



A handbook for the Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas Registry



Version 1.2



SGP The GEF
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The mission of the United Nations Environment Programme's World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) is to evaluate and highlight the many values of biodiversity and put authoritative biodiversity knowledge at the centre of decision-making. The Protected Areas Programme is recognized as a global leader with technical expertise in spatial categorization and mapping of protected areas through its experience as the host for the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA), a joint project between the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and UNEP and the foremost global compilation of data on terrestrial and marine protected areas.

Introduction

For millennia, indigenous people and local communities* have played a critical role in conservation and they are currently gaining much interest in the international arena as major contributors to the conservation of biodiversity and cultural integrity. While the conservation practice of Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas (ICCAs) is potentially the oldest on earth, it is under-recognized and not well understood, thus leaving it in jeopardy from lack of political and financial support and increasingly vulnerable to external threats. Recent international events, including the 2003 World Parks Congress (Box A) and the 2004 Programme of Work on Protected Areas of the Convention on Biological Diversity, have contributed to the discovery of ICCAs as one of the main avenues to strengthen sustainable natural resource use and biodiversity conservation. Thus, there is a need for detailed knowledge and experience to be gathered, documented, and lessons shared.

Box A: Definition of Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas

ICCAs are “natural and/or modified ecosystems containing significant biodiversity values and ecological services, voluntarily conserved by (sedentary and mobile) indigenous and local communities, through customary laws or other effective means”. (World Parks Congress Recommendation V26, 2003)

The United Nations Environment Programme's World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) is working closely with GEF Small Grants Programme implemented by UNDP, IUCN's Strategic Direction on Governance, Equity and Livelihoods in Relation to Protected Areas (TILCEPA), ICCA Consortium partners (see Box B) and members of indigenous communities to build awareness and recognition of ICCAs through the development of a participatory registry and dedicated website. The purpose of this project is to build a knowledge base about these special areas by documenting their values, enhancing understanding and recognition of their purposes and impacts, and increasing engagement of local and traditional communities in biodiversity conservation and policy. Together, these partners are working to ensure that this process is participatory, transparent, and adhering to free, prior informed consent.

*Hereafter indigenous people and local communities will be referred to as “communities”.

Box B: The ICCA Consortium

The ICCA Consortium was formed during the 2008 World Conservation Congress by several mutually respected small NGOs and organizations representing indigenous and community constituencies with years of experience working on ICCA issues. The group developed a broad programme to promote the recognition and appropriate support of ICCAs at national and international levels. The Consortium developed out of meetings and exchanges of the IUCN

Commissions, especially TILCEPA and TGER (Theme on Governance, Equity and Rights). It now involves a growing relationship between diverse partners, focusing on indigenous peoples and local community organizations, but also includes governmental agencies, NGOs that support integrated conservation, development and human rights goals, and international agencies. See www.iccaforum.org for further information.

This project will follow the guidance provided by the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, established in September 2007, to ensure rights are maintained. Extra attention is given to building this process in line with existing local, national and regional processes.

This handbook is written primarily for the members of the communities that continue to govern ICCAs and wish to increase global awareness of their conservation efforts and results. The main element of this process is the ICCA Registry, which consists of a database and an interactive website. Communities that agree to include their ICCAs in the registry will be able to manage the level of access to any information they provide.

This handbook can also be used to provide an overview of ICCAs and the ICCA Registry for an audience that includes the UN family, academia, NGOs and government institutions that are interested in learning more about the critical issues regarding this conservation governance type.

On the following pages, the reader can:

- **learn more** about the diversity of ICCAs and their contributions to conservation
- **understand why and how** to contribute to the global Registry on ICCAs
- **gain knowledge** about how to use the Registry to support ICCAs.

The ICCA Registry Project aims to

- **work with civil society and communities** to raise awareness and promote recognition of ICCAs
- **provide useful information** about values and general status of ICCAs around the world
- **support existing ICCAs and ICCA-related policy work**, especially at national and global levels, through provision of information and analysis
- **document and appreciate ICCAs' role** in biodiversity conservation and livelihoods
- **further the understanding of ICCAs' contribution** to climate change mitigation and adaptation.



