natural sites. With support from the Mupo Foundation, a local voluntary committee has now formed, called '*Dzomo la Mupo*', for the protection of Venda's sacred sites. Traditional practices and rituals to protect sacred natural sites, such as millet ceremonies, have been revived. Eco-cultural mapping has also formed the basis of three applications to the South African Heritage Resource Agency for *Guvhukuvhu*, *La Nwadzongolo*, *Thathe* and *Vhutanda* sacred natural sites to be registered as such under the custodianship of their respective clans.

Makhadzi, traditional custodians of Sacred Natural Sites in Venda, South Africa, developing their eco-cultural maps and calendars. Photo credits: Dzomo la Mupo, Mupo Foundation, Gaia Foundation.

Ancestral map of the past, showing the ecological order of the territory in Venda. Photo credits: Dzomo la Mupo, Mupo Foundation, Gaia Foundation.

Invasive species and biodiversity decline:

- The 'Pacific Invasives Learning Network' (PILN) is an island network managed by the contributing participants. Through its website, the network provides monthly newsletters, documents, and other information about managing invasive species in island environments.

Invasive *Typha Australis*, Mauritania, Photo Credit: Terence Hay-Edie

THEME 3

Monitoring and Evaluation:

Monitoring processes are underway and include community members, followed by evaluation and learning

The range of negative environmental impacts on natural resources are increasing due to population growth, over-consumption, climate change, and a host of other development pressures. This means communities need to "keep track" of how their conservation areas and territories are changing. Community-based monitoring can be conducted in many ways: either by communities themselves, in partnership with scientists, or jointly with the government.

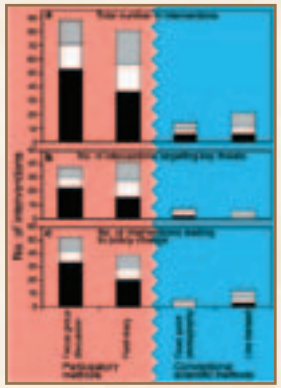
Many natural features of an ICCA can be monitored within a community, such as the presence of biodiversity, including species and habitats, as well as medium term environmental changes observed over time. Equally important, numerous social and economic aspects can also be systematically monitored.

Methods for monitoring are diverse, varying from simple methods (such as using visual cards); recording the presence of species at set periods in time; to the use of national protected area protocols for assessments. Aside from written records and datasets, observations of changes can in some instances be recorded orally and shared between generations, sometimes through story-telling which is captured using participatory video. Mobile phones and hand-held devices, such as 'Cybertracker' and GPS tools, can be used to maintain "citizen science" observations on how well the most significant species or habitats are doing.

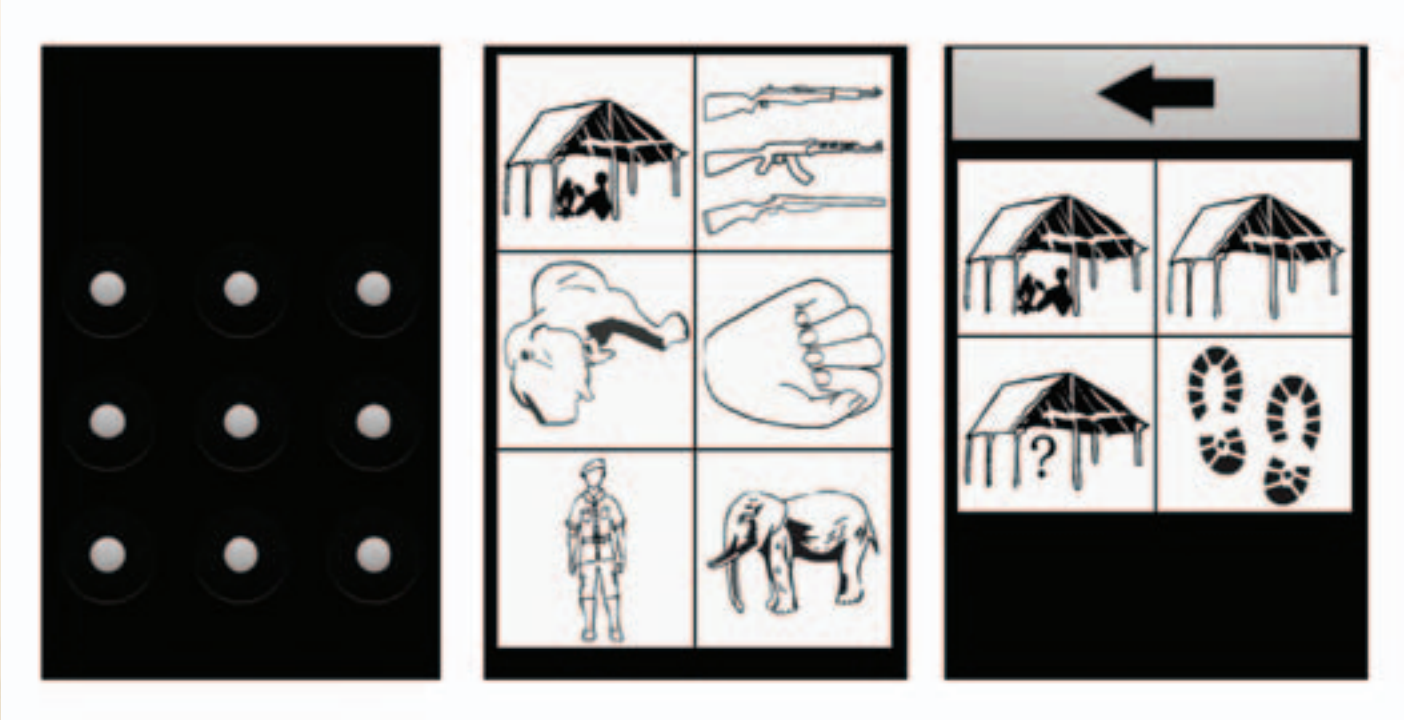
> *"Monitoring is an important activity that should take place at regular intervals to understand how factors and resources are changing over time. Evaluation provides the review of impacts and effectiveness."*

