

Supported by:



based on a decision of the German Bundestag



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

The Global Support Initiative to Indigenous Peoples and Community-Conserved Territories and Areas (ICCA-GSI)

**Title of Workshop: National Dialogues:
Recommendations for integration into
relevant policies and laws**

Level: National

Place: Rabat, MOROCCO

Date: 2 May 2019



BACKGROUND:

In Morocco, the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs) embody traditional lifestyles that are crucial to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), indigenous and traditional knowledge is also a "major resource for adaptation to climate change". Several traditional and customary practices have been shown to promote sustainable biodiversity management as well as generate significant benefits for both food security and adaptation to climate change impacts.

However, ICCAs are often threatened, disrupted, and struggle in to remain effective. The reappropriation of territorial space and revitalization of ancestral rules and traditions of natural heritage management require enormous efforts due to (i) the diversity of stakeholders, (ii) the divergence of interests and (iii) rapid changes in lifestyles and aspirations. The IPLCs, who are the guardians of ICCAs, face significant external and internal threats. The lack of recognition in national legislation and consequently, by other institutions and stakeholders, undermine the ICCAs' governance rules and systems and thus, disrupt their functioning. In turn, these lead to fragmentation of their culture, traditional knowledge and sustainable environmental management practices.

WORKSHOP OBJECTIVE AND PARTICIPATION:

In this context, the ICCA-GSI organized a national dialogue workshop for multi-level actors to collaboratively discuss the challenges and opportunities for integrating ICCAs in relevant national laws and policies. More than 70 national and local stakeholders attended the workshop including representatives from various ministerial departments, NGO members of the National Biodiversity Committee, academics, CBOs / CSOs and local communities. SGP's partners in the ICCA-GSI co-organized the workshop, namely, the Moroccan association of biodiversity and livelihoods (MBLA) and the Association for Sustainable Development, Ecology and Preservation of the Environment (ADEPE), a Catalan NGO.

Supported by:



based on a decision of the German Bundestag

Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.



A knowledge and innovation fair was also held where ICCA guardian communities exhibited local products and objects that reflect their local cultural identity. These included honey, saffron, dates, argan oil, traditional clothes and jewelry, customary law documents and carpets.

WORKSHOP DISCUSSION POINTS:

Designed to provide a space for participatory dialogue and reflection on the strategic and legal support of ICCAs in Morocco, the workshop was organized around three main sessions:

Session 1: Examining the national reality of ICCAs, focusing on the typology of ICCAs in Morocco and the factors affecting them.

Session 2: Presenting case studies from four Morocco ICCAs which emphasized the importance of intergenerational transfer, the revitalization of traditional bodies and the interaction between ancestral knowledge and scientific knowledge to maintain ICCAs.

Session 3: Reviewing the various relevant laws and institutions that could provide a gateway for appropriate ICCA support.

The ICCA-GSI undertakes a legal and policy analysis in majority of its 26 participating countries. In Morocco, ICCAs are not considered as part of its 'Protected Areas' network. However, territories and areas that are collectively managed by local communities do have legal recognition, at least partially and sporadically, through other laws and policies. As such, an in-depth review of existing laws was necessary to shed light on the opportunities and to identify gaps that need to be addressed for more appropriate recognition of ICCAs in national legislation.

According to the legal review, even in the absence of specific legal recognition and with unfavorable public policies to tribes and/or the other local community organizational frameworks, IPLCs have been able to adapt to climate change impacts due to their traditional institutions, customary laws and governance systems. Keeping the customary systems alive and vibrant implies flexibility on the rules of the forest estate and protected areas managed by the forest administration to allow the integration of ICCAs.



Supported by:



Federal Ministry
for the Environment, Nature Conservation
and Nuclear Safety



SGP The GEF
Small Grants
Programme



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.

based on a decision of the German Bundestag



WORKSHOP OUTCOMES:

The workshop provided a clear picture of the main threats to Morocco's ICCAs. Emphasis was put on (i) how legal frameworks and institutions support or weaken these vital spaces and (ii) the importance of identifying key rights groups required to support traditional lands, local community resources, and review laws that violate these rights.

Through a participatory and highly concerted process, the workshop facilitated the formulation of recommendations for better recognition and integration of ICCAs in national policies and legislation. These included (i) a policy reform on collective lands and on the protected areas to constitute windows of opportunity for the integration of the ICCAs; (ii) environmental protection laws to specifically mention the role of local communities and customary governance systems in preserving resources; (iii) inclusion of local communities in the list of actors involved in the participatory and consultative mechanisms put in place by the laws and government authorities; and (iv) include ICCAs in the listing/ranking system that identifies the country's the most fragile and endangered ecosystems to ensure stronger and more sustainable protection.

The [ICCA-GSI](#) is a multi-partnership initiative that is delivered by the UNDP-implemented Small Grants Programme ([SGP](#)) and funded by the Government of Germany, through its Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety ([BMU](#)). Key partners include the United Nations Environment Programme's World Conservation Monitoring Centre ([UNEP WCMC](#)), the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's Global Programme on Protected Areas ([IUCN GPAP](#)), the [ICCA Consortium](#) and the Secretariat of the Convention of Biological Diversity ([CBD](#)).



Convention on
Biological Diversity

The ICCA
Consortium



UN environment WCMC