Overview of ICCAs

Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas (ICCAs) are natural sites, resources and species' habitats conserved in a voluntary and self-directed way through community values, practices, rules and institutions. Examples of ICCAs include indigenous biocultural heritage territories, indigenous protected areas, cultural land- and seascapes, sacred sites and species, migration routes of mobile indigenous peoples, sustainable resource reserves, communities' fishing grounds, wildlife nesting sites and others. The total size of areas under this type of governance is poorly known and likely severely underestimated. For example, only 200 ICCAs have been documented in India, though 10,000 might in fact exist.¹

ICCAs protect an enormous range of natural environments, species and agricultural and pastoral landscapes, managed through a wide diversity of institutions and rules by traditional and modern communities alike.² These sites range from less than one hectare to entire mountains, lakes or land- and seascapes. While exhaustive information is not yet available, current estimates indicate that some 11% of the world's forests are under community ownership or administration, and that recognizing ICCAs may result in a doubling of the global territory under protected areas.³ Undoubtedly, the contribution of ICCAs to biodiversity conservation is a major consideration in protecting natural resources and human livelihoods.

In addition to the direct value that ICCAs may confer to the diverse species, habitats and ecological processes that benefit from their management, and to the livelihoods and cultural security of communities governing them, a variety of environmental services, such as carbon storage and water purification, are enhanced by supporting the viability of ICCAs. Given the significant but under-documented role of indigenous and locally managed areas in maintaining biological diversity and ecological processes, initiatives such as Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD) and those that address adaptation to climate change will rely more on current knowledge of ICCAs as their efforts become more widespread and urgent.

Though ICCAs are extremely diverse, they all contain three essential features:

1. A **strong relationship exists between** one or more indigenous people or local **communities** (sedentary or mobile) **and their physical environment** (such as a given ecosystem, habitat, resource or species) as a result of cultural, social, economic and other reasons.
2. The concerned indigenous peoples or local **community plays a key role in making decisions** about the management of the ecosystem, area or species. The community possesses (in law or in practice) the power to make and enforce key management decisions regarding the territory and resources.
3. The **voluntary management decisions** and efforts of the concerned community **lead to**, or at least are well in the process of leading to, the **conservation of biodiversity**, habitats, species, ecological functions and associated cultural values, regardless of objectives.



Some ICCA sites have been traditionally conserved for thousands of years, while others represent the revival or modification of traditional practices. Moreover, many indigenous peoples and local communities have recently initiated efforts to protect or restore the local environments upon which they depend.⁴

Despite their pervasiveness and growing importance within global conservation policy and development agendas, and although an increased set of case studies demonstrating their values for both conservation of biodiversity and culture, ICCAs remain the least understood and recognized governance type for protected areas. Furthermore, they are often in extreme jeopardy under the combined impacts of economic development, globalization and climate change.²

The current state of knowledge on ICCAs

Current estimates of ICCAs indicate that the extent of territory they cover may be equal to that of official, government-declared protected areas such as national parks and nature reserves. In addition, they form the foundation of livelihoods and cultural identity for the millions of indigenous and local communities who participate in their management. They are based on years of sophisticated systems using traditional and ecological knowledge. Lastly, this type of conservation practice allows for the tailoring of management based on the context of the community and adaptation to various influences, such as climate change.

Very few ICCAs are managed entirely for a single reason. Instead, indigenous peoples and local communities engage with the environment for a combination of utilitarian, spiritual, cultural and aesthetic purposes. In all instances, however, it is a key defining characteristic of ICCAs that these engagements contribute to biodiversity conservation.

Whereas national governments usually establish and manage protected areas primarily for biodiversity conservation, many indigenous people and local communities regard the biological, economic and social objectives of conservation as intimately related.⁵ Often these communities view the governance and management of ICCAs as essential to their own well-being and survival because they address a variety of interests and concerns such as:⁶

Securing sustainable access to livelihood resources: Many indigenous peoples and local communities depend upon their ICCAs for food, fuel, medicinal plants, and materials for shelter. The need to secure sustainable access to these resources is one of the main motivating factors for protecting them. During times of climatic, economic and political instability or exceptional scarcity of resources, ICCAs are the last refuge and insurance policy for many communities.