1. Monitoring natural resources and biodiversity

- 'Increasing Conservation Management Action by Involving Local People in Natural Resource Monitoring' is a peer-reviewed publication produced in Denmark that looks at simple ways in which monitoring can be conducted.



- 'Monitoring Matters' is a website describing the benefits of monitoring, whilst also providing links to different schemes and practical efforts undertaken by local communities.



PGIS Congo, Jerome Lewis

CASE STUDY 10

Using a national park boat to monitor an ICCA in Senegal

The *Joal-Faljiouth* National Park in Senegal is a co-managed marine area with a strong voluntary community association. The community has set up rules to prohibit fishing within the marine protected area (MPA) from the shore to the 3 km boundary. The area is monitored using a boat for surveillance and rules are regulated by rangers. One of the biggest challenges to the community is coastal erosion, which has widened the estuary allowing for salt intrusion to the mangroves, destroying the sea grasses, as well as the mangrove roots. Mangrove roots serve as important oyster and fish breeding/nursery areas, and the local *Faljiouth* community, especially the women, have been significantly affected by the damage to these areas. The community are heavily reliant on shellfish for both income and subsistence food supply. To monitor the problem, the community association regularly borrows the national park's boat, which is useful for conducting surveillance, and for providing access to the island-based mangroves, where crucial mangrove restoration work takes place. This arrangement allows the community to manage and monitor resources that are essential to their livelihoods, giving them the freedom to monitor the fish populations, as well as to ensure that illegal activity is curbed.

Photo credit: Colleen Corrigan

Species identification and monitoring using point counts, timed species counts, transects and species lists are simple techniques to approximate the biodiversity and species richness of an area.

- 'Monitoring Important Bird Areas in Fiji' is a guide to establishing a monitoring framework for birds in Fiji. After an introduction to the national context, the way to set up bird monitoring is explained.

- 'Experiences with Community Based Wildlife Conservation in Tanzania' is a compilation of academic accounts of experiences from community conservation projects in Tanzania.

Bird watching, GEF SGP Armenia

CASE STUDY 11

Fixed-point photography used in Mt. Kitanglad Natural Park, the Philippines, to monitor plant species and encroachment

The *Bukidnon* community living in the Mt. Kitanglad Mountain Range shares its territory with an incredible diversity of wildlife. The rainforest has been protected as a Philippines' National Park since 1990, and "fixed point photography" has been used recently to combat encroachment from other communities.

In the park, community members select hillsides of special interest and photograph these from 'fixed points' to track the changes in land-use over time. The photos are taken every three months from locations that are easily accessible, along patrol routes, and with good view points. The frequency at which the photos are taken can be adjusted as needed. After the photographs are collected, they are catalogued with the date, location and name of the photographer, and can be used to demonstrate various changes in natural resources. For example, one of the photographs showed a new opening in a protected zone that could be traced to another community. With the photos as "documented proof", the neighbouring community promised to seek permission before any further tree-cutting was carried out, demonstrating how important this type of monitoring can be. The photos and consultation clearly establish the borders of the forest to avoid and mediate in conflicts with neighbouring communities.

Protected Area Superintendent Felix Mirasol, Mt. Kitanglad Range Natural Park, the Philippines. Photo credit: Felix Marisol

Namibia event book, Greg Stuart Hill

Event Books are used by community rangers to monitor significant events such as wild fires, poaching or wildlife mortality. Events are noted with the date, time, location and a detailed description. These can then be mapped, compiled and reported monthly and annually. For example, in Namibia the 'Event Book System' has been used by Wildlife Conservancies to monitor wildlife and resources and illustrate problems with intruders.

Species inventories can help to list all species, their numbers and location. Over time, inventories can help to make informed predictions about important populations and other aspects of the surrounding environment. Cyber tracker is an efficient method for collecting Global Positioning System (GPS) field data for environmental monitoring. It does not require programming skills, it can be used with a Smartphone or handheld computer, and it can be customized to the individual data collection needs of the user. The I-Tracker Program of the North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance Limited (NAILSMA) provides CyberTracker training and technical support and down-loadable customised applications to Indigenous rangers across north Australia and international partners.

