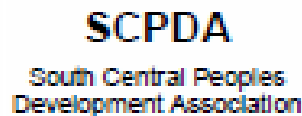


Challenges and opportunities in relation to customary sustainable use

The Fourth Global Conference of IPSI – Public Forum
Implementing the IPSI Strategy for the Benefit of Biodiversity and Human Wellbeing:
Challenges and Opportunities for SEPLS from Local Perspectives

Dr Maurizio Farhan Ferrari



Inter-Mountain Peoples' Education and Culture In Thailand Association



Convention on Biological Diversity

Article 10: *Sustainable Use*

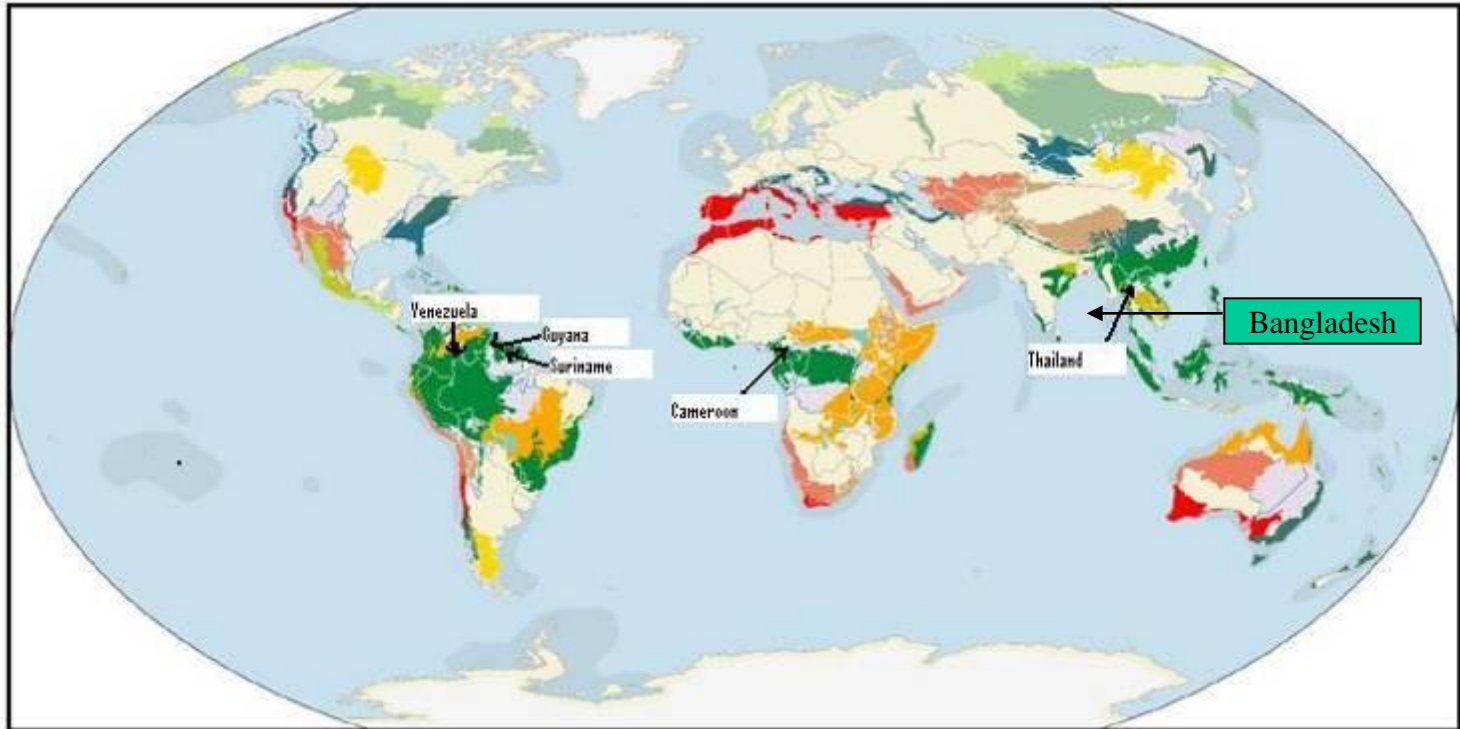
Article 10(c)

*Protect and encourage **customary use** of biological resources in accordance with **traditional cultural practices** that are compatible with **conservation or sustainable use requirements***



See also Target 18 of 2011-2020 SP

10(c) Cases: Where & Who?



