

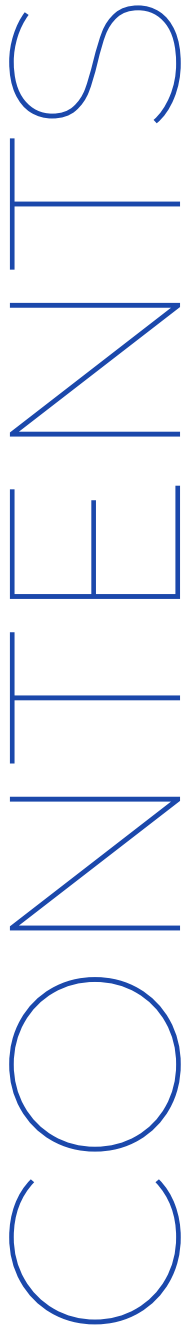


TRIBAL LINK
FOUNDATION

Indigenous Peoples, Local
Communities, Inclusive
Conservation and the
development of an Inclusive
Conservation Academy

2021

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"Inclusive conservation is conservation that is led by Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities who see nature and people as one. It embraces the rights, needs, and values of the communities and groups whose knowledge, practices, and innovations have preserved biodiversity and ecosystems." - WWF Representative

In collaboration with the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), the Tribal Link Foundation coordinated and facilitated four consultations on Indigenous Peoples, Local Communities, inclusive conservation, and the co-creation of an Inclusive Conservation Academy (ICA) through 2021. During these regional consultations, participants learned that a goal of the proposed ICA is to build capacity in the area of inclusive conservation amongst Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, as well as conservation NGOs, government, donors, academia, and the private sector.

Each consultation highlighted that the concept of an ICA came from earlier dialogues between WWF and representatives of Indigenous Peoples (IP/IPs) and organizations of Local Communities (LC/LCs) while developing the initiative of People Protecting Landscapes and Seascapes. This program supports the necessary shift from oppressive, fortress-style conservation models towards inclusive and IP and LC led conservation. During the consultations, the presentations on the ICA also made it clear that its development and establishment were envisioned as a collaborative project. It was also stressed that while WWF is fully supportive and committed, the ICA is not and should not be considered a "WWF" project. Additionally noted during each of the sessions, was that an important, innovative feature and fundamental idea of the proposed ICA is that it will be co-created with IP and LC leaders and content matter experts on the themes of equity and social justice. The development of the ICA will also include, where appropriate, other pioneering Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) involved in inclusive and rights-based, justice attentive approaches to development.

S2. CONSULTATION OBJECTIVES

The consultations with IPs and LCs on an Inclusive Conservation Academy (ICA) come at a critical time in recent history. It is globally recognized and generally accepted that the world is experiencing the devastating effects of the climate crisis, unprecedented biodiversity loss, deforestation, and rampant, unsustainable development. Adding to these disastrous circumstances, the related loss of livelihoods and the rapid spread of infectious diseases have added additional pressures on ecosystem services worldwide. Since the Rio Summit in 1992, Indigenous Peoples special relationship with their lands and territories has continuously been recognized and lauded, even as their human rights continue to be violated. Recent global discussions have taken note that Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities are essential to address the current crises the world is facing. Recent research has affirmed that IPs and LCs are effective custodians of conservation areas (1). Research also affirms that IP-led conservation, for instance, is as good or more effective than non-Indigenous-led initiatives (2). Inclusive Conservation, led by Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, can provide a significant contribution toward real solutions to the critical challenges currently faced by the global community.

It is within this framework of urgency that the regional consultations sought to:

- 01 **Report**
Report on and catalog best practices, challenges, and gaps in conservation practices;
- 02 **Identify**
Identify areas and approaches for capacity building initiatives for IPLC and non-IPLCs; and
- 03 **Recommend**
Provide recommendations on how Indigenous Peoples can take the lead in building capacity in inclusive conservation, not only for their own communities, but for other sectors of society to learn directly from them.

To achieve these objectives, 236 individuals were engaged via four regionally-focused consultative dialogues and companion surveys. The first consultation focused on the Americas (with Spanish and Portuguese interpretation provided); the second focused on Africa, Russia, and the Arctic (with French and Russian interpretation provided); the third focused on the Pacific, and the fourth final consultation focused on Asia (with Vietnamese interpretation provided).