Sustaining the benefits of ecosystem functions: Ecosystem functions are critical for supporting human welfare and mitigation of natural disasters, ranging from stabilization of soil to maintenance of freshwater supplies. These functions affect communities living beyond many particular ICCAs. For instance, an ICCA that includes the maintenance of a watershed supports the freshwater supply of communities living downstream.

Sustaining religious, cultural and identity needs: Indigenous people and local communities may impose regulations upon access to sites (and the natural resources they contain) considered sacred or culturally significant. By regulating these areas, communities promote not only their local customs, traditions, and sacred practices, but also the protection of diverse natural resources of the area.

Protecting wildlife: Several ICCAs are established specifically to protect rare, threatened, sacred or ecologically significant species.

Securing collective land tenure for the community: Some communities have discovered that national and/or international recognition of their conservation efforts offers them a sense of security, and may also help to attract funding, support, visibility and political empowerment.

Obtaining financial benefits: Conserving an ICCA can enable an indigenous people or local community to financially benefit from accessing new markets for the products and experiences available because of it. Many ICCAs are increasingly based upon ecotourism.

In addition to the many positive impacts and influences of ICCAs on the livelihoods of communities, the benefits to conservation can range from the preservation of a single species to the protection of wider landscapes or seascapes. The biodiversity conservation efforts of indigenous and local communities complement national conservation initiatives regarding government protected areas and management in many cases, and can provide crucial lessons on effective participatory governance for all kinds of protected areas.

Generally speaking, the ecological benefits of ICCAs include:

- conservation of critical ecosystems and threatened species
- maintenance of essential ecosystem functions (e.g. water security and gene pools)
- provision of corridors for species and genetic movement and, in general, larger landscape and waterscape integration
- maintenance of unique knowledge, practices and institutions capable of conserving nature in specific local contexts.

While our understanding of the size and number of protected areas is well underway through the World Database on Protected Areas (see www.wdpa.org), our knowledge of the status and ecological benefits of ICCAs remains fragmented, uncoordinated and incomplete.

Among the many threats known to ICCAs, such as extractive industry, unsustainable development and expropriation of native lands, it has been demonstrated that a lack of recognition or demarcation of boundaries can influence the tenure system of indigenous and local communities, often leading to conflicts or inability to protect the integrity of an ICCA.

There is much to learn about where ICCAs exist, their main values relevant to biodiversity, what is needed to ensure their continued contribution to conservation and livelihoods, how to address key threats, and best ways to recognize ICCAs, including at what level. Lastly, it is not yet clear how the global community can help support the urgent needs of communities and assist with conflict resolution. Thus, the need to understand, recognize and promote ICCAs is an urgent socio-economic and ecological issue.



ICCAs, climate change and adaptation

The role of ICCAs is gaining significance in light of climate change and the need for developing adaptation techniques to existing and anticipated changes in weather patterns and ecological systems. Despite this opportunity for increased profile, many communities are hesitant to link ICCAs with current climate change debates given the potential added inequities and costs to traditions and practices. While the prevention of climate change has hardly ever been the primary motivation for the establishment of ICCAs, they will be crucial in helping to address climate change since their traditional management practices generally act as mitigation and adaptation strategies. Such practices include:

- maintaining forest and marine areas
- sustainably using natural resources, including pasture and fisheries
- preventing unsustainable development and intense agricultural practices
- preserving ecosystem functions and water supplies.

According to recent negotiations, a potential future mechanism to Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD) in developing countries is likely to also include conservation of biodiversity, sustainable management of forest and enhancement of carbon stocks, thereby extending the scope of REDD to REDD+. This may allow for communities to receive compensation for the forest areas and ecosystems they manage and preserve. However, before any such agreements can be initiated, communities need assistance in both clarifying their rights and custodianship over the areas they are conserving and ensuring that they play a central decision-making role in any negotiations.