- Venezuela by Sanema and Ye'kwana IPs
- Guyana by Wapichan IPs
- Suriname Lokono and Kalina IPs
- Thailand by Karen and Hmong IPs
- Cameroon with Baka IPs
- Bangladesh with Sundarbans resource users (incl. Munda IP)
- Panama by Guna IP



Savannah and forest, Guyana



Mountain, Northern Thailand



Mangrove and coastal, Bangladesh



Marine and terrestrial, Panama

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Each land-seascape provides a long list of natural and social benefits to the communities living there and each community has developed sophisticated management systems over centuries or millennia

**What are the key challenges/obstacles
to effective SEPLS management at
the local level?**

1. Lack of recognition and respect of customary laws and importance of customary use and traditional knowledge

Example: Sundarbans mangrove forest, Bangladesh

- The knowledge and practices and customary rules of traditional resource users (*golpata* and wood harvesters, honey collectors and artisanal fishers) are disregarded in official development and conservation management plans by both government and international agencies
- Top-down natural resource management and conservation approaches exclude and undermine customary sustainable use



2. External pressures on traditional lands and inadequate participation in decision-making

Example: Suriname

- Unsustainable commercial bauxite mining and logging in important community-use areas
- Restricted access to these areas for communities
- Game is withdrawing and the fish stock is deteriorating.
- Individual land titles are given to outsiders.



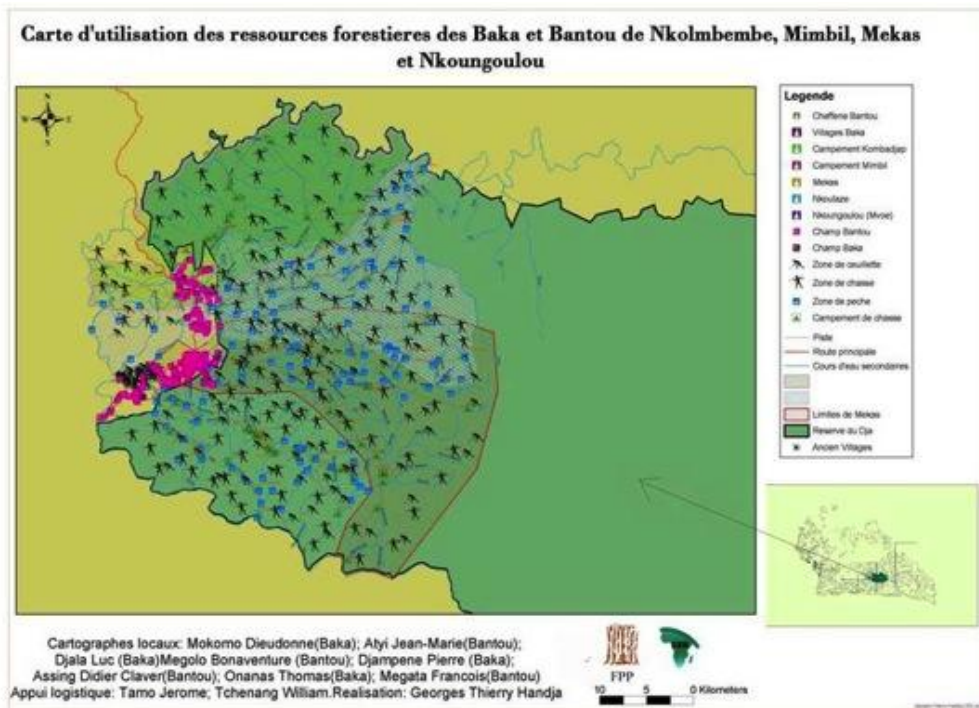
Destruction of areas and/or reduced access to resources leads to decline of customary practices and knowledge



3. Restrictions following establishment of protected areas

Example: Cameroon

- Two national parks overlapping traditional lands of Baka hunter-gatherers established in 2005
- Baka communities largely excluded from the park area, affecting:
 - Baka's livelihoods and subsistence
 - health (decreased access to medicinal plants),
 - and culture and knowledge



This has major impacts on customary sustainable use and related knowledge of the communities.