(1) See: [The State of Indigenous Peoples' and Local Communities' Lands and Territories Report](#)

(2) See: [Vertebrate biodiversity on indigenous-managed lands in Australia, Brazil, and Canada equals that in protected areas](#)

The working agenda of these consultative dialogue sessions included opening remarks, a presentation on Inclusive Conservation and the proposed ICA by a WWF staff member, and breakout and or plenary dialogues. Indigenous moderators and rapporteurs were engaged through all the sessions. The conversations were guided by a pre-set list of questions to spur reflection and discussion on the subject of inclusive conservation, as well as to compile recommendations toward the development of the ICA. Following each consultation, a summary report was prepared and made available to WWF and the participants.

S3. KEY FINDINGS

a) Building trust

In an endeavor of this scope, a key challenge toward the development of an ICA is to build trust among Indigenous Peoples (IPs) and Local Communities (LCs). There is a justifiable atmosphere of skepticism and caution after decades of lived experiences with detrimental, fortress conservation practices. Continued public revelations of dire human rights violations originating within and around non-indigenous or community-led conservation areas have also contributed to a lack of trust. Through all the regional consultations, these feelings were expressed directly and indirectly. Participants across the consultations consistently remarked on this reality and their “hesitancy coming into the dialogue.” Some were concerned that this process might be a “check off a box type of consultation” or if the proposed structure was already pre-decided. While participants were generally supportive of an ICA that is a vehicle for building capacities and expanding support networks (3), some wondered if “their views really mattered.”

The subsequent development process for the ICA will need to keep these concerns at the forefront and follow through with the expressed commitment that IPs and LCs will participate and lead during every phase. As affirmed during the consultations, the development and eventual launch of the ICA should support an environment that strengthens cross-sectoral understandings that IPs and LCs are vital custodians - historically and currently - of the world’s remaining most biologically diverse natural landscapes.

b) The time is right

Establishing an ICA would be a timely endeavor as international goals focused on biodiversity, climate change, and conservation are priority global discussions. As mentioned constantly by participants across the consultations, the global goals on sustainable development, biodiversity, and climate change cannot be achieved without the lands and territories recognized (now or in the future), sustained, protected, and restored by IPs and LCs. The ICA should provide capacity building and other opportunities that will assist in strengthening the governance authority of IPs and LCs. The ICA should also enable other key actors (conservation organizations, private sector, governments, etc.) to better recognize and respect the rights of IPs and LCs.

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(3) One participant questioned if the development of an ICA would divert funds from supporting on the ground initiatives.

During the consultations, consistent support was expressed for another proposed innovation of ICA, which will endeavor to create a pool of trainers that would include experienced IPs and LCs as faculty members. These trainers would be tasked not only to empower their colleagues (IP and LC leaders) to help scale best practices and innovations internationally, but also to strengthen the inclusive conservation capacities of conservation organizations, the private sector, and representatives of governments. The enhanced capacities of these entities would be contribute to the calls for systematic change and be conducive to the establishment of mutually desired partnerships with IPs and LCs. This approach would also support the idea of IPs and LCs taking the lead in conservation initiatives. The establishment of an ICA would also be responsive to the sense of urgency expressed by IPs and LCs in the areas of conservation, land tenure, climate change readiness, territorial protection, food security, and livelihoods.

c) Terminology used

Participants in the consultations overwhelmingly defined themselves as Indigenous Peoples (IPs), more than with the term Local Communities (LCs). However, the term “communities” was used often to describe grassroots and ground-level initiatives. The ICA must be careful not to conflate the two terms - IPs and LCs - as there are differences with regard to international legal standards and, therefore, opportunities for engagement and capacity building. Indigenous Peoples in the international settings are adamant that they are not “local communities” and that the two should not be seen as a homogenous grouping (4). Indigenous Peoples also are clear that as they wish to speak for themselves on issues that affect them, “local communities” should also speak for themselves. This distinction should be reflected in what the ICA has to offer by using the working definitions, highlighting what international standards apply to each grouping, and any other relevant reporting on this subject area.

