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The ICCA-GSI is implemented in 26 countries participating in the UNDP/ GEF Small Grants Programme which include: Argentina, Belize, Benin, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Georgia, Guatemala, Indonesia, Iran, Jordan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Morocco, Namibia, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Senegal, Suriname, Tanzania, Viet Nam, and Zambia.

26 Countries



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

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

With the adoption of the CBD 2020 Aichi targets in 2010, attention has been focused on recognizing and supporting the vital role of indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs) in conserving biodiversity outside of the framework of formally-gazetted and managed government protected areas.

In 2014, the Global Support Initiative for Indigenous Peoples and Community Conserved Territories and Areas (GSI) was formed to broaden the diversity and quality of governance types of protected areas (PAs) and conserved areas (CAs) which contribute to the achievement of the CBD Aichi targets. The central objective of the GSI is to improve the recognition, support and overall effectiveness of ICCAs for biodiversity conservation through sustainable livelihoods and self-strengthening of ICCAs.

The GSI is a multi-partnership initiative that is delivered by the UNDP-implemented Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme (GEF SGP), with \$16.3m in funding provided by the Government of Germany, through its Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, and Nuclear Safety (BMU) International Climate Initiative (IKI).

Key partners in the initiative include the Secretariat of the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD); the Global ICCA Consortium; the Global Programme on Protected Areas of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN GPAP); and the United Nations Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP WCMC)



ICCA-GSI support is provided at three different levels:

CBD Aichi targets



Target 11: Increase the global coverage of protected and conserved areas

By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscape and seascape.



Target 14: Safeguard ecosystems that provide essential services

By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities and the poor and vulnerable.



Target 18: Respect, protect and promote traditional knowledge for biodiversity conservation and sustainable use

By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels.

LOCAL LEVEL: Direct financial and technical support to community-based action and demonstration projects for the self-strengthening of ICCAs leading to ecosystem protection, legal empowerment, sustainable livelihoods and poverty reduction.

Projects are funded via the GEF Small Grants Programme delivery modality, aimed at securing and positively influencing 2-4 million hectares of ICCAs as contribution to the CBD Aichi Targets. Activities funded may inter alia include: (i) creating alliances which strengthen individual ICCAs, as well as existing ICCA networks and partnerships; (ii) improving the recognition of diverse customary governance systems for the sustainable use of natural resources; (iii) support to income-generating activities through sustainable use of biodiversity, and the application of conservation measures; as well as (iv) documenting and protecting traditional knowledge (TK), including support to inter-generational transfer of knowledge to younger generations.

NATIONAL LEVEL: Legal, policy and other forms of support to enhance ICCA recognition and conservation, including through national governance assessments using the IUCN matrix of management categories and governance types of protected areas and conserved areas, including “other effective

area-based conservation measures” (OECMs) referred to by Aichi Target 11. In partnership with the NGO Natural Justice, support to national frameworks and policies to provide appropriate legal recognition options for ICCAs in the participating GSI countries.

Sub-national, or provincial-level, projects may also support (i) ICCA recognition and land tenure titling; (ii) training sessions in spatial planning and GIS mapping; as well as (iii) inputting ICCA data into the UNEP WCMC Global ICCA Registry and World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA), through appropriate free prior and informed consent (FPIC) procedures.

GLOBAL AND REGIONAL LEVELS: Networking, knowledge production and exchange support between national CSO initiatives at regional and global levels to share expertise, experiences and resources. Workshops organized by the GSI in different regions of the world have resulted in more than 800 representatives of indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs) and civil society organizations (CSOs) engaging with government policy-makers, CBD focal points, UN agencies and donor partners, to examine the threats and opportunities to improve the overall recognition and appropriate forms of support to be offered to the custodians of ICCAs.