Example 2: Thailand: National Park boundary cutting through community landscape



4. Mainstream education and assimilation policies

- Many current education systems are aimed at assimilation and enforcing non-indigenous languages and do not provide education on sustainable use and conservation
- This can lead to the loss of indigenous languages, local knowledge and related practices.
- Loss of language leads to loss of biodiversity knowledge (as other languages cannot explain concepts as in local language) and loss of biodiversity



Example Cameroon:

- Sedentary, farming lifestyle forced on Baka hunter-gatherers
- Transmission of knowledge and skills in the forest, in Baka language, is in danger of being lost

5. Insecure land and resource tenure

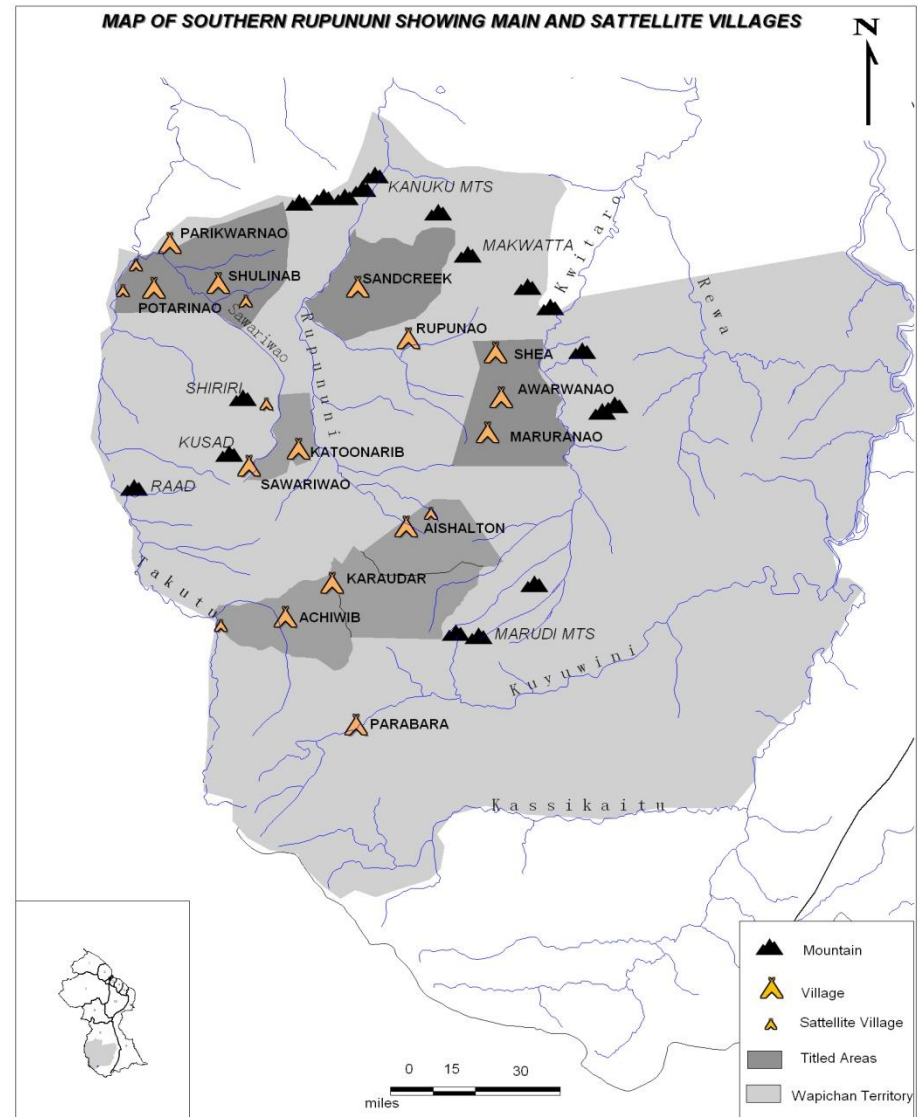
Example: Guyana

Dark Grey:
land titles issued to Wapichan
Communities in 1976

Light Grey:
Wapichan Territorial Claim in
1967

To the Amerindian Lands
Commission

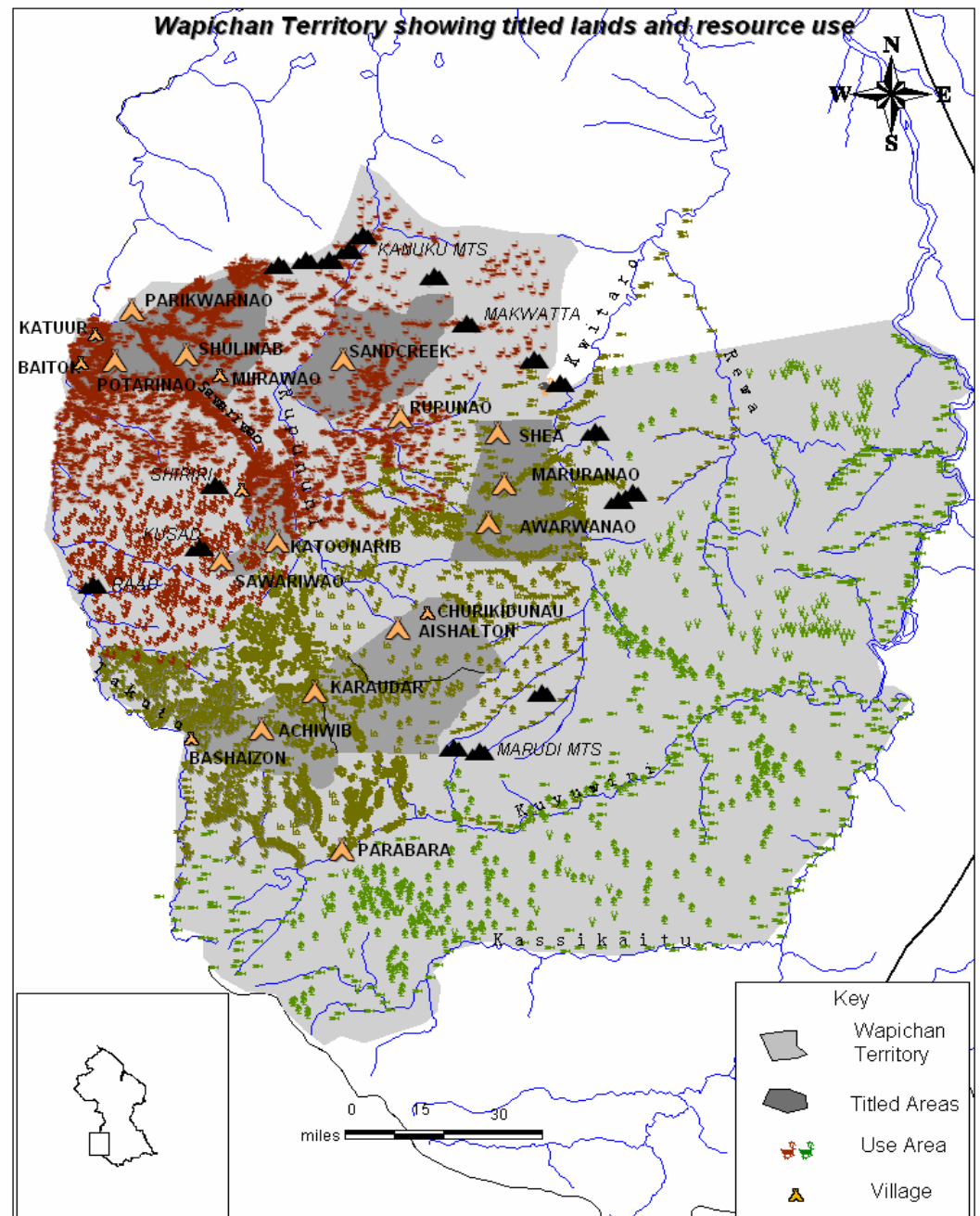
Colonial laws governing
natural resources biased
against communities



Wapichan Concept of occupation and sustainable use

Access to and control of resources is a fundamental requirement to maintain and practise customary use and traditional knowledge.