Consultation participants shared various views and concerns with the term “conservation.” A participant stated, “... terms like conservation bring varied meanings to different people... [Concepts like this] need to be decolonized and brought to our daily lives. A lot of times, we see conservation as a distant thing. We can diversify and bring more capacity, to fight the language and cultural barriers...” (Pacific, p.3). Another participant noted that the term *conservation* is currently tied to a white-dominated “savior complex.” Additionally, when engaging terms like conservation and *environmentalism*, many Indigenous participants hold the concept of “sovereignty in high regard.” A participant from the Arctic also voiced a similar observation noting that “the Inuit don’t really use the term [conservation],” but talk more about “sustainability or resource or territorial management.”

In Africa, some Indigenous Peoples view wildlife conservation as an “alien concept that only serves the interests of the State and tourists’; this view exacerbates the endemic incidences of human and wildlife conflict and competing land ownership claims between Indigenous Peoples and the State. In the past and into the present, there remains a lack of legal frameworks for benefit sharing and continued denied access into protected conservation areas (Africa, p.6). In the Americas, stated a participant, the conservation movement, for example, “was built on power, privilege, and oppression because they recognized the land, but didn’t recognize the Indigenous Peoples that traditionally lived on or had a relationship with that land” (Americas, p.5). A participant from South America stated that there needs to be a clarification of the concepts of inclusive conservation vs. managing a territory.



(4) This was a contentious issue at the recent IUCN Conference in Marseille, France, September 2021.

d) Existing capacity building programs/projects

Resource management and conservation-related concentrations were mentioned at the university level, but higher education was not also an option for many community members. Except for an initiative mentioned in Brazil (5) that did not succeed because of lack of sustained funding, there were no other initiatives like the proposed ICA of which the participants were aware. A number of organizations and programs; however, were identified as existing capacity-building programs or projects focused on IPs and or LCs. Among those highlighted by participants were Tribal Link Foundation's Project Access Global Capacity Building Training Program for IPs; International Indigenous Women's Forum (FIMI); Minority Rights Group International; IUCN; WWF; Conservation International; Capacity Building Programme on Indigenous Territorial Governance (in Colombia); Convention on Biological Diversity; International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (FIIB); and the UN Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples.

e) Training and Training Modules

With a view toward post-pandemic opportunities, participants across the regions shared that in-person training (including in communities) was the most desirable, with training sessions led by IPs. Online training was also supported; however, participants noted limitations in access for many IPs and LCs. In relation to training and training modules, some participants highlighted that traditional knowledge (TK) is more than just natural resource management. The participants felt this was important because TK is also about values and principles, including how to have a harmonious relationship with the environment. The ICA's training modules should start with these values and principles.

Further, recognizing traditional knowledge and giving it the same value as academic knowledge was discussed. In the Americas, for example, Five Tribes have come together and set a precedent about land management and being inclusive. They are also building a traditional knowledge institute. It was also noted that in Brazil, CINEP (Centro Indígena de Estudos e Pesquisas) brought Indigenous authorities closer to academia. A challenge was the lack of recognition by the academia of Indigenous knowledge as scientific knowledge (Americas, p.5).

Participants across regions highlighted a significant number of key elements that should be developed for pilot training modules for both non-IPs and IPs. There were a number of similarities across the regions as well as regional-based priorities. It was also consistently stressed that different IPs and LCs have different needs and that this diversity should be respected. In the Americas, participants noted that training opportunities for those who stay in their communities, facing day-to-day challenges would be important. How to assess threats or challenges to territorial conservation; learning how community initiatives can operate independently from the government; strengthen traditional governance systems; and elevate knowledge and understanding of human rights standards and mechanisms, as well as being provided with tools to dialogue and negotiate with States were also suggested. Prioritizing the role of women and youth in conservation, promoting sustainable livelihoods connected with conservation areas, and connecting traditional spirituality to conservation were additional key elements. The importance of including youth in the ICA was noted throughout all the regions.

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(5) CINEP (Centro Indígena de Estudos e Pesquisas)

Participants of the Pacific consultation, for instance, recommended that the ICA provide opportunities to build the capacities of young leaders in conservation. It was expressed that the inclusion of youth could contribute to a global Indigenous industry of natural resource management. It was also recommended that IP history and corrected history be shared and accessible. Participants from this region also recommended that the modules ensure that trainees who take part in ICA programming become educated about the different territories they engage in around the world. Participants from Africa were particularly concerned with how to apply cultural practices in management and conservation; learning how to develop their own conservation/management plans; lobbying skills, and understanding of transboundary issues. Participants from the Asia dialogue suggested that modules on “how to negotiate with governments and win” would be an important contribution to the empowerment of IPs and LC direct management of their lands and or territories.

