

# Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities' Conserved Territories and Areas (ICCAs) as 'No Go' sites



**Ashish Kothari**  
Kalpavriksh and ICCA Consortium





# Indigenous peoples and local community conserved territories and areas (ICCAs)



natural and modified **ecosystems**  
with significant **biodiversity**, ecological functions  
and **cultural** values  
**voluntarily** conserved by **indigenous peoples** and  
**local communities**  
through **customary** laws or other effective **means**





# Global diversity of ICCAs...

## sacred natural sites...



Chizire sacred forest,  
Zimbabwe

Sacred bolon in Kawawana, Senegal  
© Christian Chatelain



Sacred hill tops,  
Tibet, China ©  
Grazia Borrini-  
Feyerabend



Sacred lake, Indian Himalaya © Pankaj Sekhsaria



# Global diversity of ICCAs...



Community-protected Markhor at Torgarh, Pakistan © Tahir Rasheed



Demoiselle cranes, Kheechan village, India © Asad Rahmani

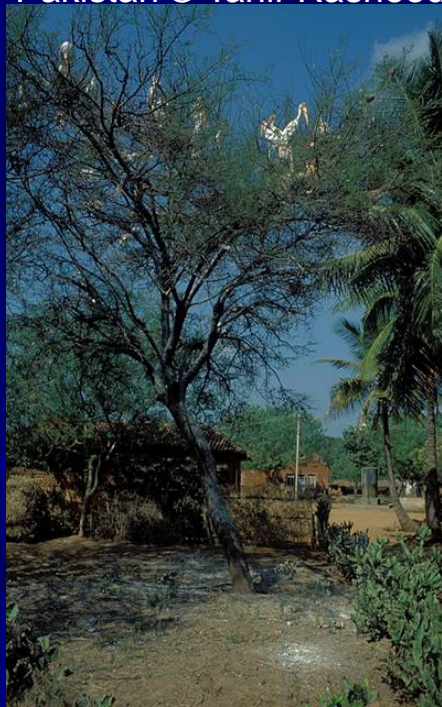
## Wildlife populations

nesting, roosting, feeding habitats

Slender loris, Nagavali villages, India © Ashish Kothari



Indigenous ranger at Mapoon rescuing sea turtle, Australia © Craig Wheeler



Traditional heronry, Kokare Bellure, India © Ashish Kothari



Global diversity of ICCAs...

# indigenous territories and cultural landscapes/seascapes...

Skeena River  
in Gixtsan  
territory,  
Canada ©  
Francois  
Depey



TCO Isoso, Bolivia © Carmen E. Miranda L.



Mandingalbay Yidinji IPA, Australia © Cairns Post



# Global diversity of ICCAs...

territories & migration routes of nomadic herders / mobile indigenous peoples...



Wetlands in Qashqai mobile peoples' territory, Iran



Shahsavans' territory, Iran





# Global diversity of ICCAs...

## sustainably-managed wetlands, coastal and marine areas...

Waya  
Island, Fiji  
(one of  
many  
Locally  
Managed  
Marine  
Areas) ©  
Stacy  
Jupiter



Kawawana  
ICCA, Senegal  
© Grazia Borrini-  
Feyerabend



Lubuk Larangan river, Mandailing, Sumatra



Coron Island, Tagbanwa Ancestral Domain,  
Philippines © Ashish Kothari



Global diversity of ICCAs....

sustainably-  
managed resource  
reserves (biomass,  
medicinal plants,  
timber and non-  
timber forest  
products...)



Qanats, Central Asia



Parc Jurassien Vaudois, Switzerland ©  
Grazia Borrini-Feyerabend



Himalayan forest, Jardhargaon, India © Ashish Kothari



Community forests and lake, Rupataal, Nepal © Ashish Kothari





# What is the worldwide extent of ICCAs?

*Hundreds of thousands of ICCAs, most undocumented*

*No overall figure of extent; some indications:*

Place / kind of ICCA	Extent
Global: indigenous/community managed forests	At least 370 m.ha.
Australia: Indigenous PAs	48 m.ha.
Bolivia: TIOCs (peasant/indigenous territory)	12 m.ha.
Fiji: Locally Managed Marine Areas	1.77 m.ha.
Brazil: Indigenous reserves	Substantial part of 145 m.ha.
Namibia: Conservancies	13.27 m.ha.
Philippines: Ancestral domains	4.25 m.ha.
Iran: Mobile territories	Several m.ha.





*ICCAs could **double** the earth's coverage of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation sites!*

*(Aichi 11)*



- address **gaps** in the system (Aichi 5, 10)
- improve **connectivity** in the landscape, and **flexibility** and **resilience** of the system (Aichi 15)
- help adapt to **climate change**



# Threats faced by ICCAs

- Mining, dams, tourism, etc: economic growth “at all costs”
- ‘Green’ landgrab, e.g. commercial biofuels, plantations
- Imposition of government schemes and programmes (incl. top-down conservation)
  
- Lack of recognition
- Lack of security of tenure
- Internal inequities, changing cultures





'ROAD TO NOWHERE'

Resistance to  
destructive  
development...

... is  
growing  
worldwide





# ICCAs as 'no-go' areas?

- Prime candidates for prohibition of industrial-scale development activities
- Free prior informed consent for any other externally implemented activity
- Local people with rights to 'go', i.e. sustainable utilisation, governance, management, exclusion of unsustainable uses (indigenous no-go areas and customs)
- Landscapes around ICCAs also need protection from unsustainable 'development'



# Need ...

- Appropriate recognition and support
- Collective land/resource tenure
- Recognition of collective institutions of governance
  
- Building on ICCAs & other models of sustainable living ... global transformation towards sustainability and equity





# The ICCA Consortium



for more information:  
[www.iccaconsortium.org](http://www.iccaconsortium.org)  
[chikikothari@gmail.com](mailto:chikikothari@gmail.com)