CASE STUDY 12

Tracking data to help manage Dhimurru Indigenous Protected Area in northern Australia

On the north east coast of Arnhem Land, the *Dhimurru* Indigenous Protected Area (IPA) is on the traditional lands of the *Yolngu* people. *Dhimurru* rangers use Cybertracker to quickly and simply collect information on the plants, animals and cultural values of their area, while also monitoring management activities and visitors. A robust, handheld, electronic device is used to enter the rangers' observations. The program links data, voice recordings, and photos to GPS readings. As remote telecommunications improve, the application may be available on Smartphones, tablets and laptops. When back in the office, rangers download the data from their synchronised devices to a computer database where it is used to generate reports as spreadsheets, graphs or overlays on maps. The data helps the rangers to report back on fee-for-service activities that they undertake for the Australian Government's quarantine system, 'Working on Country' programs, and 'GhostNets Australia' programme. For sea-based activities, the rangers use a 'Saltwater Country Patrol' application developed by the North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance (NAILSMA) to record their observations of boats, fishing activity, marine animals, debris, nets and quarantine activities while on patrol.

The best advice to communities wanting to implement the system is to find an organisation able to provide training and technical support, use a suitable data management program, and put in place succession planning to prevent a loss of knowledge when people move on. The collection of meaningful data by *Dhimurru* rangers and neighbouring indigenous ranger groups is becoming a valuable tool for researchers and other sea and land management agencies across northern Australia.

Photo credit: Dhimurru Aboriginal Corporation

GhostNet Patrol at Yalangbara. Dhimurru Aboriginal Corporation

Participatory monitoring:

- 'Participatory Rural Appraisal: Methodology and Applications' is a book developed by the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) on participatory methods and their various applications.

2. Monitoring cultural resources

Socio-economic monitoring is used to understand how well communities are doing in relation to livelihoods, income generation, interactions between members of the community, as well as in relation to factors outside the community. A range of methods exist for assessing the social aspects of the community and the economic status of those who live within the ICCA. Socio-economic assessments are important ways for visualizing, quantifying, and optimizing community benefits derived from the natural resources and other intangible assets found within ICCAs.

- 'Social Assessment of Conservation Initiatives - A review of rapid methodologies' reviews different "rapid assessment techniques" to determine the socio-economic impacts of conservations areas.

- 'TEEB for the Brazilian Business Sector' discusses the need to consider the value of biodiversity and ecosystem services (BES) in economic evaluations, including the value of the services provided by PAs and ICCAs at the national level.

- 'Socio-economic manual for coral reef management' is a detailed guide to assess the socio-economic aspects of the management of coral reefs through the use of participatory planning, data collection, and analysis.

THEME 4

Communication:
Communication supports all conservation and important activities

Communication can take place in a number of ways: it can happen between members of a single community, between two or more communities, or between a community and a "global audience". Communication is an evolving process, and many skills can be learned to improve how to communicate. These skills include:

- ✓ Negotiation
- ✓ Public speaking
- ✓ Creating effective presentations
- ✓ Advocating for policy change
- ✓ Providing education through written resources
- ✓ Passing knowledge between generations
- ✓ Developing campaigns

"Communication is the basis for sharing information and knowledge within and beyond a community. By paying attention to communication as an important tool, communities can develop support for governance and management of conservation areas."

1. General Communication capacity

A basic set of skills can generate a significant amount of support for ICCAs. The "stakeholders" in the ICCA may include individuals and institutions further away from the immediate community living beside and managing the ICCA. The following tools and resources can help build a range of abilities to connect the different stakeholders who hold a relation with the ICCA.

Making effective presentations:

- 'Tools and training' is a communication toolkit produced by IDRC in Canada for researchers which provides insights and training on how best to handle the media (i.e. newspapers and journalists); making presentations in front of different audiences; as well as how to prepare "key messages" for a TV interview.

- 'Building a better slide presentation' is another resource from IDRC explaining and illustrating how to build a better slide presentation.

- 'Tools of Engagement' is a Handbook produced by the Audubon Society that explains how to get people interested, motivated and involved in conservation. The Handbook provides over thirty techniques and tips that facilitate each of these processes.

Community Palli, Equator Initiative.

Outreach/Campaigns:

- 'PCI Media Impact' is an NGO which specializes in demonstrating how people can use media and story-telling to inspire and create enduring social change.

- 'Rare Campaigns' have been developed and tested by the NGO 'Rare' to promote campaigns in favour of "charismatic species" using radio melodramas, educational tours in schools, and 'theory of change' models to track behavioural changes for conservation results.

- Social networking campaigns: more than two billion people now have access to the internet and social network sites, such as Avaaz, Facebook or Twitter. Social networks provide opportunities for publicity, networking, or the efficient communication of events and activities. Communities can create a Facebook site about their ICCA, or "tweet" short messages via Twitter about the most recent sightings of wildlife to attract tourism, or post alerts about threats to their ICCAs. On-line social networks generally provide opportunities to communicate with audiences far beyond the immediate local communities.

- 'Citizen Journalism' is a process where community members undertake training to learn how to write, and then become the "journalists" for their communities, reporting their stories to the world. Through various on-line mechanisms, local communities now have multiple options to share stories and connect with like-minded groups across the world.

- 'Frontlines SMS' is a software programme which allows computer users to simultaneously send multiple SMS messages to rural mobile phone users who often do not have access to other means of communication, such as TV or the internet.