The consultations made it clear that effective conservation and or resource management is happening at the community level using the traditional knowledge systems. However, across regions, there were calls for opportunities for continued community empowerment and capacity building to strengthen their technical knowledge related to governance, including tools for enhanced or even expanded organizational management. Additionally, there was consistent regional concern with the difficulty of dealing with national and local level governmental representatives.

**"IPS SHOULD UNDERSTAND POLITICAL ORGANIZATION IS KEY TO SUCCEED."
- SURVEY RESPONDENT, LATIN AMERICA**

f) Financing

Questions around finance including the development of the ICA platform itself and paying facility members were raised during the consultations. Beyond these more technical questions, in terms of finance and learning-exchange focus areas within the ICA, concern was also consistent regarding direct access to funds to carry out IP or LC led conservation. Building capacity among IP and LC representatives to manage funds was also requested. Any focus in this area would also need to be diverse and flexible taking into consideration the regional realities, etc.

Participants also recommended that the ICA’s curriculum include a focus on “transferring power” rather than just capacity building. This means that financial resources for conservation lands should be distributed directly to IP and LC organizations (Africa p. 4) rather than promoting the “we (conservation organizations) have the resources, we will include you (IPs and LCs)” attitude. The reason there is a need for transferring power, observed some participants, is because there is a historic power imbalance based on paternalistic attitudes, racism, and lack of respect for basic human rights. Thus there is a critical need for a systemic shift away from “business as usual” in the conservation realm. One other area related to finance was the call for long-term funding instead of pilot programs. It was stressed that donors need to be long-term partners to help ensure the longevity and success of conservation initiatives led by IPs and LCs (6).



(6) Of interest in the area of finance and the ICA is the recent donor pledge at COP26 of 1.7 billion US to "[help Indigenous Peoples protect forest.](#)"

"IPS MUST BEGIN TO DEVELOP, GROW AND STRENGTHEN FINANCIAL AUTONOMY WITH SOUND AND SECURE STRATEGIES. THE CURRENT DONOR PLEDGES ANNOUNCED AT COP26 (1.7 BILLION - SUPPORT FOR IP ACTIONS) ALSO BACK IN SEPTEMBER THE (5 BILLION - REDUCE DEFORESTATION) CAN BE THE BEGINNING OF THESE SOLID ONGOING PARTNERSHIPS WITH NON-IP ENTITIES." - SURVEY RESPONDENT, LATIN AMERICA

g) Self-determination

The recognition of IP and LC rights, including land and resource rights, was another subject area that participants recommended should be a focus of the curriculum offerings of the ICA. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, for instance, was referenced several times during the consultations. Article 3 of the Declaration, for example, states that Indigenous Peoples have the right to self-determination and by "...virtue of that right they freely determine their political status and freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development." It is a basic human right for Indigenous Peoples to be in charge of their own lands and territories. Participants stated this was a priority (Pacific p. 6, Asia p. 5 b, Africa p. 6).

Continued discrimination and marginalization of Indigenous Peoples in decision making was another subject area that was commonly referred to across the consultations. Additionally, the lack of secure land tenure was identified, especially in Asia, as the main problem facing IPs and LCs around the world. These comments were often linked back to the subject of human rights and rights-based approaches. Beyond the financial aspects highlighted by participants, the concept of the "transfer of power" (not only capacities) was also presented within the context of self-determination and system change. Promoting the self-determination of IPs was highlighted as an "easy way" conservation organizations could build trust among IPs and LCs (Russia-Afr Consultation, p. 6).

