

**14-17 de marzo/ 14-17<sup>th</sup> March**

III Seminario Permanente sobre Conservación Comunal e ICCA/ *III Permanent Seminar on Communal Conservation*

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## **1. Presentation on Study of Commons/ICCAs/Territories of Life in Romania, George-Adrian Iordachescu**

Followed by question and answer session on:

- Governance systems – structure in Romania usually includes General Assembly, Steering Committee, Auditing Committee, rules on membership, distribution and use of benefits/income, access to Commons.
- Restitution Laws – In Romania, around 2000, land was restituted, including common lands. This was possible because there was documentation on what had been in place prior to nationalisation.
- Overlaps between Commons and Protected Areas (Natura 2000).
- Need to identify and build capacity of possible leaders to rebuild governance structures.
- Education for children and communities to empower them to understand the issues and defend their rights.

## **2. Commons/ICCAs/Territories of Life in Spain, Sergio Couto**

- Clear overlap between community management and Natura 2000 areas.
- IUCN defines four types of governance
  - o Governance by governments
  - o Shared governance

- Private governance
- Indigenous peoples and community governance (this includes Commons/ICCAs/Territories of Life)
- Huge diversity of Commons/ICCAs/Territories of Life around Europe and north Africa.
- Three characteristics of Commons/ICCAs/Territories of Life
  - Well defined community and territory and a strong bond between the two.
    - Neighbours
    - Members of legal entity (eg hunting societies)
    - Local guild (profession)
  - Governance system that is able to take decisions and enforce their rules.
    - With a variable degree of independence
  - The previous two characteristics result in a positive outcome for conservation/restoration of habitats, species, ecological functions, etc.
    - Creation conservation of ecosystems
    - Sustainable livelihood generation and well-being of community
    - Environmental disaster mitigation
- Potential Commons/ICCAs/Territories of Life in Spain –
  - Pastoral/grazing Commons/ICCAs/Territories of Life – most grazing lands are Commons/ICCAs/Territories of Life
  - Forest Commons/ICCAs/Territories of Life – Common Forests, Partners’ Woodlands (communities joined to prevent nationalisation), Neighbour Woodlands (based on residency)
  - Hunting Commons/ICCAs/Territories of Life – 3,361 areas managed by local hunting societies, usually they don’t own the land
  - Watering/irrigation Commons/ICCAs/Territories of Life – increase period of availability of water in the basin. Some governance bodies (Tribunal de las Aguas) declared as World Cultural Heritage.
  - Marine Commons/ICCAs/Territories of Life – 229 fishing guilds. Small scale fisheries are very important for jobs in Spain.
  - Agricultural Commons/ICCAs/Territories of Life

### 3. Round of presentations of participants

Iago – Fisherman from a fishing guild that represents and governs a community. Part of Steering Committee of Iniciativa Comunes since January 2019.

**Luis Campos Saavedra** – PhD researcher from Seville University. Frame of work is the Economy for the Common Good (La Economía del Bien Común). Believe that GDP and other monetary measures are not the best measures of well-being so have developed a matrix to measure the Common Good including human dignity, transparency & democratic participation, solidarity & justice, sustainability. Movement started in 2010 and works with companies and local municipalities. There is a category for the Commons, but little work has been done on it so far. Ruiz is working to adapt the matrix specifically for the Commons. There is a list of 8 basic, democratic needs – water, finance, housing, food, transport, energy, social connection and internet connection – which are incorporated into the Commons matrix.

**Andrey Laletin** – activist from Siberia, Asian Russia. Biggest forest in world. Did PhD on conservation of pine forests, believe it was an ICCA/ Territory of Life but at the time we conserved it by making it a Protected Area. There are no ICCAs/ Territories of Life in Russia yet, but there are territories of traditional land use by indigenous people. Worked at FSC, academia. Now chair of 'Friends of Siberian Forest', vice-chair of FoE Russia and works for Global Forest Coalition. Have worked with ICCA Consortium for a long time. Two forms of property in Russia – state property and private property. Communities can influence on forests and land but there is no recognition of community property or rights.

**Marcos Cerra** – Spain. Has worked with local communities for some time.

**Ugo D'Ambrosio** – Global Diversity Foundation – work on Mediterranean programme in high Atlas of Morocco, Agdal systems of pastoral communal lands. There are other systems working in a communal way, including water management and granaries.

**Francisco Cuodey** – one of Pablo's students. From Chile. PhD research on pastoral commons in Andalucía. Interested in peer review process for registering ICCAs in the ICCA Registry. Worried about constant changes in definitions between Commons/ICCAs/Territories of Life and the impact for peer-review and communities already registered.

**Antoine Scherer** – Snowchange Cooperative based in Finland but works internationally with many indigenous and local communities. Peer review process is very important in Circumpolar north. For peer review, you need a peer and it is hard to find these peers in an appropriate region that can understand the specificities of our situation. Would prefer self-declaration by communities. Huge awareness of ethnic origin in circumpolar north.