- Equator Prize winners case study database documents project catalysts, the genesis of winning ideas, institutional frameworks and governance systems, key activities and innovations, biodiversity impacts (species, habitats and ecosystems conserved), socio-economic impacts, policy impacts, financial and social sustainability, successes and challenges with replication, the role of partnerships and much more. Search by categories or by keyword, to access case studies in a variety of thematic areas, fields of work, and ecosystems in developing countries around the world.

Negotiations with government and corporate actors:

- 'Negotiation and Implementation of Impact and Benefit Agreement' is a detailed guide on what to do to successfully negotiate with mine operators and other extractive industries.

- 'Learners, practitioners and teachers - Handbook on monitoring, evaluating and managing knowledge for policy influence' provides insights from Latin America on how to positively influence policy change.

Radio and Short Message Service (SMS) networks:

- Using case studies from across the world, 'Community Media: A Good Practice Handbook' is a UNESCO publication which provides guidance on enabling community media, developing sustainability strategies, and strengthening the social impact of local media channels.

Photo stories and participatory videos:

- InsightShare empowers communities to share their problems, threats, experiences and successes through participatory video (PV) and photo-stories. The website features a Handbook on PV (available in French, English, Spanish, and Russian) on how to plan PV messages, M&E for social change, as well as on techniques for "non-violent communication" styles.

- 'WWF Panda CLICK' is an initiative by the by WWF to stimulate innovation and knowledge generation in local communities using photography and videos.

CASE STUDY 13

Using photo-stories to strengthen communities facing external threats in West Kalimantan, Indonesia

The Indigenous *Dayak Limbai* community, living in West Kalimantan, Borneo, depend entirely on their 5,000 hectare community area called *Bukit Bunyau*. The significant natural resources in the *Bunyau* are fundamental to their livelihoods, but also attract the attention of multinational mining, logging and palm-oil companies. To help the communities describe their efforts to defend their land against unwanted extraction, the *Bunyau* community worked with various NGOs to make a Photo-Story. This is a short video file, usually 4-5 minutes long, including a number of photos and images that are narrated with voice, music and text. Unlike video documentaries, the editing process is is quite straight-forward, and can be done by community members themselves who become the photographers, authors, owners, and "content developers" of these narratives. Communities start by writing a script which includes a description of the ICCA; listing the threats faced; itemising the community's responses; followed by the "expected results "of their planned collective actions (both positive and negative).

Once the script is prepared, community members learn tips on photography to help document their ICCA. Community members then take photographs around their area to illustrate the story. At the final stage, the community combines the photos and images into a Photo-Story which can be viewed using a computer, or on the internet. This tool and approach is empowering for communities and provides a simple visual record which can be shared with other communities facing similar threats. Sub-titles can also be added to the Photo-Stories to adapt the message to different languages and geographic contexts.

Reviewing first draft of photo story. Photo credit: Vanessa Reid

Photo training session. Photo credit: Vanessa Reid

2. Traditional Knowledge Management

ICCAs are often considered to be "bio-cultural" entities which include both the natural and cultural diversity of ecosystems and people. In addition to managing the physical and biological aspects of an ICCA, it is equally important to have appropriate processes in place for managing the flow of traditional knowledge (TK). In some instances, knowledge that is held by the elders of communities is being lost as younger generations move to cities, or change their lifestyles. Many ICCAs are successful because the integrity and richness of knowledge is maintained through customary rituals and traditions. Other ICCAs, such as the 'School of Living Traditions' in the Philippines, are finding that the creation of schools, or education programmes focused on youth, help create a "flow of knowledge" from one generation to another. This section introduces practical ways in which communities have captured TK and supported transmission from elders to younger generations.

Capturing, documenting, and protecting:

- 'Lore: Capturing Traditional Environmental Knowledge' is the output of a workshop on capturing traditional environmental knowledge with case studies from Canada, the Sahel, and the South Pacific.

- 'Indigenous perspectives - Bequeathing indigenous knowledge' is a newsletter reporting experiences of TK and education.

- 'Protecting and promoting traditional knowledge: System, National Experiences and International Dimensions' is a report on the important role TK plays for the sectors of health and agriculture.

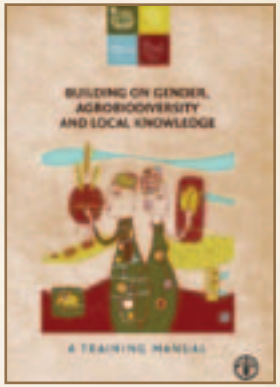
- The 'Indigenous Peoples' Center for Documentation, Research and Information', based in Geneva, hosts a website which focuses on archiving documents pertaining to the rights of indigenous peoples, and how to make these more widely available through regular newsletters and other means.

- 'Documenting and disseminating agricultural and indigenous knowledge for sustainable food security: The Efforts of Agricultural Research Libraries in Nigeria' is a study reviewing techniques to collect indigenous knowledge through questionnaires, as well as the role of literature and libraries in the protection of TK.

