



INICIATIVA COMUNALES



MINUTES

Capacity building on Areas and Territories Conserved by Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples (ICCA), the ICCA Registry and the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA)

Permanent Seminars of the CENEAM



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MINUTES OF THE II PERMANENT SEMINAR ON ICCAs: CAPACITY BUILDING ON AREAS AND TERRITORIES CONSERVED BY LOCAL COMMUNITIES AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES (ICCA), THE ICCA REGISTRY AND THE WORLD DATABASE ON PROTECTED AREAS (WDPA)

CENTRO NACIONAL DE EDUCACIÓN AMBIENTAL (VALSAÍN, SPAIN) 15-16 MARCH 2018

Attendants:

Heather Bingham
Khalid AlKhawaldeh
Pau Sanosa
Federica Ravera
Lucía Rodríguez Cao
Xosé Tubío Rodríguez
Adrià Peña Enguix
Francisco Godoy
Monica Vasile
Océane Biabiani
Salomé Iribarren Sotil
Marion Laventure
Antoine Scherer
Simona Quartieri
Ivan Perez Berjano
Fabrizio Frascaroli
Rita Serra
João Gama Amaral
Avelino Rego
Iker Manterola
Aslak Holmberg
Taghi Farvar
Sergio Couto González

Day 1- 15TH MARCH:

14:30- Welcome to the attendees and presentation of the seminar by María Sintés Zamanillo (Coordinator of the Section Environmental Education and Cooperation, CENEAM) and Sergio Couto (Iniciativa Comunes and ICCA Consortium).

María Sintés, CENEAM: Part of CENEAM's role is putting together different actors for work on environment, e.g. governments and communities.

Pau Sanosa, Spain: Doing PhD in anthropology. Studying ICCAs. In research group with Adrian and Francisco. Trying to understand Registry process – can any community join?

Adrià Peña, Spain: Last year did research on Registry – did historical review of the time ICCA and the Registry. Field work on pastoral ICCAs.

Francisco Godoy, Chile: doing PhD. comparison between 2 – 3 common systems in grasslands. Interested in work on Registry and the experiences of other communities who have registered.

Khalid Kawaldeh, Jordan: local community cooperative volunteer (20 yrs). Fighting nature reserve on customary land. Want to empower communities to control and govern land. *Hima* governance system lost due to modernisation and colonisation. All land is state or private now. Trying to revive.

Marion Laventure, France: Representing Snowchange, just did internship with them.

Antoine Scherer, France: same as Marion. Worked on Linnunsuo – a Finnish ICCA.

Salomé Iribarren, Spain: Agricultural technician in Navarra regional govt., in a specific unit on Commons. Supposed to defend the commons but the administration is not fully able to support this to happen in reality – part of the problem.

Iker Manterola, Spain: Interested in local socio-economic development. Works in a region where 80% of land is commons.

Aslak, Sapmi (Sami territory): state doesn't consider Sami to have any commons – all considered to be owned by the state – works as activist on this. Doing masters on indigenous issues. Interested in relationship between traditional knowledge and science.

Federica Ravera, Italy: Ecological economist – has worked with mountain communities in several countries. Interested in traditional knowledge and how it helps adaptation to global change.

Océane Biabiani, France: Doing internship in N Spain (Galicia) – evolution and use of collective action.

João Gama, Portugal: works on common lands in Portugal. Works with comms to improve management.

Monica Vasile, Romania: social anthropologist – Romania, mountain commons, over 15 yrs. Doing large project to understand commons quantitatively, and looking at history of the commons. Trying to promote recognition.

Rita Serra, Portugal: 10 yrs in Centro de Estudos Sociais, University of Coimbra. Looking at forest degradation – possibilities and limitations of commons for forestry – engaging with govt. Implementing project COMUNIX, on summer school to engage young people on governing commons.

Simona Quartieri, Italy: same project as Rita – involvement of young people in commons and the role of common land in Europe.

Avelino Rego, Portugal: part of group managing common land. Hard to sustain traditional activities that are not economically profitable but important for environment. Wants people to recognise important role of rural people. Thinks it's important to be able to put a value on nature in order to communicate effectively with govt. Lack of participation is a problem. Commons not attractive economically. Not high-quality lands. Youth are unengaged.

Fabrizio Frascaroli, Italy: University of Bologna focus on sacred structures and connection of land management. Interest in pastoralism. Need to empower communities, so started looking into Consortium, IUCN, etc.

Sergio Couto, Spain: when Iniciativa Comunales first started, communities all thought they were alone and the only ones fighting for recognition. Almost all were isolated, very few or no coordination at national or regional level.

Day 2- 16TH MARCH:

SECTION I: The peer-review of the candidacies to the ICCA Registry.

Presentation: SPAIN. The peer-review of potential ICCAs in Spain, methodology and governance of the process (Sergio Couto, Iniciativa Comunales and ICCA Consortium).

Presentation: IRAN. The peer-review of potential ICCAs in Iran, methodology and governance of the process (Taghi Farvar, CENESTA and president of the ICCA Consortium).