**Iris Benes** – Croatia – come from a village which is an ICCAs/ Territories of Life/Significant landscape. Moved and surprised by presentation from Romania, learnt a lot but am sad for the situation in Croatia. Collective governance advocates are suffering economically because of it. We are seriously considering separating because it is hard to see a future. We will never get legal recognition and reclaim rights. **Sergio** – we have had situations like this and have worked to document how a community used to function in the hope that the situation may change in the future.

**Emma Courtine** – Programme and Communication Officer of ICCA Consortium. Based in France but worked in other contexts as well. Looking into the situation in France.

**Avelino Rego** – Portugal, responsible for management of a common area. Believe I live in an ICCA/ Territory of Life even though it is not recognised. Concerned about migration of people away from villages and communities. Also, lobbying for appropriate use of livestock to graze landscape to reduce fire hazards. We need support from other communities to work towards common goals. Young people see no future in the villages, so we are doing work to

improve the image of rural life to encourage and empower people to stay and contribute. Concerned about communication of correct information.

**Ted Karfarkis** – member of community on a Greek island. Terra Sylvestris work with communities on ground who are faced with threats from development. Concerned about regionalisation process of ICCA Consortium which may produce negative results – Greece maybe put in the wrong region and so might other countries. Peer review process – may not be good for communities on the ground or biodiversity.

**Aysegul Yilmaz** – Hm from Turkey. Love concept of ICCAs/ Territories of Life. Turkey is a very difficult context and I have not yet been able to conduct study on ICCAs/ Territories of Life in Turkey but I hope to contribute to research on this in the future. There are lots of threats, are there any support mechanisms for ICCAs/ Territories of Life faced by external threats?

**Sarah Ryder** – Programme Manager of ICCA Consortium – happy to be here to directly learn more from community representatives.

**Grazia Borrini-Feyerabend** – Global Coordinator of ICCA Coordinator. Aysegul made some very good points and this body could help support with some of these. Consortium was built to provide solidarity and support. We need to ask ourselves what we can do to help in a country like Turkey. One of the earliest meetings of the Consortium took place in Turkey and we were hopeful. At end of workshop we spoke to representatives from Ministry of Environment – they felt the concept of ICCAs/ Territories of Life was very dangerous. The situation in the country has deteriorated since then. Hesitate to suggest a study on ICCAs/ Territories of Life in Turkey because of the dangers there. This is also the case in other countries.

**Aili Pyhälä** - lecturer in development studies at University of Helsinki in Finland. On Council of Consortium as representative of northern Europe and Russia. Interested in combining work in academia with work of Consortium. Appreciate Antoine's contribution on the peer review process. Support the Consortium being open, adaptable and inclusive rather than critical, but see the value of a peer review. Maybe each region could decide on this. Working on issues of extractivism and local livelihoods – easy to ignore the increasing amount of extractivism. Appreciate sharing of Avelino's philosophical views of knowledge and education and handing these on to younger generations.

**George-Adrian Iordachescu** - Romania – ICCAs/ Territories of Life has more potential than we have discussed yet. More than human actors – rivers, forests, animals.... – should be considered as well.

**Aibek Samokov** – Kyrgyzstan – Have discussed Commons/ ICCAs/ Territories of Life and their definitions a lot. It would be interesting to conduct an extensive study on local concepts of their territory and the names they use. This may give us some paths forwards for practical goals and language to use in different situations. I encountered this in my work with Sacred Sites. Would link with linguistic and biological diversity.

**Sergio Couto** – Responsible in Consortium for the ICCA Registry. This provides an important way of recognising the work of Members. There are so many urgent matters that need to be addressed by all communities. However, we have limited capacities and we should not forget this and allow ourselves to be overwhelmed and demotivated. Most of us here have just met or have only met a few times but we need to start working on something concrete. We are trying to establish a governance system for our community here and need to be aware of our limitations in funding, work capacity and a concept (Commons/ ICCAs/ Territories of Life) that is still evolving. From my work with the Commons I know that we need to have a long-term vision backed up by humble goals and allow ourselves time to develop as a functioning community. Should focus on basics – relationships and a very few activities.

#### 4. ICCA Registry of UNEP-WCMC, Sergio Couto

Each country will create its own process. Spain has already established a process which others can use for reference. Many communities were looking for recognition. Communities have been able to use this recognition to support the sale of products, face direct threats from destructive industries, support community leaders to explain their

aims, encourage community participation in governance structures, improved access to funding, greater public awareness, networking with other communities.

The ICCA Registry should be:

- Governed by ICCAs/ Territories of Life
- Independent from government
- A self-declared based registry
- A registry that goes further than Protected Areas
- A quality registry

The ICCA Registry is managed by UNEP-WCMC with facilitation from the ICCA Consortium, but it is the communities who own the data and conduct peer review processes to evaluate candidates.

In Spain, Iniciativa Comunes facilitates the registration process. Information and documentation are available in Spanish on their website.