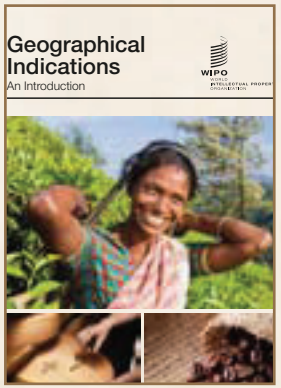
Traditional knowledge and intellectual property:

- 'Traditional Knowledge and Intellectual Property - A Handbook on Issues and Options for Traditional Knowledge Holders in Protecting their Intellectual Property and Maintaining Biological Diversity' is a guide to the definitions and scope of intellectual property, where it can assist indigenous peoples and local communities, and how it can help conservation of biodiversity.

- 'Building on Gender, Agrobiodiversity and Local Knowledge' is a comprehensive guide produced by the UN Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) linking gender, agrobiodiversity, and local knowledge for the management of food security and food sovereignty.



- The 'World Intellectual Property Organization' (WIPO) produces numerous publications with information and reports on TK including work on traditional cultural expressions (TCEs), and instruments to protect the intellectual property rights (IPRs) of genetic resources linked to TK.

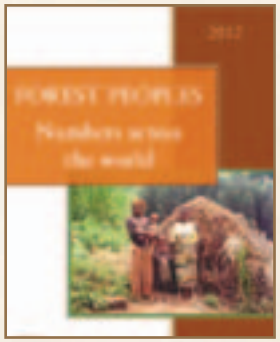


3. Advocacy

Advocacy may be defined as the ability to express interests to those in positions of power, to have opinions heard, and to influence policies that could affect ICCAs and community concerns. Techniques for social advocacy include the ability to "say no" to proposals that threaten community livelihoods, as well as to engage in proactive and constructive dialogue with powerful institutions and interest groups.

- 'Conservation by Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities: Advances in Participatory Action Research, Dissemination and Advocacy' describes the outcomes of a workshop in 2012 organized by the ICCA Consortium and the Global Diversity Foundation (GDF) as part of the International Congress of Ethnobiology. The report describes mechanisms for effective advocacy and illustrates ten case studies.

- 'Forest Peoples – numbers across the world' is a reputable source of statistics which can help ensure that communications pertaining to forest-dependent communities are based on well-researched facts.



- The 'Video Advocacy Planning Toolkit' provides information on using video as a tool for advocacy, and gives guidance for creating powerful videos.

- The 'Participatory Video and Rights Based Approach Toolkit' produced by the NGO InsightShare (see above) provides support for groups engaged in human rights focused participatory film work. The toolkit is written in the context of community video projects and is designed to equip practitioners with advice, tools and checklists that enable them to incorporate this approach into their work. There is a particular emphasis on biocultural and indigenous rights issues, including case studies from over 200 PV exercises conducted by InsightShare worldwide.

THEME 5

Finance and Values:
Communities are aware of finance options, values of ICCA are identified

Many of the actions associated with governing, managing, monitoring, evaluating, and communicating about ICCAs require funding. For example, boats need fuel, GPS units need batteries, and community gatherings need food. A variety of sources of funding for local conservation efforts exists and some of these are highlighted in this section. Communities should be aware of the requirements for different funding sources: some are more flexible than others; some are renewable, whilst others are "time-bound"; and some may require specific conditions and activities.

Many organizations and governments are starting to develop ways to understand the value of natural resources and the "ecosystem services" provided by nature. Communities can also use some of the tools below to show the value of their ICCAs and their conservation practices. These values may be important not only to local communities, but also to the global community.

> *"Finding ways to support the activities of an ICCA is an important part of long-term success. Learning how to value an ICCA can help ensure that its importance is linked to local, national and global significance."*

1. Financing ICCAs

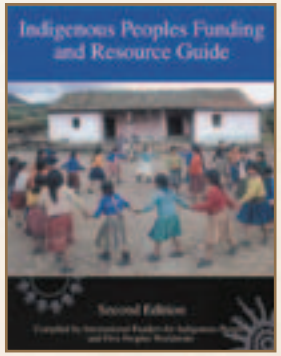
In addition to the human rights and governance of ICCAs, communities are typically interested in learning about options to support their well-being – either through monetary income, or sustainable livelihoods. Some ICCAs are located in areas where they can benefit from sustainable tourism, or other business practices, that will provide economic resources to the community. For example, a *Maasai* women's group in Kenya may be interested in attracting visitors to their rural lodging facilities. In many cases, communities wanting to increase their business skills need to look for tools that build communication and financing expertise.

Fundraising:

- 'Resource Mobilization - A Practical Guide for Research and Community-Based Organisations' is a step-by-step guide produced by IDRC in Canada on how much money is needed for a project, and the potential ways to realize the objectives.

- 'A call to action - improving indigenous peoples' access to conservation funding: successful funding step-by-step' developed by the NGO 'First Peoples' leads communities through the entire process of obtaining funding for conservation purposes in "small and easily digestible" steps.

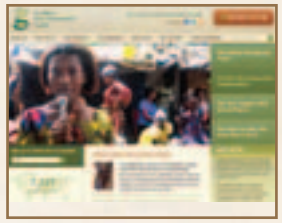
- The 'Indigenous peoples funding and resource guide' produced by the NGO 'International Funders of Indigenous Peoples' (IFIP) is a guide providing training tools and tips on writing proposals.