Mapping of ICCAs in the Registry process could help identify sites for the planning of REDD+ projects and would be of value in their implementation. Communities within ICCAs would have a vital role in helping to monitor forests and report on REDD+ activities in traditional use areas. Additionally, ICCAs would act as corridors for the movement of wildlife, allowing species to adapt to changes in climate and influences on the shift of critical habitats, and acting as important buffers or defences against natural disasters.

Case studies

Regole di Cortina d'Ampezzo, ITALY: *recognition of years of traditional management*

Traditions of community forestry and pasture management in Italy's alpine Ampezzo Valley can be traced back approximately 1,000 years. The ancient institution called "Regole" continues to manage the common property resources that the early Regolieri made available through extensive pasture creation and forest management. Only the male descendants of this early community who remain residents in the valley inherit the rights and responsibilities for sustainably managing the valley's resources. All the income generated by their activities, including tourism and timber sales, is reinvested in their management. The Regole are now recognized by the Italian state as the sole and full legal managers of the *Parco Naturale delle Dolomiti d'Ampezzo*, which has recently been listed as core of a group of sites that obtained the (natural) World Heritage label. The Italian government awards them tax-free status and funding, supplemented by subsidies from the European Union and the Veneto regional government.^{5,7}



Alto Fragua-Indiwasi, COLOMBIA: *national park primarily managed by indigenous community*

The 68,000 hectare Alto Fragua-Indiwasi National Park, named after the headwaters of the Fragua River and the Ingano term *Indiwasi* (House of the Sun), is Colombia's first protected area that fully recognizes an indigenous community as the principal actor in the design and governance of an official protected area. The park was established in 2002 in one of the country's most biodiverse regions following agreements between the national government and the Association of Indigenous Ingano Councils, called *Tanadachiridu Inganokuna*. The site protects a number of vital Andean ecosystems, notably the endangered humid sub-Andean forests, as well as endemic species like the spectacled bear (*Tremarctos ornatus*). The Ingano consider the area to be sacred and view the creation of the park as an integral component of their broader, long-term Life Plan (*Plan de Vida*) for their whole territory. Since the park's creation, GIS-based research jointly undertaken by the Tanadachiridu Inganokuna Association, the Colombia National University and the Von Humboldt Institute, has helped to update the limits and zonation of the park.^{5,8}



Mendha-Lekha Forests, INDIA: *an ICCA ruled by oral decisions*

The wider 'tribal self-rule' movement inspired the Gond residents of Mendha-Lekha, India, to reclaim 1,800 hectares of local forests from government-sponsored extractive industries. In the early 1980s the village established the *Gram Sabha* (village assembly). The consensual decisions reached by the *Gram Sabha* are implemented through oral decrees that prevail over any other official or unofficial orders. All government officials or outsiders who intend to implement schemes in the village are required to present all details to the *Gram Sabha* and are required to make any modifications recommended by the community. This governance system initially halted all commercial exploitation of the forests and reduced the number of forest fires. Currently, the community has entered into collaboration with the forest department to sustainably harvest non-timber forest products.^{2,5}



Coron Island, PHILIPPINES: *a community-based foundation to govern island resources*

The Tagbanwa people of the Philippines manage the ecosystem of Coron Island, restricting the use of forest resources for domestic purposes only and prohibiting foreign access to the majority of the island's sacred lakes, except for religious and cultural purposes. The community-based Tagbanwa Foundation of Coron Island (TFCI), created in the mid-1980s, has so far prevented damage from development and excessive tourism. The TFCI successfully lobbied the government for a Community Forest Stewardship Agreement in 1990, followed by a Certificate of Ancestral Domain Claim for more than 22,000 hectares of land and marine waters. Finally, in 2001, the community obtained a Certificate of Ancestral Domain Title, granting them collective rights to their terrestrial and marine environment. Despite this important achievement this Title was later reviewed and a restructuring of national policies resulted in a proposal to incorporate Coron Island into the National Integrated Protected Area System. The Tagbanwa opposed the government's proposal for a co-management system and firmly refused any diminished control over their natural resources.^{5,7}

Introduction to the ICCA Registry

The Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas Registry project has been developed in response to recent global meetings and is advised by the ICCA Consortium, a collaborative group of experts and organizations formed during the 2008 World Conservation Congress. Through a multi-faceted process, this group is slowly working with indigenous and local communities who wish to raise awareness of this type of governance and the contributions that their communities are making to conservation.