**"LOCAL PEOPLE SHOULD ALWAYS BE INVOLVED IN STRATEGIC PLANS... WHAT WORKS IS WHEN PEOPLE ARE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE FULLY IN THE CONSERVATION ISSUES... DIALOGUE IS VERY IMPORTANT IN ORDER FOR THINGS TO WORK WELL."
- SURVEY RESPONDENT, UKRAINE**

h) Legal system engagement

Across the regions, participants shared concerns about the diverse ways IPs and LCs have to engage with the dominant "legal" systems. Many communities are currently engaged in various legal battles or some form of legal conflict with the dominant government about their lands, territories, and resources, as well as the conservation of the biodiversity on their territories. There were consistent regional expressions identifying the need to better understand legal frameworks, as well as calls for legal training and or some type of orientation.

Substantial legal standards have developed over recent years internationally for IPs and LCs. (5) In some cases, human rights protections for Indigenous Peoples' communities and their rights to customary lands have also strengthened at the national level. As participants consistently noted; however, there is a lack of implementation or arbitrary law enforcement across regions. Participants also highlighted the absence of consultation and/or free, prior, and informed consent, which continues to proliferate human rights abuses and violations around the world.

These conflicts pit corporations and various State agencies against Indigenous Peoples and local communities. There are serious financial implications as a result of these conflicts. Historically, various national forest conservation and environment protection laws have adversely impacted Indigenous Peoples and local communities. It was consistently pointed out that many are denied access to reserved or so-called protected areas, which often overlap with their customary lands and territories. These restrictions interfere with traditional gathering, hunting, spiritual/ceremonial, and other activities. Restrictions have also resulted in physical confrontations and serious human rights violations committed by park-related personnel against community members.

As a last resort, and most often at a disadvantage with regard to legal support or resources, some Indigenous Peoples enter into the dominant court system to assert their rights. At times, some cases are successful. Understanding these successes could be useful to other Indigenous Peoples or local communities. Especially those who are more challenged by States not respecting human rights or the rule of law when it comes to IPs and LCs. As mentioned by participants, dominant governments have attempted to roll back or weaken existing laws that protect and restrict Indigenous Peoples' lands from being encroached upon or exploited.

An additional and significant obstacle for many Indigenous Peoples worldwide is that the boundaries of their territories are not legally defined or not mapped. This stifles land claims and community-determined development. Community mapping is emerging as an increasingly vital tool to demarcate and claim land. The ICA could be of support in terms of assistance in providing instruction in mapping and related documentation that is community-led. Related focus areas could also include Community-based Monitoring and Information Systems and Cultural Impact Assessments.

Other focus areas in the realm of legal system engagement that were mentioned by participants and that could be addressed in the ICA include: the absence of statutory recognition and legal personality as Indigenous Peoples; Legal pluralism and conflicting land laws; International customary law and jurisprudence; Land conflicts and violations of free, prior, and informed consent; and lack of access to justice and adjudication mechanisms.



(5) i.e. [ILO Convention 169](#); [UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#); [OAS Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#); [UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and other People Working in Rural Areas](#), etc.

i) Highlighting best practices

The consultations highlighted best practices during each of the four sessions. A list of the highlighted initiatives appears in the S7. APPENDIX of this report. The ICA could similarly showcase positive developments in inclusive or Indigenous and community-led conservation. In addition, positive developments have been made in international human rights standards for Indigenous Peoples' rights to lands, territories, and resources, including case studies on regional human rights mechanisms in Africa and the Americas. National human rights institutions could be tapped for assistance in this area.

The consultations also revealed that across the regions there are examples of positive national, dominant governmental legislation. These could also be highlighted in the ICA, which would assist IPs and LCs in their advocacy initiatives and strategic planning. Learning about these significant developments could also provide incentives for other governmental representatives to learn from and possibly implement in their own countries. This would be especially useful as States are developing or augmenting national plans around the SDGs, Climate Change, and Biodiversity. From the best practices shared during the consultations, there are significant innovative partnerships between Indigenous Peoples, local communities, government land agencies, and civil society organizations that can provide examples of unblocking obstacles that legally hinder securing IP territories.

j) Conservation, Government & Private Sector representatives

Across the consultations, participants consistently shared that conservation organizations, governments, and the private sector need their capacities developed with regard to their engagement and support of IPs and LCs in the context of inclusive conservation. While there are some best practice examples, it is well-documented that historically, conservation engagement trends are paternalistic and often even oppressive on IPs and LCs. There are some signs of change as some organizations are making efforts to move from fortress-style conservation to inclusive conservation models, yet there is still much work to do. It is critical that these entities build their internal (including top tier) capacities, along with their field capacities to ensure that they are able to better understand and respect the knowledge, values, norms, and systems of IPs and LCs. This internal capacity building would help to bring about what participants identified as critically needed "system change."