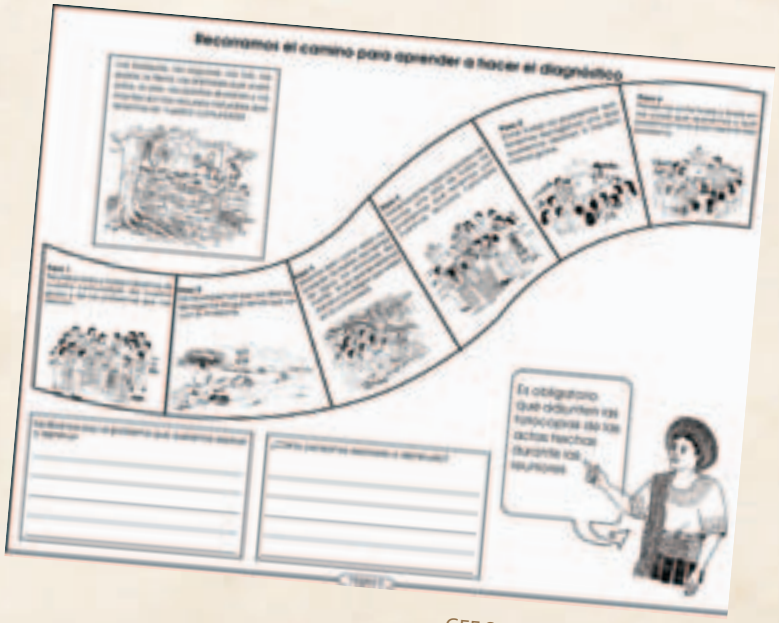
Grant sources and assistance:

- The UNDP-implemented GEF Small Grants Programme provides financial and technical support to field projects carried out by civil society organizations up to US$50,000 that protect the global environment, address community-based adaptation to climate change, and contribute to poverty reduction and community empowerment.

- The Green Grants Fund (GGF) is a global network of advisors that provides small grants to grassroots advocacy groups working on environmental and social justice issues.



- The Christensen Fund provides financial assistance to support bio-cultural diversity. The majority of grants are focused in five regions: the African Rift Valley; Central Asia and Turkey; Southwest USA and Northern Mexico; Melanesia; and Northern Australia.



GEF SGP Almanario, Guatemala

Qashqai migration. Photo credit: CENESTA, Iran

Qashqai women. Photo credit: CENESTA, Iran

CASE STUDY 14

Using tribal investment funds in Iran to benefit people and nature

In the last decade, Iran's more than 700 indigenous tribes have seen the revival of their councils of elders and the registration of *sanduqs* (tribal investment funds) run by the indigenous tribes themselves. The Iranian NGO CENESTA, which is a member of the 'Council of Elders of the Union of Indigenous Nomadic Tribes of Iran' (UNINOMAD) has helped institute a process of participatory action research to assist the tribes with analysis of their current predicament, future visions of their ICCAs, and a 'roadmap' for the future. For example, the *Bakhtiari* tribe *Farrokhvand* has revived endangered plants such as wild celery by assigning "field guards" to protect these valuable plants, as well as re-seeding the range where possible. When they harvest economically significant crops like celery, the collective structure of their *sanduq* benefits all tent-holds and nomadic camps of the tribe.

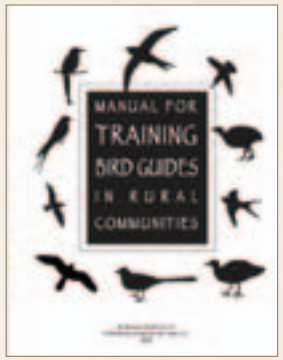
Community and eco-tourism:

Tourism is now one of the number one industries of the world economy, and eco-tourism is the fastest growing sub-sector. Eco- and community tourism can be a means to generate income from traditional livelihoods and ICCAs. The following tools provide some pointers on how to plan and set up tourism activities.

- 'Village ways: inspiring holidays at the heart of communities' illustrates a "new tourism model" based on visiting indigenous peoples and local communities.

- The 'Handbook on Community Based Tourism – How to develop and sustain' offers advice to community leaders on developing community-based tourism in a sustainable and non-destructive manner.

- The 'Manual for training bird guides in rural communities' provides training for rural communities to identify and monitor local bird populations. The manual describes opportunities that arise from bird identification, and provides training in business-related and safety skills.



- The 'Tourism and Recreation Valuation Tool' produced by the World Resources Institute is a "spreadsheet-based tool" which calculates the value of tourism to coral reefs.

CASE STUDY 15

Ecotourism supports income and reduces extraction in Achuar community, Ecuador

Kapawi Eco-lodge, eastern Ecuador. Photo credit: Andres Ordoñez

The *Achuar* community of the Ecuadorian Amazon desire to live in harmony with the 680,000 hectares of Amazonian rainforest that makes up their territory. Their remote location in the Amazon basin offers them relatively limited access to the formal economy. Looking for possible locally determined development strategies, the *Achuar* community have discovered the potential of using the pristine wilderness to their advantage and became pioneers in community-based eco-tourism.