Customary use and practices cannot be disconnected from resources in traditional lands and territories



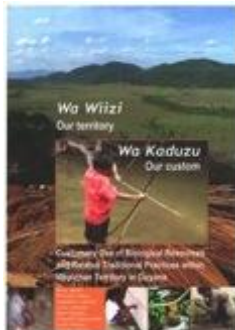
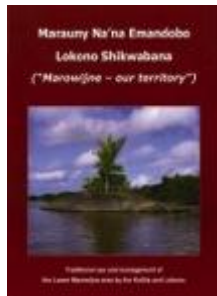
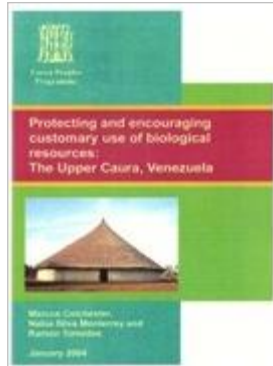
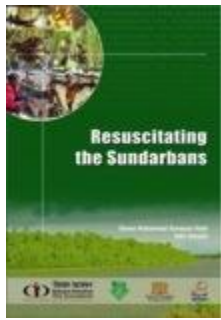
Opportunities

Communities are contributing to solutions...
e.g. by

Combining traditional knowledge with modern science and technology to generate useful processes to address challenges described above

1. Documenting customary use and law

- explain customary management systems and important role of customary laws & institutions.
- demonstrate value of customary practices and traditional knowledge
- used as education material / transfer of traditional knowledge
- basis of mapping and territorial management plans
- contributing to increased understanding and acknowledgement of the value of customary practices and traditional knowledge



2. Community mapping

Community mappers trained to collect data

Use of GPS/GIS

Group discussions, interviews

Validations

Corrections and revisions



Thailand: land use map of Khuntae village

Total area: 15,337 Rai
Farming: 1,730 (11.2%)
Use Forest: 7,210 (47%)
Conservation 5,855 (38.2%)
Govt Project: 364 (2.4%)
Settlements: 178 (1.2%)
[total forest area: 85.2%]