Steps in the ICCA Registration process:

- Free, Prior and Informed Consent of community on joining the ICCA Registry
- Application forms are completed
- Application forms are sent to anonymous evaluators (members of communities from related ICCAs/ Territories of Life) who work with a facilitator
- Evaluation reports are sent to the Committee for review
- Annual Permanent Seminar makes final decision
- Application sent to UNEP-WCMC

#### Questions and comments:

**Aili** – evaluators should not only come from communities, there may be other people who are able to conduct these peer reviews. How can you combine anonymity and visiting the site? **Sergio** – not easy to find evaluators as it is time-consuming. Spain decided to confine evaluators to commoners but there is the possibility to invite experts to advise in the Committee but they don't vote. Anonymity is important. The Facilitator has direct contact with the community and can visit and report to the evaluator. **Iago** – evaluator has to be a community expert but not all commoners are good. **Grazia** – reminder of the start of this process. Initially it was possible to list ICCAs/ Territories of Life in the international registry in Cambridge but we asked who should be in charge of judging whether it is an ICCA/ Territory of Life. Many communities will not accept an outside expert coming and judging their value. This led to the idea of peer review. Iniciativa Comunes has done great work in setting up this process which has been difficult. **Ted** – most experts tend to be predatory but many communities can be worse. UNEP has a presence in Greece. **Emma** – recently asked by colleagues in Ecuador about peer review processes around the world. Put them in contact with people in the Philippines who have negative reflections on the process. **Sergio** – key question –

there is a problem with the Registry because either you are in or you are out. There may be communities with problems who are working hard but are excluded, is this helpful? Some excluded communities feel bad about their exclusion. Maybe, everyone should be allowed to enter the Registry and then include an evaluation on various aspects of the community and give them information and help on areas they need to improve. This will be discussed more later in the Seminar. **Grazia** – in last few years we have started looking at peer review **and support** process. We need to support each other rather than just evaluate each other. **Andrey** – it is important who acts as judge on whether ICCAs/Territories of Life can be part of Registry. Approach should be as open as possible and support ICCAs/Territories of Life to meet and exchange experiences and provide mutual support. **Avelino** – outside experts will not understand the particular situation of an ICCA/Territory of Life but community members are more likely to. **Francisco** – because of issues in Spain, does the Consortium feel they have a role to play in helping to resolve problems? If not the Consortium, then who? **Grazia** – in all traditional systems there is usually a reference point for conflict management. We have a Council of Elders in the Consortium who are not involved day-to-day but are available when necessary to provide supportive advice. If we change the name to peer support and review, it could include a mechanism for conflict management. Consortium can always offer an opinion, as we did last year for the Spanish situation. A country-based mechanism may be more effective. **Sergio** – agree that there should be a country mechanism but, the Consortium should ultimately be involved if necessary, as the reference point on ICCAs/Territories of Life. The Council of the ICCA Consortium could be consulted. **Emma** – Francisco and Pablo are studying the effectiveness of the peer review process Registry. How will the content of their study be used? **Francisco** – for 3 years we have been working on comments on the ICCA Registry – communities, registration process. Document gives history of ICCAs as a concept, how the platform works.

## 5. Sustainable Livelihoods and Communities, Aili Pyhälä

New theme of work for the ICCA Consortium. There is a working group to address the issue. Works to promote the well being and self-reliance of ICCAs/Territories of Life. Draw links between sustainable livelihoods and ICCAs/Territories of Life and what options do we have to strengthen these. How do ICCAs/Territories of Life perceive their own situation in terms of sustainability? What challenges and needs to they face? Aim to map out tools and processes to help this reflection. Will put out a call for case studies of ICCAs/Territories of Life where there is some progress towards sustainable livelihoods. Looking for success stories and stories of threats/challenges.

Aiming to serve our members by allowing for exchange, providing support as appropriate and communicate this to external bodies that should know about it.

Have held workshops in Latin America and Africa with slightly different questions, building and evolving as we go along. Today we will focus on European region.

Priority questions:

- a) What does *sustainable livelihoods* mean to you?
- b) What are the main advantages, disadvantages and needs of ICCA/Territory of Life custodians in the region for achieving, maintaining and managing sustainable livelihoods now and in the long term?

- c) Who are the main partners, networks, organisations, institutions, platforms, etc that can help support ICCA/Territory of Life custodians in the region to strengthen themselves and render their livelihoods as secure and sustainable as possible?
- d) How could strategies of exchange, capacity building and formation of alliances work in practice?

Extra questions:

- e) What are the most pressing challenges? (across multiple levels – local, national, global)
- f) How might relevant bodies/networks (such as the ICCA Consortium) best showcase to national & global policy evidence & argumentation of how ICCAs are contributing to more sustainable modes of living – and thus also wellbeing?
- g) Who else is doing what in this space? What guidelines, frameworks, models, opportunities, etc are available to inform us, tap into and work with?
- h) How can/should the ICCA Consortium proceed to tackle these questions?

*Feedback from group work taken by Emma*

Concrete suggestions for future meetings of this group from Sergio:

- Incorporation of sustainable livelihoods in the concept of conservation
- Next year will be 2 days of international exchanges
- Next year we will decide on practical activities and products to help communities (Sergio will write for some suggestions)
- May use working groups to decide on ideas for next meetings
- Consider different formats for parts of the meetings – eg Open Space
- Build the basics that we need to work together – communication channels, areas of expertise, development of a network, good cases of ICCAs/Territories of Life