In 1993, the *Achuar* community built the 'Kapawi eco-lodge' using locally available materials and traditional construction methods. At the lodge, the indigenous community organize activities with trained local guides. The options include bird watching, lake canoeing, piranha fishing, and visits to rural *Achuar* communities to learn about their culture. These initiatives have raised awareness of the value of a healthy rainforest. As a result of eco-tourism, incomes have increased and destructive forest activities have been reduced by over 90%. Diverse wildlife is cherished and proudly shown to tourists. More permanent jobs have also been created as the need for nature guides and lodge staff increases. Almost all the jobs continue to be filled by people from the local community. The revenue from the lodge and its activities are redistributed as income for the employees.

Additional measures to improve the infrastructure, and to build the capacity of the community, were financed to allow community members to be supported to go to the 'Achuar University Program' in the capital, Quito. The first five indigenous graduates have returned to management posts in the Kapawi project, ensuring the competitiveness and high standards of services. Furthermore, the *Achuar* Nationality of Ecuador, representing all 6,000 Achuar people, has supported the project by buying a plane for transporting tourists.

Marketing products:

Biodiversity can be used to make a wide variety of products, including food, ornaments and art. Marketing these products can provide communities with a sustainable source of income, helping to support their conservation work while improving their quality of life.

- 'Communities Contributing to Biodiversity - Biodiversity Products from Latin American and the Caribbean' is a manual produced by the GEF SGP that gives examples of a wide range of products that can be marketed by communities.

- An on-line 'Biodiversity Products Platform' allows communities to upload profiles of products and connect with other like-minded producer organizations at the global level through the assistance of the Progreso Network.

- 'The Gift of Bees' produced by the Slow Food movement is a guide to bees, bee-keeping, and harvesting honey.

2. Valuing ICCAs

There are different ways to demonstrate the value of an ICCA. Many values are not easy to measure. The main purpose of this section is to increase awareness by communities about the significance of their areas at local and global scales.

Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS):

- 'Introduction to Access and Benefit-Sharing' provides a brief and comprehensive introduction to genetic resources and ABS.

- 'Access and Benefit-Sharing Information Kit' developed by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) contains factsheets on a range of topics related to ABS, including information on the Nagoya Protocol, and the Bonn Guidelines.

- The 'ABS Management Tool' is an in-depth publication produced in Switzerland which includes a handbook for implementing ABS activities.

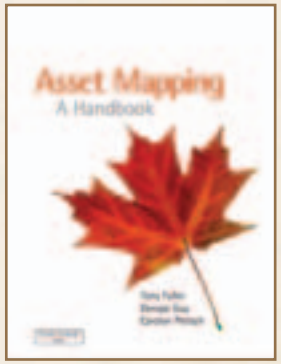
Measuring Ecosystem Services:

- 'Measuring and Monitoring Ecosystem Services at the Site Scale' is a toolkit designed by UNEP WCMC to help users with limited capacity (such as technical knowledge or time) and resources (financial or human) to measure ecosystem services. The guidance is not designed for a full economic valuation, but provides options for how to calculate a limited set of economic values of ecosystems.

Asset Mapping:

- 'Asset Building in Indigenous Communities' produced by the NGO First Peoples outlines eight "types of assets" relevant to indigenous peoples, including a broad range of values such as financial capital, cultural resources, and human resources.

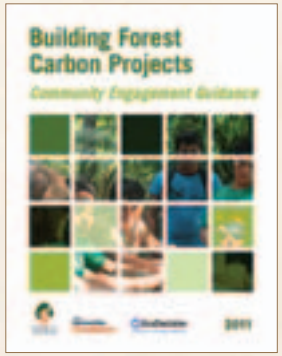
- 'Asset Mapping: A Handbook' sets out three methods for asset mapping by rural communities.



Payments for Ecosystem Services:

Payments made to landowners by governments, companies, or individuals as an incentive to manage land in a way that provides a particular ecosystem service (e.g. supporting pollinating species, or providing a buffer to flooding). An example is 'Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD)', an international effort to compensate communities for their efforts in forest preservation. The reduction in carbon emissions is valued and carbon credits are then paid to remunerate the community for their reductions (see also FPIC section above).

- 'Building Forest Carbon Projects - Community Engagement Guidance' developed by the NGO Forest Trends is a guide to establishing successful carbon projects with community engagement.



- The 'UN-REDD Guidelines on Free, Prior and Informed Consent' outlines the necessary preconditions for REDD+ activities to be supported under the UN partnership bringing together UNDP, UNEP and FAO.

Photo credit: COAMA

CASE STUDY 16

Community consultations for the Oddar Meanchey Community Forestry REDD+ project in Cambodia

Photo credit: Equator Initiative

The first REDD+ project developed in Cambodia is found in the *Oddar Meanchey* Community Forest which covers 70,000 hectares of evergreen rainforest and affects 10,000 households. Both the governance regime, as well as the rights to the forest's carbon, have been secured through legal recognition under the national 'Community Forestry Agreement'. To achieve this, forest communities elected community representatives to speak on their behalf during the REDD+ consultation before any measures could be taken. Eventually, the community representatives agreed that half of the income generated from the REDD+ project would go directly to the local communities. The disbursement mechanisms under which the community will benefit from this money are currently under negotiation, but the communities' involvement in the decision-making of the REDD+ project has been secured.