Sergio Couto, Spain: Social justice, democracy, sustainable use should all be aspects of the registry – the Registry should go beyond Protected Areas. Related to UN forms of the Registry: around 50% of commons need support with questionnaire – e.g. habitats categories. Future sustainability of peer-review process is completely dependent on communities themselves being willing to give some of their time. Evaluators stay anonymous but facilitator can visit ICCA to find out additional info if needed.

Questions on whether governments have a role in process in case of co-management. Sergio says no, because this would not be ICCA – but what about if communities still have majority decision-making power? Also questions about where funds come from to support process. Spain has a lot of support from consort (non-monetary) – helped to understand the process needed. First meeting was on back of a pre-arranged Consortium meeting.

Jose Tubío, Spain: 3,000 common land forests in Galicia. Jose is a registered community member – ICCA – trying to explain value of international recognition. Older generations understood, but initially thought UN would take control of the forest. But now they understand. Pros- using the capital and recognition of being registered- just being in Registry doesn't have any tangible benefit for comm. Those aged under 50s in communities are very active so they've been doing things all year – public visits from schools planting trees. Children with families planting trees and managing vegetation. Also building links with people around the village who have a lot of knowledge – they have a difficult conflict with a mining company working nearby and links with nearby people beyond the community helps with this. Gives them legitimacy to say they're in the Registry. Co-funding project for tree-planting – within 2 months planted over 2,500 trees and collected more than 10,000 euros from anonymous public donations – to replace vegetation with native species. Also applied for other funding and always highlight the fact that they are in the ICCA Registry. In process of being nominated for prize for native species work and creating a path to walk the common lands – need

votes. Important to keep brand strong by ensuring high standards via peer-review. Participating in CITES convention.

Jose Tubío, Spain: further level of peer-review at regional level? Could peer-review standards be scaled-up to international level? Q directed at Taghi.

Taghi Farvar, Iran: Turkmenistan shut off borders but parts of country remained parts of nomads' ICCAs – so they send their dogs and sheep in when they migrate and the dogs manage that part of the ICCA while the nomads walk along the border until they get out the other side.

Rita Serra, Portugal: Registry is elitist process but that is needed initially to build strength by highlighting best cases and give shape to the network.

Sergio Couto, Spain: Some kind of communities in Southern Spain has forests that are owned by the children – just before they turn 18 they are dispossessed of their claim and pass to younger children. Means it can never be sold because children have no legal right to sell.

Jose Tubío, Spain: has concerns about the Linnunsuo ICCA.

Presentation: FINLAND. The case of Linnunsuo ICCA (Antoine Scherer and Marion Laventure, Snowchange).

Antoine and Marie, France – Linnunsuo presentation: official monitoring system of the govt. consistently failed to pick up on environmental damages that the fishing community were well aware of. Community found the registration process easy. Potentially aim to register many nearby areas as ICCAs, partly to create smaller gaps between ICCAs so the region is less attractive to mining companies (significant risk in this area). Northern view on ICCAs – boreal/hunting areas.

Jose Tubío, Spain: was previously private property of mining company. In 2012, government started co-management approach. In 2017 Snowchange bought land – how much? Euro 30,000. At that moment all environmental responsibility of mining company ceased. Now Snowchange owns land and environmental responsibilities?

Antoine Scherer, France: not so simple because mining company are tied by legislation to be involved in the restoration. But because Snowchange owns land, they have more control over what happens. University decided on co-management system proposed by Snowchange. But it has been a common struggle from the start – common enemy in mining company. So everyone agreed to Snowchange's proposal. Decisions on consensus basis. Co-managers have to respect legislation, but within this they have freedom of decisions. How many people involved? Around 300. Do they participate through Council? Yes. Represented through different associations, e.g. hunters.

Aslak Holmberg, Sapmi: on regional process – Spanish ICCAs are peers that review ICCAs – what's the case in Finland? Snowchange reviewed and submitted – this is seen as a significant problem.

VAPO clean waters (part of the mining company) created the wetland – word green-washing was used. Questions on how co-managed areas can be ICCAs – view of some in the room is that co-managed areas cannot be ICCA.

Heather Bingham, UK: UNEP-WCMC representative. She argued that they can if the community is the ultimate decision-maker.

Sergio Couto, Spain: Sergio makes point that each case is different.

Taghi Farvar, Iran: Taghi's point that sometimes co-management is just a label communities agree to in order to appease government, but really the community is in charge.

Khalid Kawaldeh, Jordan: Khalid points out that co-management is fine but maybe co-governance is not.

Antoine Scherer, France: Antoine says local people have the last word in decision-making. The aim of the ICCA has been to restore governance to the community.

Taghi Farvar, Iran: estimates 75% of Iran covered by ICCAs. They've selected three coastal/marine ICCAs and these are approved as EBSAs (or the ICCAs are within the EBSAs?). Plus three in the Caspian Sea – two of the six are transboundary. Last meeting included peer-review mechanism – presented their ICCAs to each other. Describes WCMC as an opportunity for ICCAs. Iran also full of small ICCAs that are non-nomadic.

Federica Ravera, Italy: can a next step of the Consortium be combining communities and ICCAs to create something bigger?

Taghi Farvar, Iran: suggests 'nested ICCAs' – ICCAs within ICCAs.