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

Title of Workshop:

Establishing an Indigenous Mountain Peoples Adaptation Programme and Global South-South Exchange Platform

Level: Global

Place: Cusco, Peru

Date: 19 -23 April 2017



Background:

The Global Support Initiative to Indigenous Peoples and Community-Conserved Territories and Areas (ICCA-GSI) was formed to lead the improved recognition, support, and overall effectiveness for biodiversity conservation, sustainable livelihoods and resilience to climate change, of territories and areas conserved by indigenous peoples and local communities (ICCAs). To reach its intended goal, ICCA-GSI works at the global, national and local levels and is based on the principle of partnerships and adding value to existing community and civil society efforts. At the global and regional levels, ICCA-GSI facilitates the networking, knowledge production and exchange between national CSO initiatives. At the regional and national levels, it establishes learning networks to coordinate support for ICCAs and promotes regional exchanges between NGOs and CBOs working towards the recognition and support of ICCAs, governance of Protected Areas and co-management arrangements.

In this regard, ICCA-GSI supported a workshop to consolidate and strengthen the International Network of Mountain Indigenous Peoples' (INMIP) adaptation programme and global South-South exchange platform through a process that develops i) the relevant capacity for communities and civil society stakeholders, and accordingly strengthen their networking, and ii) the collaboration with government entities in the use of indicator information for sustainable development of indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs) in mountain and high altitude environments.

Workshop Participation and Activities:

The 5-day workshop was co-organized by the International Institute of Environment and Development (IIED) and Asociación Andes through global/regional grants from the GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP), an ICCA-GSI partner. Over 100 indigenous people representing 39 mountain communities from Bhutan, China, India, Kenya, Kyrgyz Republic, Papua New Guinea, Peru, the Philippines, Taiwan, Tajikistan and Thailand joined 26 representatives from civil society, research, government and donor organizations to discuss the role of indigenous and modern knowledge systems in improving the well-being of mountain communities in the face of climate change. The first day of the workshop entailed a multi-stakeholder dialogue on '**Indigenous and modern**

knowledge systems: Challenges and opportunities for the well-being of mountain communities towards 2050’. It was then followed by training sessions on **Resilient Biocultural Landscapes** in Potato Park.

Workshop Discussion Points:

I. ‘Indigenous and modern knowledge systems: challenges and opportunities for the well-being of mountain communities towards 2050’ - a multi-stakeholder one-day Mountains Dialogue (19 April 2017)

Fernando León, Peru’s Environment Vice-Minister, opened the session by announcing that the Potato Park would be the first area to be legally-recognized under Peru’s new law on Agrobiodiversity Zones. This would set a precedent for legal recognition of the country’s bio-cultural heritage territories.



A series of knowledge exchange sessions followed, with presentations on (i.) the development of culturally-led responses for climate-resilient development and articulation with indigenous peoples, also referred to as *Life Plans*, given by the representatives from the Ministry of Culture; (ii.) the Peruvian government’s initiatives in the Apurimac region to support afforestation by indigenous peoples using native species for mitigation and adaptation to climate change; (iii.) the experiences with biocultural landscapes in Papua New Guinea (PNG), given by the INMIP representative from PNG; (iv.) Participatory Plant Breeding in Yunnan, China, given by Naxi women; (v.) the role of Lepcha customary laws and practices in conservation of natural resources, given by an IP representative from the eastern Himalayas, India; and (vi.) an overview of the Kyrgyzstan’s biocultural heritage, given by an INMIP representative from the country.



Thereafter, a panel composed of indigenous representatives and the regional government of Cusco conferred on establishing a community monitoring system for the progress towards the Aichi Targets 11, 14 and 18 and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that are linked to government planning and policy-making. Panelists also shared the status of IP and ICCA recognition in their own countries: (i.) an indigenous panelist from Taiwan explained that her government currently does not value indigenous peoples’ knowledge and points out that this struggle has to be overcome for such community systems to work; (ii.) an INMIP representative from Tajikistan said they have a village planning system and government officials are invited to attend some of the planning meetings, which in turn leads to the inclusion of local priorities in the national planning processes; (iii.) an IP representative from the Philippines presented his communities’ experience on managing their legally-recognized ancestral domain and ICCA, alongside the government; and (iv.) the regional government of Peru stressed the need to improve linkages between the lowest level of government (which interfaces with communities) and the higher levels of government.

I. **Fourth INMIP Horizontal Learning Exchange on “Resilient Biocultural Landscapes”** (Potato Park, Peru; 20-23 April 2017)



Training sessions were interspersed by a biocultural festival wherein each country shared traditional dances, songs, gifts, food and drinks. On the final day, participants were given the choice of visiting Moray, an Incan agricultural experimentation center, or having a historical tour of the Inca city of Cusco. A biodiversity-rich lunch was provided by the women’s gastronomy group at the Potato Park restaurant each day.