From March 2008 to November 2009, more than 50 workshops were held locally and provincially to inform communities about climate change, carbon markets, and REDD+ so that the "underlying science" would be better understood by all stakeholders during the planned negotiations. Areas of concern, such as insecure tenurial rights, were discussed over the course several meetings during a six month period, allowing for a consultation between the community representatives and the project developers. In 2010, consent from all parties was reached. Consultations will however continue to ensure that any up-coming or "emerging issues" can be resolved in a timely manner. Despite the prior consent, the FPIC process is "never finished" and further cooperation needs to remain strong in order to ensure that the long-term sustainability and community ownership of the REDD+ project is achieved.

Conclusion

The main purpose of this toolkit has been to introduce and raise awareness of readily available tools, existing knowledge, and supporting mechanisms that communities may use to effectively govern and manage ICCAs. We hope communities will find valuable resources in these pages which can empower and support their local efforts for biodiversity conservation, human rights protection, poverty reduction, and promotion of cultural heritage. We anticipate that many more practical tools will be identified, and may be included in new editions of the toolkit in the near future. As a result, we hope to create a web-based resource that can be updated as new tools and approaches are identified and developed. We also hope that the toolkit will be translated into local languages, and adapted to different social contexts. In particular "culturally appropriate" versions may be customized to specific geographic regions. UNDP and UNEP welcome input to ensure that this is an ongoing, reciprocal and interactive process.

Indigenous Youth, Dialogue on Diverse Knowledge systems in Guna Yala, Panama,
Photo credit: Terence Hay-Edie

Acknowledgements

The idea for this toolkit was formulated during the Convention on Biological Diversity's 10th Conference of Parties (CBD COP10), and the Workshop on Indigenous Peoples' and Community Conserved Territories and Areas (ICCAs) that followed in the Shirakawa World Heritage Site in October 2010. Based on the peer learning and knowledge exchange in Shirakawa, the toolkit compiles a set of tools and resources useful for the conservation of ICCAs. The toolkit is based on input from a number of individuals and organizations. In particular, Vanessa Reid for research on a wide range of tools, case studies and photos; as well as Tim Rademacher, Zoe Wells and Heather Bingham who assisted during internships at UNEP-WCMC. Special thanks to the UNDP Equator Initiative, Gaia Foundation, and GEF Small Grants Programme for photos and case study materials.

The following additional contributors, and their affiliations, are listed in alphabetical order: Lorena Arce (ICCA Consortium, Regional Coordinator), Badara N. Bajo (Gunjur Environmental Protection and Development Group), Liz Barry (Public Laboratory), Grazia Borrini-Feyerabend (ICCA Consortium, Global Coordinator), Tom Blomely (Acacia Natural Resources), Philip Bubb (UNEP-WCMC), Neil Burgess (WWF/UNEP-WCMC), Anita Say Chan (Public Laboratory), Christian Chatelain (ICCA Consortium, Regional Coordinator), Pedro Constantino (University of Florida), Nigel Crawhall (IUCN Theme on Indigenous and Local Communities Equity and Protected Areas), Finn Danielson (Nordeco), Eileen de Ravin (UNDP Equator Initiative), Kate Duigan (Australian Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities), Jane Dunlop (Fauna and Flora International), Lucas Fortini (University of Florida), Hugh Govan (IUCN - Theme on Indigenous and Local Communities Equity and Protected Areas), Terence Hay-Edie (GEF Small Grants Programme), Greg Stuart Hill (World Wide Fund for Nature), Ro Hill (Commonwealth Science and Industrial Research Organisation), Liz Hosken (Gaia Foundation), Jerome Lewis (University College London), Michael Martin (University of British Columbia), Dishon Lionel Murage (East Africa Wildlife Society), Peter Poole (First Peoples Worldwide), Miliana Ravuso (Birdlife International), Vanessa Reid (ICCA Consortium Communications Officer), Abdou Karim Sall (Joal Fadiouth Community Association, Senegal), Salatou Sambou (Kawawana Community Association, Senegal), Nik Sekhran (Principal Technical Adviser, Ecosystems and Biodiversity, UNDP), Holly Shrumm (Natural Justice), Michael Storrs (Australian Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities), Randy Thaman (University of South Pacific, Fiji), Wendy Townsend (Field Museum of Chicago), and Fiona Wilton (Gaia Foundation).

This toolkit was made possible through the generous financial support of the Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs provided through the Biodiversity Global Programme of the UNDP Environment and Energy Group; and GIZ, the German Agency for International Cooperation.

Local communities and Indigenous peoples who live close to, govern and manage areas with significant biodiversity and natural resources have a wealth of knowledge to contribute to the conservation of ecosystems and sustainable development. This toolkit includes a diverse set of resources and case studies organized around five key themes (documentation, management planning, monitoring and evaluation, communication, and finance and values) to assist civil society-led initiatives around the world to voluntarily conserve Indigenous Peoples' and Community Conserved Territories and Areas (ICCAs).

Brazilian Cerrado, Photo credit: Peter Caton

UNEP WCMC

SGP The GEF Small Grants Programme

giz Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

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