Several participants made it clear that the contributions of IPs, in particular, as custodians of much of the world's biodiversity merits support politically, technically, and financially. Within this framework, the ICA could provide a platform to assist non-IP and LC entities to address outstanding reparations and restitution concerns for harms done in the name of conservation. It is critical that non-indigenous actors understand that IPs and LCs have distinct identities and contexts. According to some participants, the diversity of Indigenous Peoples is the strength of Indigenous Peoples. Participants also stated that government representatives and other actors seem to "always put Indigenous Peoples in one bucket and present them as one homogenous group."

The modules and activities under the ICA should respect the individual identities and or contexts of IPs as well as LCs. This diversity would include language diversity. Additionally, in Asia, there was a specific concern with the high level of influence that donors and funders have in how projects are being developed, governed, and implemented. It was recommended that donors should also be approached not only for support, but for their own capacity building within the ICA.

k) Non-IPs Understanding of IPs

When working with IPs and LCs, participants highlighted various priorities that should be understood by non-IPs. From the Americas consultation, for example, participants noted the human right to free, prior, and informed consent; the IP connection/relationship with Mother Earth grows stronger every day; and that in pre-colonial times, land management was kinship-based, communal based. In addition, participants also noted that legislation is in place that has taken land away from IPs; and many policies exist to disrupt and dismantle the community systems that IPs have utilized to manage their lands. It was also noted by participants that non-IPs often recognize and want to protect land, but didn't recognize the IPs that traditionally lived on these same lands. Non-IPs need to recognize where IPs are at, where they were, and recognize the diversity of communities.

Sometimes in “western knowledge” everything is squeezed into a little box to “make it look pretty for a policy”, but the reality is that like IP communities, their traditional knowledge is diverse. The concept of IP and LC conservation practices being diverse was a consistent theme mentioned across the consultations. A participant also stated that it is key for non-IPs to understand that respecting individuals and their customs can go a long way to help communities conserve local ecosystems. Participants also pointed out that IPs and LCs have long been disproportionately affected by State entities, as well as by conservation measures and policies because large areas of IP and LCs lands lack official title and have remained under-developed from the perspective of the State.

Participants from the Pacific, stressing the term “decolonization” more than other regions, highlighted the importance of demonstrating Indigenous governance to conservation organizations. In Australia, in particular, cultural safety workshops are happening (See best practices). The Pacific consultation also voiced that non-IPs unconsciously bring their understanding or perspectives on conservation and that most of the time they don't realize the bias in their decision making. During the Asia consultation, it was noted that non-IPs need to understand that generations of IPs across the globe have been more successful and effective than the conservation efforts of governments. In addition, recognition of IP customary and governance practices within their territories are deemed to be of higher importance than having a representative on management boards of protected areas.

"NON-IPs NEED TO UNDERSTAND IPs MUST LEAD, THEY MUST ACCEPT THEIR ROLE AS SUPPORTERS AND HELP STRENGTHEN, UPLIFT AND PROTECT IPs AT ALL LEVELS INTERNATIONALLY." - SURVEY RESPONDENT, LATIN AMERICA

S4. RECOMMENDATIONS

There are significant recommendations found throughout the report. The following are developed from the Key Findings based on the frequency of mentions across the consultations and surveys:

01

The ICA must ensure the full and effective participation of IPs and LCs at all levels of its development and implementation, including in decision making, and as trainers / instructors.

02

The ICA should support global efforts to broaden and strengthen the recognition and respect of IP and LC rights and governance systems.

03

The ICA should offer capacity building on diverse legal issues with a goal to empower IPs and LCs to engage in a more equitable dialogue with potential partners or to defend rights to land, territories, and resources.

Offerings could be presented in beginner and more advanced formats depending on resources and expressed needs of IPs and LCs. These offerings also need to be reflective of the regional and local realities.

04

The capacities of non-IPs in the conservation sector should be strengthened to promote system change and better understanding Indigenous Peoples' self-determined governance systems, traditional knowledge, community-based practices, and IP and LC relationships with nature.