The two-day training focused on methods and tools for establishing biocultural heritage landscapes. The training was given by indigenous representatives from the Potato Park, with translations provided by the INMIP coordinator, and delivered as participants walked through the landscapes of five different Potato Park communities. Below are the activities of the training sessions:

- (i.) **Module 1: Community planning:** Presentation of the Potato Park collective governance system, beliefs and guiding concept of ‘ayllu’ where wellbeing depends on reciprocity and balance between the sacred, wild and human/domesticated realms. Each country team then shared their own interpretations of ‘ayllu’, and mapped their owned territories / landscapes and biocultural resources.

- (ii.) **Module 2: Assessment of Biocultural Heritage Territories (BCHT) proposal, research and organization of resources:** The Potato Park technicians explained their approach for research and collecting baseline data about their territories and trends in livelihoods, crop diversity, climate etc. The women’s natural products collective presented their biocultural products (herbal tea, potato shampoo, etc.) and participants shared their experiences with biocultural product development. The Potato Park collective trademark was explained, where 10% of returns go to an inter-



community fund for benefit-sharing amongst communities at the end of each year, which also provides a safety net for the poorest (e.g. widows, orphans).



(iii.) Module 3: Implementation of Biocultural Territories.

By a highland lake, each country presented their maps and biocultural resources and explained how these are being or will be used to develop landscape-based biocultural products and services. Participants learned about the Potato Park's repatriation agreement with CIP, which returned 410 native varieties collected from the area, and visited experimental greenhouses where pre-basic potato seeds are being multiplied using a

sand phonic system to avoid contamination and where disease-free in vitro seeds are received and produced by farmers. They also visited an experimental transect which has been implemented by farmers, in collaboration with CIP, to monitor the impacts of climate change on potato farming. The farmers test potatoes at different altitudes, monitor temperature and humidity and set traps for pests, and see at what altitude potatoes can survive (given the rising planting line with increased temperature and soil pests). An excellent young researcher at ANDES, shared her findings on the park's potato wild relatives and took participants to an animal pen where potatoes are being grown by farmers and wild relatives can be seen growing side by side – a traditional practice to strengthen resilience of crops. She provided an exercise where participants were given hand-held GPS to collect data to monitor crop wild relatives. Participants also visited the Community Seed Bank which provides cold storage for potatoes and other Andean tubers, without using electricity, by using water and air flow, combining modern and traditional knowledge. Finally, they visited the Potato Park craft collective which uses traditional weaving and dyeing techniques.



(iv.) Module 4: Assessing progress and impacts and scaling up.

The head of Peru's Protected Area service, Marco Arenas, presented his vision for how the government can recognize and support effective community-managed conservation initiatives like the Potato Park biocultural territory, in a co-management approach that respects the existing indigenous governance system. In this way, governments can help to legally protect and scale-out indigenous biocultural heritage territories. He stressed the need to

integrate biocultural territories with regional sustainable development strategies rather than having isolated protected areas surrounded by unsustainable development.

In the wrap-up session of the Potato Park exchange, participants worked in country groups and provided feedback on what they thought are the most important elements of these 4 modules that should guide the establishment of biocultural landscapes. The results will provide the basis for developing a manual on biocultural landscapes that will be produced by INMIP members themselves. The development of the manual will be done through a participatory process to ensure that the final product is widely owned and used, while simultaneously empowering indigenous communities as authors.

- (v.) **Consolidating and strengthening INMIP and communications:** An INMIP Secretariat was established at ANDES with an International Learning Exchange Coordinator, Jessica Reilly, on board. There is an existing members' list-serve and is in the process of being widened with a list-serve of mountains researchers, governments and donors. The INMIP website (<https://inmip.net>) and a Facebook page have been established and both channels were used to share photos and information on the learning exchanges held in Potato Park.
- (vi.) **Community database and monitoring system:** IIED conducted hour-long interviews with six (6) country teams (i.e. indigenous communities) on the establishment of a community monitoring and database system for the Aichi targets and SDGs linked to government policy and planning: China, Taiwan, Tajikistan, Kenya, Papua New Guinea and Thailand. The feasibility and possible design of such a system was discussed. A report of the interviews will be prepared.

Outcomes:

As a result of these workshops, INMIP's vision, objectives and a 5-year Strategic Plan were developed with key activities identified, particularly for the coming year. A [Potato Park Declaration](#) was also drafted by participants. Additionally, the concept of Biocultural Heritage as discussed in the workshop has been published online by IIED in two languages: English <http://pubs.iied.org/G04151/> and Spanish: <http://pubs.iied.org/G04152/>.

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, Building and Nuclear Safety ([BMUB](#)). 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](#)).



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