



# ICCA Support Initiative in COLOMBIA

Fomentado por el:



Ministerio Federal de Medio Ambiente, Protección de la Naturaleza, Obras Públicas y Seguridad Nuclear



Convention on Biological Diversity

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Al servicio de las personas y las naciones



A close-up photograph of a vibrant green tree frog perched on a large, bright red flower. The frog is positioned on the right side of the frame, facing left. Its body is covered in small, dark green spots, and its large, prominent eyes are clearly visible. The frog's front legs are extended, gripping the edge of the flower. The flower's petals are a deep, saturated red, with some lighter, almost white, variegation. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green, suggesting a natural, forest-like environment. The overall lighting is bright, highlighting the textures of the frog's skin and the flower's petals.

One of the five  
megadiverse  
countries in  
the world

% of the national  
territory is titled to and  
governed by  
indigenous and  
Afrocolombian  
communities

most 40 million hectares





50% of the country's  
remaining forests are in  
collective territories





Biodiversity conservation in Colombia highly depends on the capacity of communities to preserve, manage and conserve their territories





SGP focuses on community based organizations.

139 funded projects since 2015

## TICCA in Colombia

### SGP portfolio:

32 projects

1 million USD in grants plus similar cofinancing



**“Mapping the territory allowed us to acknowledge, value,  
and respect the territory, strengthening our identity”**

**Community &  
territory**





# Community & territory

- **Mapping and walking the territory** is a key strategy for the ownership, recognition and pride of communities' territories and identity.
- **Traditional knowledge** and local wisdom start to be valued by the communities.
- **Diverse forms of community organization and decision making** processes related to cultural practices define their **profound bond with the territory** and its management.
- **Active participation of the community** (young, women, elder, etc) is **key for community strengthening and long lasting governance**. Its funding is a challenge.





# Self-governance



“Our elders, holders of tradition, share their knowledge with younger generations. With this support we are encouraged to revive, strengthen and obey the norms of the Law of Origin”.

Puerto Nariño Vaupés



# Self-governance

- **Diverse instruments, norms and local agreements** for land-use planning defined and agreed in participatory manners generate **ownership and commitment to comply**.
  - Key tools for dialogue with relevant authorities.
- **Exercise of self-governance:** laws, landmarks and territorial demarcation, and greater presence and control over the territory.
  - Environmental guards become local pacific authority figures and fill the void left by illegal armed groups
- **Permanent adaptation and reconfiguration of the governance systems.**
  - Dialogue and interaction traditional authorities and political
  - Intergenerational dialogue
  - women's participation and leadership



Batons of command of the Indigenous Guard. A symbol of authority.



*We are acknowledging a territory which is not the traditional one, but that we are taking possession of and appropriating” Jair ASOAIN TAM*

**Conservation of  
nature and  
livelihoods**





# Conservation & livelihoods

- **Territorial ordering.** Diverse land use planning and zoning stemming from particular local practices of use and traditional knowledge.
- **Diversity of management and conservation strategies** developed using **innovative and intercultural approaches**, according to sociocultural contexts.
- **Sustainable use.** Self-acknowledgement and valuing of natural resources, traditional knowledge and cultural values promotes improvements of productive practices and services communities can offer.





An aerial photograph showing a dark, winding river that meanders through a vast, dense, and vibrant green forest. The river's path is highly irregular, creating several large, rounded loops and sharp turns. The surrounding forest is thick and uniform in color, with some lighter green patches indicating different tree species or canopy heights. The overall scene is a striking contrast between the dark water and the lush greenery.

*“The result of ICCAs discussions and exchanges is the collaborative construction of the meaning of ICCAs in each community”.*

Flying to Tarapacá, Amazonas  
Photo: Leonardo Parra



# Weaving collective work. ICCA network

- **15 organizations and more willing to join**
- **Mandate**
- **A social community movement** for the self-definition of the TICCA national framework, and a dialogue platform





“We conceive the TICCA Network as the autonomous and collective construction of a community movement to visibilize, strengthen and promote our territories of life -TICCA”





# Conclusions

- An integrated support that recognizes the diversity of the contexts and needs of the ethnic and local communities (ICCAs) is needed for the empowerment and strengthening of the ICCA governance.
- Participatory decision making processes and collective appropriation provide solid basis for effective management and conservation.
- The ICCA Colombian Network aims to be a platform to raise awareness and contribute to policy for the national recognition and support of ICCAs.
- Despite a strong work on OEEM (CCS) in Colombia and institutional subnational support, they are not legally recognized yet, nor are ICCAs.
- The challenge is to have ICCA and OEEM methodologies and processes that are in line with the local capacities and diverse forms of governance.









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