The information that is collected for the ICCA Registry comes from various sources, including:

- information about community-managed protected areas already stored in the World Database on Protected Areas (www.wdpa.org)
- information that government agencies, NGOs and the ICCA Consortium have already collected in collaboration with communities and
- knowledge from community members and representatives directly.

In order to best understand and thus promote ICCAs, communities can participate and contribute through a variety of ways, such as responding directly to the questionnaire, as discussed in this handbook; arranging an interview with staff of the organizations that compose the ICCA Consortium; researching and providing existing documents (including paper maps); engaging in participatory mapping and similar processes; or contributing to direct field observations.

The Registry, developed in the same structure as the World Database on Protected Areas will store two types of information that are critical to understanding ICCAs:

1. Descriptive information, such as the main habitats within the ICCA and the names of the community or communities living within or near the ICCA; and
2. Spatial information, such as the size, location and boundaries of the area (see Figure 1).

In addition, existing analyses, publications or datasets regarding ICCAs can be contributed. Lastly, because of the range of ways that ICCAs are recognized both externally and internally by the community, multimedia information will be collected. This includes photos and videos regarding the ICCA, the community, local management efforts, and evidence of conservation and livelihoods impacts as well as interviews and quotations from community members and/or others associated with or knowledgeable about the ICCA.

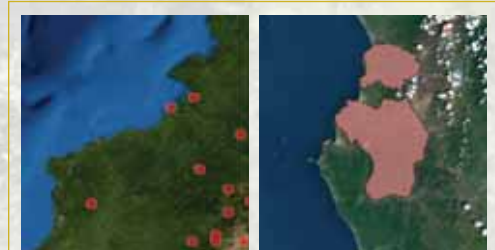


Figure 1. Spatial data can provide information about the point location of the ICCA (*left*) or the boundaries of the ICCA (*right*). This information can be made available through simple paper maps or more sophisticated GIS shapefiles.



To maximize the impact of this project, a list of key questions was developed which subsequently informed the core types of information contained in the Registry. The main questions to address include:

Core features

Where are ICCAs located? How many are there? How large an area do they cover?

Community characteristics

What are the main benefits and opportunities available to ICCAs that find value in a registry process and expected outputs?

What are the key issues that ICCAs are encountering?

Socio-economic aspects

What is the value of ICCAs in social, cultural and economic terms?

How are the impacts on livelihoods best assessed?

What indicators are most appropriate and useful?

Ecosystem/nature conservation

What is the value and contribution of ICCAs with respect to biodiversity significance, ecological processes, and connectivity?

Management/governance

How does the management and governance of an ICCA relate to its conservation value?

Policy and legal aspects

How and to what extent do national governments and other entities recognize ICCAs?

All interested communities are encouraged to use this handbook to better understand the intent and process of this ICCA Registry project. The relevant steps are outlined on the following pages.

Instructions for contributing to the Registry

For communities and others who want to contribute to the Registry and benefit from using it, there are several important but simple steps to follow. These are outlined below as a guide.

Step 1: Discuss among community members the ICCA Registry.

Members of the community need to review together the benefits and the risks of contributing to the Registry so that everyone is aware of the process, the challenges, and the potential positive and negative consequences.

Step 2: Review the 'Free Prior Informed Consent Form' and 'Project Information Sheet' (available at www.iccaregistry.org), organize a meeting with community members to attain key signatures, and return the form.

The purpose of this form is to ensure that indigenous and local communities are aware of the process of contributing information about their communities to the Registry, they know how and what information will be used and accessed, and they have a choice regarding what information will be disclosed through various means (such as the ICCA website and future analytical publications). All communities can select the extent to which their information is shared. This step follows the principles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples⁹ (September 2007) to protect communities and their best interests.