Rotational fields 935 Rai

Ritual forest 1,593 Rai

Public land
51 Rai

Burial grounds 296 Rai

Community
conserved forest
1,297 Rai

Use forest 7,159
Rai

Traditional forbidden
forest 67 Rai

Spring area 2,602 Rai

Government reforestation

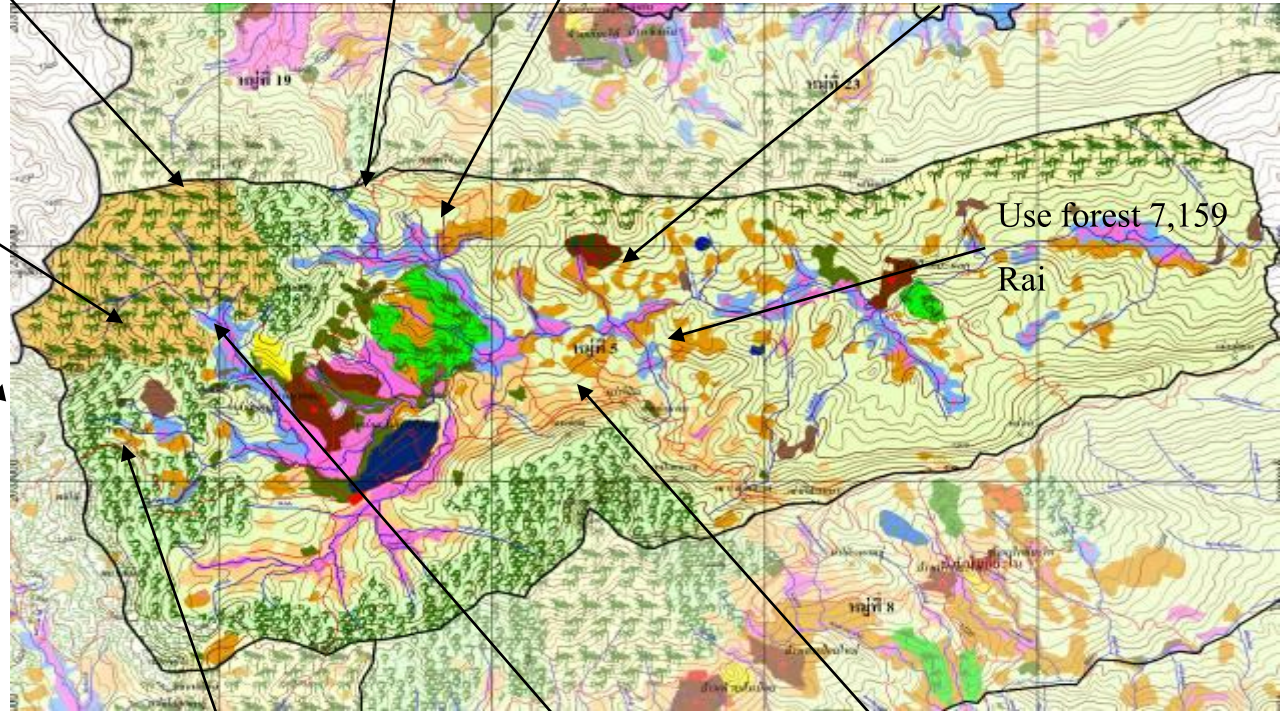
232 Rai

Settlement 178 Rai

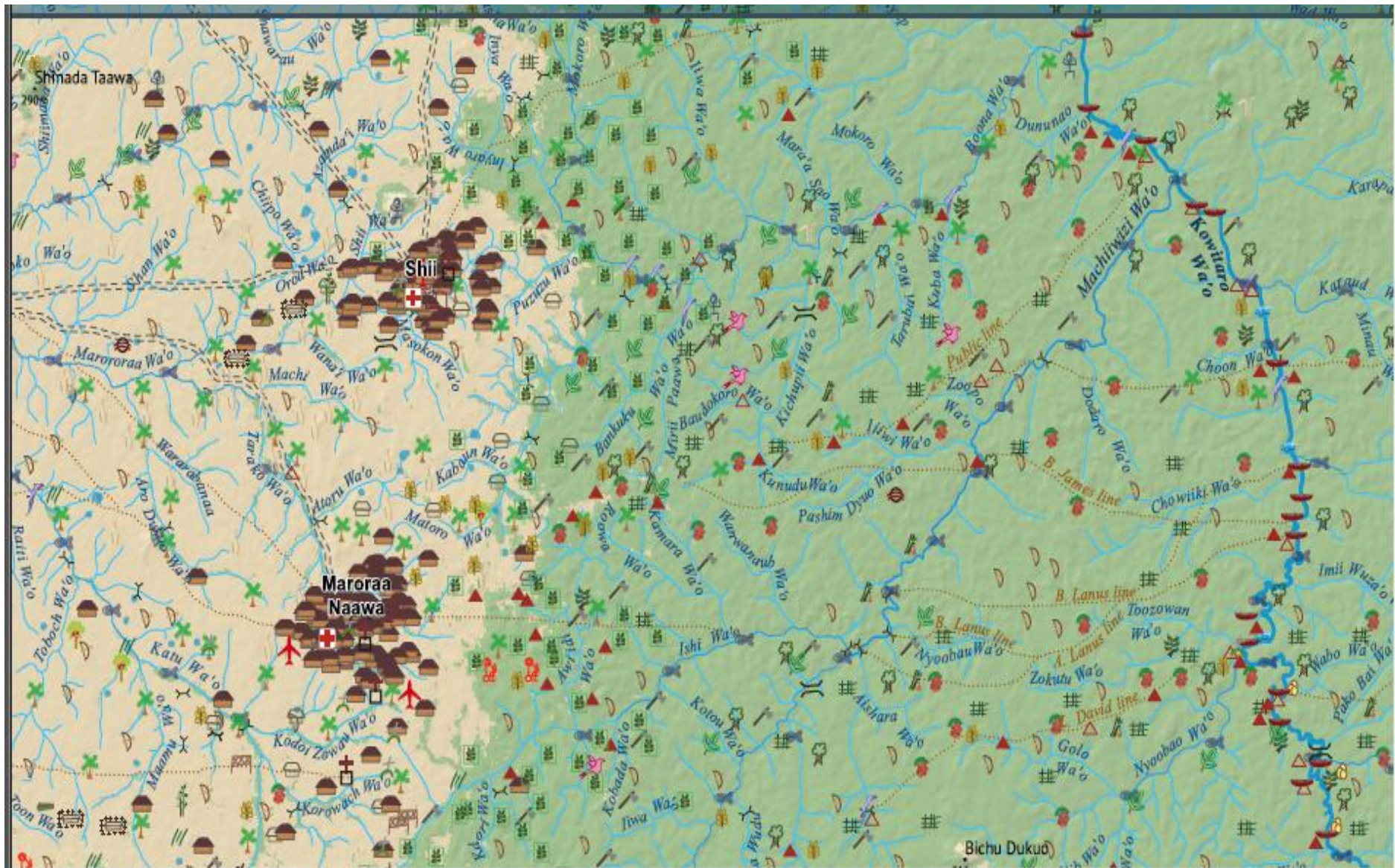
Queen project 132 Rai

Paddy 795 Rai

Grazing area



Snapshot of the Wapichan living map





**Soburun
(Sand Creek)**

Katu Wa'o

Mawar Wa'o

Irim Wa'o

Kibarod Wa'o

Manyoban Wa'o

Shoswin Wa'o

Pakobbi Wa'o

Katu Wa'o

Kudu Wa'o

Amy Wa'o

Kanorun Wa'o

Kusto Wa'o

Cibie Wa'o

3. Participatory videos



OKANI staff taking PV training.
Credit: InsightShare



4. Developing added value products (in development and experimentation)

- Honey cooperatives and climate-adaptive agro-silvo-aquaculture in Sundarbans
- Natural dyes and herbs, organic coffee and tea in Thailand
- Community tourism in Panama
- Biodiversity-friendly crop production enhancement in Guyana

These approaches, especially documentation of CSU, community mapping and participatory videos, have been useful for:

1. increasing knowledge and awareness about the importance and relevance of CSU and TK

2. Addressing external threats



Combining maps and P-videos to monitor illegal logging and other in Cameroon

Increasing participation and promoting FPIC in decision-making that affects communities

- mining
- logging and plantations
- infrastructure projects
- protected areas
- REDD+
- etc



Getting involved in collaborative protected areas governance and management

Example: Thailand

- The communities joined the government-coordinated 'Joint Management of Protected Areas Project' in Ob Luang National Park which overlaps with their traditional territory.
- Through their involvement, the communities were able to
 - address access and resource use issues in and around the protected area