05

The ICA should provide conservation organizations and government actors capacity building in developing or promoting conservation policies and strategies that recognize and uphold the rights of IPs and LCs.

06

The ICA should provide opportunities for the capacity building of domestic and overseas businesses. Many businesses are operating and impacting Indigenous territories and means of existence. They can learn about and subsequently exercise their responsibilities to respect human rights rights. The ICA should also strengthen the capacities of the private sector to upgrade their understanding of and practices focused on IPs and LCs, as well as adopt protocols to ensure non-complicity in any violations of land rights.

S5. NEXT STEPS

The following should be considered among next steps:

- **A review of, discussions on, and the possible establishment of a working group on potential governance structures.**
- **A presentation of the final report should be made to conservation organizations to gauge possible support, etc. There needs to be buy in from these organizations or things won't change on the ground.**
- **A presentation of the final report should be made to donor organizations to gauge possible support, etc. As highlighted by participants, it is imperative that long-term funding for the sustainability of the ICA is secured.**
- **Further explore potential partnerships by engaging with organizations and groups with different objectives but resonate with IP and LC priorities.**

S6. CONCLUSION

As a consequence of past practices that promoted and supported fortress-style conservation over generations, there was caution expressed with regard to participation in these regional consultations. Because of the lack of trust permeating through on the subject of conservation, overall participation numbers seem to have been affected. Participation hesitancy could have also been exacerbated by the recent public scrutiny and negative press focusing on conservation organizations. Participants across the regions; however, generally expressed support of the concept of an ICA that is led by IPs and LCs. One of the reasons for this is that IPs and LCs understand that their lands and territories are at risk. There was a consistent, overarching sense of urgency that was expressed during the consultations. However, participants also positively expressed interest in continuing to stay informed on the development of the ICA. In order to continue this interest and maintain credibility, the ICA must ensure full and effective participation of IPs and LCs at all levels of its development, including in decision making, and as trainers / instructors.

Based on the passionate positions shared during these dialogues, a platform such as the proposed ICA has the potential to broaden and contribute to the strengthening of the recognition of the rights and governance systems of IPs and LCs. An ICA that is led by IPs and LCs could also exponentially assist efforts to increase the appropriate use of conservation mechanisms that are inclusive and IP and LC led. Additionally, the ICA should provide opportunities that will assist in strengthening the governance authority of IPs and LCs and enable other key actors (conservation organizations, private sector, governments, etc.) to recognize and respect the rights of IPs and LCs, as well as promote and encourage system change.

Establishing an ICA would be a timely endeavor as the international community has a significant focus on the subjects of biodiversity, climate change mitigation, deforestation, and conservation. Donors at the recent COP26 meeting in Glasgow have also pledged to give 1.7 billion US to Indigenous Peoples to protect forests. Statements made during the consultations and in international forums affirm that these are priority global discussions and they directly affect IPs and LCs. It is important to note that, as mentioned by participants across consultations, the current global goals on sustainable development, biodiversity, and climate change cannot be achieved without the lands, territories, and resources recognized (now or in the future), sustained, protected, and restored by IPs and LCs. A well-funded ICA led by IPs and LCs could significantly impact this dynamic.



S7. APPENDIX

Best Practices Shared Across Consultations

Africa, Russia, and Arctic

> Constitutional reform and the Wildlife Conservation and Management Act (2013) in Kenya

> Bikin National Park in Russia, Udege People are directly involved

> International Whaling Commission (Consultation with the Inuit)

> Learning from community heroes, like Wangarĩ Muta Maathai (social, environmental, and political activist and the first African woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize).

> Community-Based Organisations can promote conservation and generate sustainable funding. Example: Ambodivohitra Kobaina in Madagascar, a CBO supported by WWF provides seeds and grows vanilla, receiving municipal contributions, creates awareness to shift from reliance on chemical products.

> IMPACT stands for Indigenous Movement for Peace Advancement and Conflict Transformation. IMPACT works with local communities and marginalized groups in Laikipia, Samburu, Marsabit and Isiolo counties in building community resilience advocating for human and land rights, good governance, policy formulation and social justice.

