IPCCA
Indigenous Peoples' Biocultural Climate Change Assessment

On-the-ground activities for supporting biocultural territories

IPSI Public Forum

Nagoya, March 11, 2011

The challenge of climate change

Indigenous peoples' have nurtured resilient biocultural territories through their traditional practices and knowledge.

Climate change is an emergent global phenomenon with local impacts on ecosystems and people. Living in fragile ecosystems, indigenous peoples are at the frontlines of climate change – biocultural resilience is threatened.

Main Objective of the IPCCA

To empower indigenous peoples to asses the impacts of climate change on their communities and ecosystems in order to develop and implement strategies at local, national and international levels for building adaptive capacity and strengthening resilience of their biocultural territories.

Biocultural territories contain resilient productive landscapes or *Satoyama* landscapes

IPCCA Objectives	Satoyama Approach
Use indigenous inquiry to build understanding of the impacts of climate change on all aspects of biocultural territories	Consolidating wisdom on securing diverse ecosystem services and values
Build adaptation strategies that combine indigenous knowledge and science to ensure well-being	Integrating traditional ecological knowledge and modern science to promote innovations
Strengthening the capacity of indigenous communities to govern and manage their biocultural territories and securing their land rights	Exploring new forms of co-management systems or evolving frameworks of “commons” while respecting traditional communal land tenure

Local Assessments

Currently there are nine IPCCA local assessments under implementation in a variety of biocultural systems worldwide. Local partners are facilitating assessments of climatic conditions and trends within local biocultural systems and their impacts on livelihoods and well-being, and are systematically documenting the role of indigenous knowledge and practices for building evidence-based community adaptation plans.

'Pacific North Western Tribes' Pacific North America

Assessing the environmental, cultural and socio-economic impacts of climate change and community adaptations employing traditional knowledge (TK).

'Zapara Territory' Amazonia, Ecuador

Aim is to evaluate environmental impacts of climate change on indigenous subsistence. Especially on agriculture, hunting and gathe rings well as the impact of oil extraction activities and its contribution to local and global climate

'Parque de la Papa', Cusco, Peru

In the Potato Park, climate change is affecting agrobiodiversity, especially native potatoes and wild varieties, and thus food sovereignty. Therefore the delicate system with the Pacha Mama (Mother Earth) and "Buen Vivir" is endangered.

Kuna Yala, Panama

In Kuna Yala, sea level rises are threatening the food sovereignty, health and survival of the Kuna People.

Maasai, Kenya

Longer cold seasons, frequent droughts and the loss of indigenous knowledge has meant a need to create coping mechanisms among the pastoralist Maasai people in Kenya.

'Skolt Sami Nation' Lapland, Finland

Providing adaptation and survival mechanisms for the Sami community who is endangered by melting permafrost by documenting alternative traditions reindeer herding solutions and inovative solar methods.

'Adivasi' Andhra Pradesh, India

In Andhra Pradesh, India, Adivasi communities aim to assess the impact of climate change and strengthen resilience by securing rights to natural resources.

'Huay Manao', Thailand

In Huay Manao, Thailand, a warmer climate, decreased rainfall and reduced water levels (due to government policies) have resulted in a need to develop indigenous adaptation strategies.

'Ifugao' Cordillera, Philippines

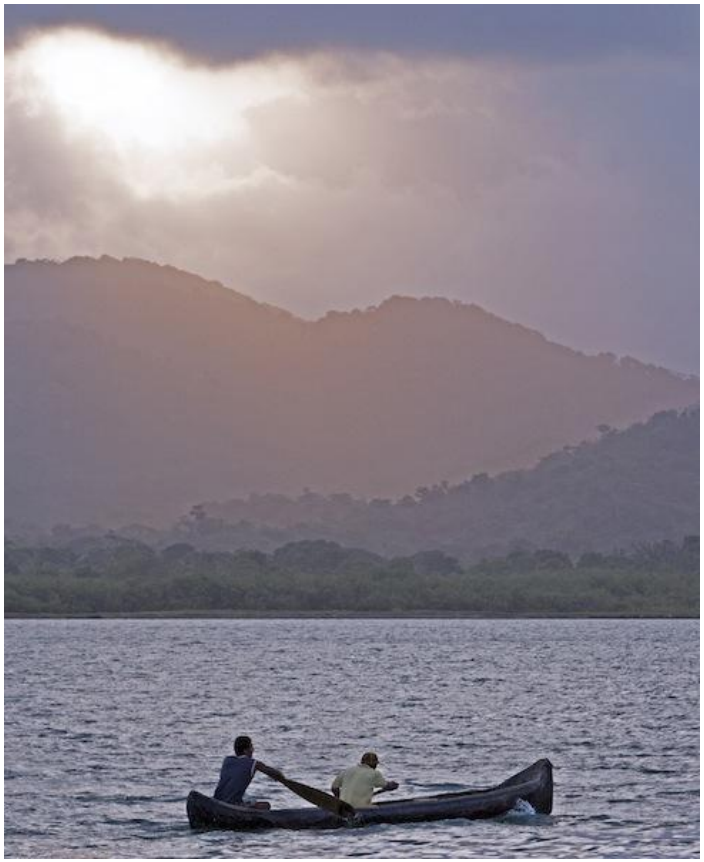
Collecting traditional climate change adaptation mechanism and identifying the observed Climate Changes and the impact in recent years on community ecosystems, livelihoods and culture.

IPCCA Methodology

Based on 'on-the-ground' community processes and indigenous methods

- Underlying principles: Participatory, Emancipatory
- Gender balanced
- Phased approach

Central American Program



Consolidating lessons learnt through building comprehensive regional programs – such as a Central America program:

1. Local Community Processes for understanding resilience in biocultural territories
2. Academic and educational program on methodologies through work with indigenous universities – PhD program for indigenous students
3. Supporting environmental and indigenous networks for building resilience and adaptive capacity
4. Influencing policy through regional, national and international participation

Contribution to 'on-the-ground activities' cluster

- Diverse biocultural territories (*Satoyama* landscapes) bring wealth of experiences through which we build methodological and conceptual tools
- Support horizontal networking and exchange of knowledge
- Synthesis of results to respond to local and global challenges