Environmental monitoring, mapping and other basic tools for grassroots conservation

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IUCN WORLD PARKS CONGRESS SYDNEY 2014	**SIDE EVENT SUMMARY REPORT**

Event co-leaders:	Pernilla Malmer, Carmen Miranda and Pamela Wright
Time and date:	14 November 2014, 18:30-21:30
Rapporteurs:	Fiona Wilton
Presenters:	Carmen Miranda, Clemente Caimany, Ghanimat Azhdari, Florence Daguitan, Million Belay, Maximiliano Tanimuka, Simon Mitambo, Kaguna Sabella, Pamela Wright

The session allowed the audience to explore a number of community-based mapping and monitoring tools that have proven to be useful in the governance and management of indigenous territories, community conserved areas and protected areas. Two short presentations and videos, from Bolivia (Consejo Regional Tsimane Moseten) and Iran (Qashqai Tribal confederacy), demonstrated the successful use of different methodologies - a Toolbox for Participatory Monitoring of Ecosystem Functions, and Participatory GIS - for indigenous and nomadic communities who are challenged by impacts such as extractives, development projects and agricultural encroachment.

After introduction of mapping practitioners from Kenya, Ethiopia, Canada, Philippines and the Colombian Amazon, break-out groups enabled the audience to sit at tables with different practitioners to learn about their different contexts or challenges, and the mapping methodologies being used. These were:

    i)   Eco-cultural mapping and calendars – Tharaka District, Kenya.
    ii)   Community Based Monitoring and Information Systems (CBMIS) – Tinoc, Philippines.
    iii)   3D participatory mapping – Sheka Forest and Bale, Ethiopia
    iv)   Cloud-based GIS / participatory mapping – Northern B.C., Canada.
    v)   *Cartografía social* (community mapping) – Colombian Amazon

Key emerging lessons:

- Community-based monitoring and mapping tools are a proven success useful in the governance and management of indigenous territories, community conservation areas and protected areas; and for building skills and capacity in the face of external threats

such as extractive industries, and agricultural encroachment. Plus, they hold potential for informing policy and decision making at larger scales.

- For all types of grassroots environmental monitoring and mapping, the process should move slowly – allowing for community dialogues and (re)building of trust.
- In all the presented cases, the challenges being faced are due to extractive industries and/or the current economic model of development. These different mapping tools are empowering communities and support their actions for local and ecological governance. Priority areas (whether for biodiversity, food growing or nomadic lifestyles) should be no-go for extractive industries or other development.
- All communities that were represented have been successful in identifying challenges, gathering and analysing relevant (evidence based) information, and empowering themselves to take actions - for internal governance as well as external outreach and engagement with other actors. Localized and independent data gathering about biodiversity in their territories, and the communities' own independent analysis, is important and highly useful for supporting and articulating both knowledge and concerns. Community based monitoring tools should also be encouraged for top down monitoring CBD Aichi targets and its indicators (especially Targets 11 and 18. This is also in line with decisions under CBD COP12; CBD

Exemplary case/s and other useful links:

1-A Toolbox for Participatory Monitoring of Ecosystem Functions, developed and applied in Bolivia (Pilón Lajas Biosphere Reserve):

https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=0BxA6O08nGNfuam5WR2NGaE5iaU0&usp=sharing

2-Participatory mapping and use of GIS technologies in Iran, for indigenous and nomadic communities:

https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=0BxA6O08nGNfucDNwVEd4T1dEcmc&usp=sharing

3-Eco-cultural mapping and calendars, 3D participatory mapping, through African Biodiversity Network:

http://www.gaiafoundation.org/eco-cultural-maps-and-calendars

4-Peace River Break Digital Atlas Project

https://blogs.unbc.ca/peace-conservation/

Original presentations and report are available in the event's folder (see link in annexed "Repository of original Powerpoint presentations and Rapporteur reports").

Key recommendations:

- Encourage community-based monitoring and mapping tools for communities' governance. Community based monitoring tools should be encouraged for bottom up monitoring Aichi targets and its indicators (especially Targets 11, 14 and 18). Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity should implement the decision CBD XII/12, on traditional knowledge, innovations and practices, that encourages parties to support and collaborate with their indigenous communities on this issue. Another part is the Action Plan on Customary Sustainable that means Parties should support their indigenous peoples and local communities to maintain their Customary Sustainable Use, in protected areas and elsewhere. Monitoring and mapping is an important tool in this.
- Establish "no-go areas" for extractive industries or other development.

Session's recommendations were instrumental in shaping the following final recommendations:

Rec#	Title
15	Governance capacity
2	Standards and guidance
13	"No Go" policies