Step 3: Compile data for the Registry's questionnaire (www.iccaregistry.org).

The Registry consists of a questionnaire that can be accessed by email or online. There are around 10 core questions that each community should address to inform key ICCA issues. In total, answers will help enhance understanding of the contribution of ICCAs from around the world, including information on management and governance. If the ICCA is already recognized by national legislation or a protected area system, the community should work with government representatives where possible to provide spatial and other information. Communities will be able to submit or return the questionnaire by email, through the ICCA Registry website or via post.

Step 4: Submit photos, videos, and visual material.

Because the ICCA Registry website is intended to be an interactive and highly visual multi-media tool, we encourage all communities to send photographs of community members, habitats, species, videos, interview clips and other material to iccaregistry@unep-wcmc.org. Photographs and videos should be of good resolution, with a minimum of 300 dpi, for inclusion on the website. They should all be clearly labelled with the specific ICCA reference.



Step 5: Submit relevant documents or website links.

It will be possible to include useful and relevant documents (such as management plans, community agreements and documented awards) on the website as well as links to existing websites that provide additional information about the ICCA and its conservation efforts and successes. Again, send relevant links to iccaregistry@unep-wcmc.org.

ICCA Case Studies

In some cases, we will have the opportunity to present the information compiled through the Registry questionnaire and other supplemental materials as a featured 'ICCA Case Study' on the Registry website. See www.iccaregistry.org for an example from Mexico.



The benefits of participating in the Registry

Given the rapid decline of biodiversity and scarcity of natural resources on which many communities' traditions and livelihoods depend, there are specific and legitimate concerns for some communities related to participation in the Registry, including issues such as sensitivity to external exposure, the risk of government repression, unwanted tourist attention, potential damage to sacred sites, and so on. Thus, communities and other contributors will need to consider their submissions carefully and determine the extent of risk involved. However, there are many benefits for those who choose to participate.

Many indigenous and local communities are eager to share information about their ICCAs for a number of reasons (see also Box C), which include:

- Contributing to increased global recognition of indigenous and community conserved areas
- Building potential to attain or increase national and governmental support and/or fend off possible exploitation by investment and development
- Sharing experiences and learning opportunities with other indigenous and local community groups, as well as those interested in ICCAs
- Contributing to the awareness of ICCAs and their role in cultural and environmental conservation, including for members of their own communities.

Recognition of ICCAs may contribute to conflict resolution through increased understanding of local communities and the security of traditional livelihoods. Assistance may also be given to provide education to the broader community, including biological and conservation knowledge. The Registry will allow the mapping of ICCAs and definition of boundaries, where maps can be used as needed by indigenous and local communities. In relation to REDD, mapping of ICCAs could be a prerequisite to obtain funding to preserve significant carbon reservoirs.

Box C: Jose Ines Loria – from the Unidad de Manejo Ambiental (UMA), San Crisanto, Mexico

“The publication of information and data will allow more people to know about our project. This will bring more interest and more visitors, and it is also a way to show the organizations that have supported us that we grew and we are still growing and their investment is benefiting both people and conservation. The publication on a website created by an important international organization helps raise the profile of our work and activities. Furthermore, it allows us to share our experience with other communities, to learn from their experience and support them through our experience. Along with other stories of other ICCAs it will also help show those who are sceptical that community conservation and development is possible.”



The content of the Registry

The Registry comprises about 40 questions with a minimum of 8 questions required for submission. These are abbreviated in this section. Some of them might not be applicable to each ICCA, some answers may not be available and some not known. If this is the case, the space can be left blank while the questionnaire is being completed. Each question has two boxes: one is for the answer, and the other is for comments or notes regarding the question.

As the ICCA Registry and associated process is in a pilot phase during 2009 and early 2010, the Registry managers and the ICCA Consortium will be accessible to address concerns, questions and insights. Help will be available to communities from the *Frequently Asked Questions* section of the website (www.iccaregistry.org) and by contacting UNEP-WCMC staff at the following email address: iccaregistry@unep-wcmc.org. The Registry is currently available in Spanish. Versions in other languages will be available in the future.