 - become more involved in the decision-making and management of the protected area
 - develop good relationship with the National Parks authorities



Developing initiatives to protect, maintain and revitalise TK and indigenous languages



Karen and Hmong in Thailand organise youth camps to pass on indigenous culture and knowledge related to the environment and promote bilingual education in schools



Indigenous education festival in Suriname

Improving land tenure security and developing territorial management plans



Example:
Wapichan people, Guyana



BAOKOPA'O WA DI'ITINPAN WADAUNIINAO ATI'O NII

Kaimanamana'o, wa zaamatapan, wa di'itapan na'apamnii wa sha'apatan Wapichan wiizi Guyana'ao raza

THINKING TOGETHER FOR THOSE COMING BEHIND US

An outline plan for the care of Wapichan territory in Guyana

BAOKOPA'O WA DI'ITINPAN WADAUNIINAO ATI'O NII

*Kaimanamana'o, wa zaamatapan, wa di'itapan
na'apamnii wa sha'apatan
Wapichan wiizi Guyana'ao raza*

THINKING TOGETHER FOR THOSE COMING BEHIND US

*An outline plan for the care of
Wapichan territory in Guyana*

*A document of the
Indigenous peoples of the South Rupununt*



CONTENTS:

- ① **Objectives:** purpose of the plan
- ② **Vision** for Wapichan territory in 25 years hence
- ③ 5 chapters on '**different kinds of lands**'
- ④ 6 Chapters on different **land uses**
- ⑤ 3 Chapters on **important places** in Wapichan territory
- ⑥ 2 chapters on **development**
- ⑦ 1 chapter on local **governance** and **implementation**

**Wapichannao
Kazanatap nii Kanoko
(Wapichan Conserved Forest)**



WAPICHAN CONSERVED FOREST

We love our beautiful land that we call
Wapichan wiizi



An aerial photograph of a massive waterfall cascading over a wide, rocky cliff face. The water is white and frothy as it falls, creating a misty spray at the base. The surrounding landscape is a dense, lush green forest. The text "Thank You" is overlaid in the upper right quadrant of the image.

Thank You