> Tsiseb Conservancy, community-led Conservation in Namibia

> The Endorois have a memorandum of understanding with the Kenya Wildlife Service, Baringo County Council, and the Kenyan Commission to UNESCO recognizing Lake Bogoria as Endorois ancestral land and requires Endorois inclusion in land management

Americas

> The case of Bears Ears and Grand Staircase in the U.S. and land protection

> CINEP (Centro Indígena de Estudos e Pesquisas), Brazil

> Capacity Building Programme on Indigenous Territorial Governance, OZIP Colombia

> GREEN CREEK FARMERS COOPERATIVE, BELIZE

> TLA-O-QUI-AHT TRIBAL PARKS, CANADA

> WAPISHANA COMMUNITY PROTECTED AREA, GUYANA

Asia

> Alliance of the Indigenous Peoples of the Highlands of Borneo or FORMADAT is a transboundary, grassroots organization established by Indigenous leaders living in the highlands of Borneo, both from Indonesia and Malaysia who came together to see how they could protect their common land across these 2 countries.

> The Centre for Indigenous People's Research and Development Sector in Nepal is providing research in preparation of a local forest act in five municipalities as a practice to encourage governments to legalize the customary lands of IPs.

Pacific

> Rangitahua (Kermadec islands) marine sanctuary in New Zealand, is monitored by the Ngāti Kuri trust board which is an Iwi (tribal) authority. It provides an example where different sectors can come to the table can make to make any conservation project culturally sound and robust.

> Aina Momona (Hawaii conservation work) education programs for children, and a fellowship program for young Native Hawaiian leaders to learn the skills of conservation, and the creation of career opportunities in natural resource management and food security.

> The Solomon Islands has been developing various initiatives for effective community management to ensure that future generations can benefit from the ocean.

EXISTING CAPACITY-BUILDING MATERIALS (MANUALS, PRESENTATIONS, ETC.)

Shared by participants during and after consultations

- > [A Handbook For The Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas Registry](#)
- > [A toolkit to support conservation by indigenous peoples and local communities](#)
- > [A Training Manual for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities on the Convention on Biological Diversity](#)
- > [An e-learning tool on the rights of indigenous peoples: OHCHR](#)
- > [Conservation and Indigenous Peoples in Mesoamerica: A Guide](#)
- > [Footprints in Paradise: Ethnography of Ecotourism, Local Knowledge and Nature Therapies in Okinawa](#)
- > [Garuwanga: Forming a Competent Authority to Protect Indigenous Knowledge](#)
- > [Indigenous Peoples' and Community Conserved Territories and Areas \(ICCA\)](#)
- > [INDIGENOUS-LED SOCIAL CHANGE: Atlantic Fellows](#)
- > [Indigenous Peoples in the International System: Project Access Online: Learning for Nature](#)
- > [Indigenous Stewardship Methods and NRCS Conservation Practices Guidebook](#)
- > [Practical guidelines for establishing a Community Environment Conservation Fund as a tool to catalyse social and ecological resilience](#)
- > [Principles and Guidelines For Engagement with Indigenous Peoples](#)
- > [Securing Forest Tenure Rights for Rural Development: Lessons from Six Countries in Latin America](#)
- > [THE ATLANTIC FELLOWS FOR SOCIAL EQUITY PROGRAM](#)
- > [The Nature Conservancy's Human Rights Guide for Working with Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities](#)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Tribal Link Foundation expresses its gratitude to all those who contributed to the success of these consultations including:

Delfin Ganapin (WWF), Sandra Patricia Visbal (WWF), and Joost Van Montfort (WWF), Carson Kiburo (Jamii Asilia Centre), Washington Barasa Kiptoo (Jamii Asilia Centre), Chazali Ohorella, Catherine Murupaenga-Ikenn, Nania 'Winnie' Kodi, Pratima Gurung, Janene Yazzie (IITC), Rochelle Diver (IITC), Chalinaru Dones (UCTP), Joselyn Kaxhyêk Borrero (Report Editing and Design), Andrew 'Atama Katama' Ambrose, Alexander Arbachakov, Florent Diary Elizara (Ambodivohitra Kobaina), Terry Dorward (Tla-o-qui-aht Tribal Parks), Felipe Ical (GCFC), Kid James (Wapishana), Albaro Cruz, OZIP, and Daniel F. Tamayo/GlobalTradu Language Services.

We again thank you all for your support during the consultations and toward the final version of this report.

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