1. ICCA description and identification:

These fields are the core information that will provide an understanding of ICCAs on a national scale and to ensure that the information is as robust and standardized as that collected for other protected areas. Examples include:

- **Name** of the ICCA (in English and local language)
- **Location** by longitude and latitude
- **Designation** or name used to indicate the type of ICCA, such as 'Indigenous Reserve' or 'sacred forest'
- **Total area** of the ICCA as documented in declaration, decrees, management plans, customary rules or spatial boundary (GIS) data
- **Habitat type(s)** within the ICCA.



2. History, management and governance:

These fields focus on gathering insights regarding the management and governance of ICCAs, as well as the legal and political aspects related to their existence. Examples include:

- **Recognition of the ICCA**, such as by national, regional or municipal law, other law, civil society, commercial interests, customary law, etc.
- Classification of ICCA according to the **IUCN Management Category** system (I through VI)
- **Governance** of the ICCA in terms of decision-making structure, role of the community in the decision-making process, and other governance bodies and mechanisms
- **ICCA management rules**, describing the oral, written, statutory or customary rules
- **Ownership type** of the ICCA, e.g. public, communal, joint, private.

3. Community and socio-economic factors:

The information associated with these fields helps to understand the characteristics of the community and the socioeconomic elements of the ICCA. These are:

- **ICCA main purposes and objectives**, such as sustaining livelihoods, cultural preservation, biodiversity conservation, tenure security
- **Population** of the community governing the ICCA, and whether this community is within, close by or far from the ICCA
- Classification of the types of **resource use**, e.g. subsistence, tourism, cultural, etc.
- **Forms of support** so far provided to the ICCA, e.g. technical, financial, political, capacity building
- **Major threats** to the ICCA.



Useful websites and resources

Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas Forum:

www.iccaforum.org

UNDP/GEF Small Grants Programme:

<http://sgp.undp.org>

The Equator Initiative:

www.equatorinitiative.org

World Database on Protected Areas:

www.wdpa.org

Strategic Direction on Governance, Equity and Livelihoods in Relation to Protected Areas (TILCEPA),

a joint theme between the World Commission on Protected Areas and the Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP):

www.iucn.org/about/union/commissions/ceesp/wg/tilcepa/

Insight Participatory Video for communities:

www.insightshare.org

Open Forum on Participatory Geographic Information Systems and Technologies:

www.ppgis.net

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Photographs

Front cover, anti-clockwise from top left: Peter Somol, David Orgel, Colleen Corrigan (2); Page 8, Romel Jacinto; Page 10, Dan Buczynski; page 11 (left), Angela Shrek, (right) Ashish Kothari; Page 13, Arlene G. Sampang; Page 16, Victor Ochieng; Page 19, Ashish Kothari. All others Colleen Corrigan and Arianna Granziera. Background photos: Jose Ines Loria p.1, 6; Arianna Granziera p.2, 12, 22; Rebecca Weeks p.4; CCEF p.8; Colleen Corrigan p.10, 16, 24; Daniel Ham p.14; Ashish Kothari p.18; David Orgel p.20.

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A handbook for the Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas Registry

Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas (ICCAs) are a globally significant type of managed areas governed by local or indigenous communities for conservation and cultural purposes. Their contributions to biodiversity conservation, sustainable livelihoods, and climate change adaptation are significantly under-studied and documented. The ICCA Registry project, a partnership between UNEP-WCMC, UNDP, GEF Small Grants Programme, IUCN Commissions and the ICCA Consortium, aims to build a standardized knowledgebase and multi-media website for the development of a long-term awareness, recognition and valuation process for ICCAs.

This handbook is intended as a guide for those involved with ICCAs who wish to participate in the ICCA Registry project. It also provides a general overview for others to learn about ICCAs. It contains information on the importance of ICCAs, benefits of the ICCA Registry, and detailed steps on contributing to and using the Registry. Case studies for several sites give a sense of the range of different ICCAs and their roles.

This handbook was developed in partnership with the ICCA Consortium

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