

# **Current Debates on Big, Bold Conservation Targets and Opportunities for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities**

**Collective presentation of the ICCA Consortium by:**  
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**The ICCA  
Consortium**



A low-angle photograph of a person climbing a very tall, slender tree in a lush, green forest. The person is positioned on the right side of the frame, reaching up towards the canopy. The tree trunk is light-colored and textured, contrasting with the dense green foliage. The sky is visible through the leaves at the top of the frame.

**At least**

**50%**

**of the world's land is held  
collectively by Indigenous  
peoples and local communities**



A low-angle shot looking up into a dense tropical forest. Sunlight filters through the thick canopy of green leaves and branches. A person is visible climbing a tree trunk in the upper right portion of the frame. The overall scene is lush and vibrant, emphasizing biodiversity.

Up to

80%

of the world's remaining  
biodiversity is found within  
**collective territories and lands**





# 1 in 3

people depend on  
these communal  
lands for their  
livelihoods and  
wellbeing



**However, Indigenous peoples and local communities have formal legal ownership over only**

**10%**

**of the world's land**

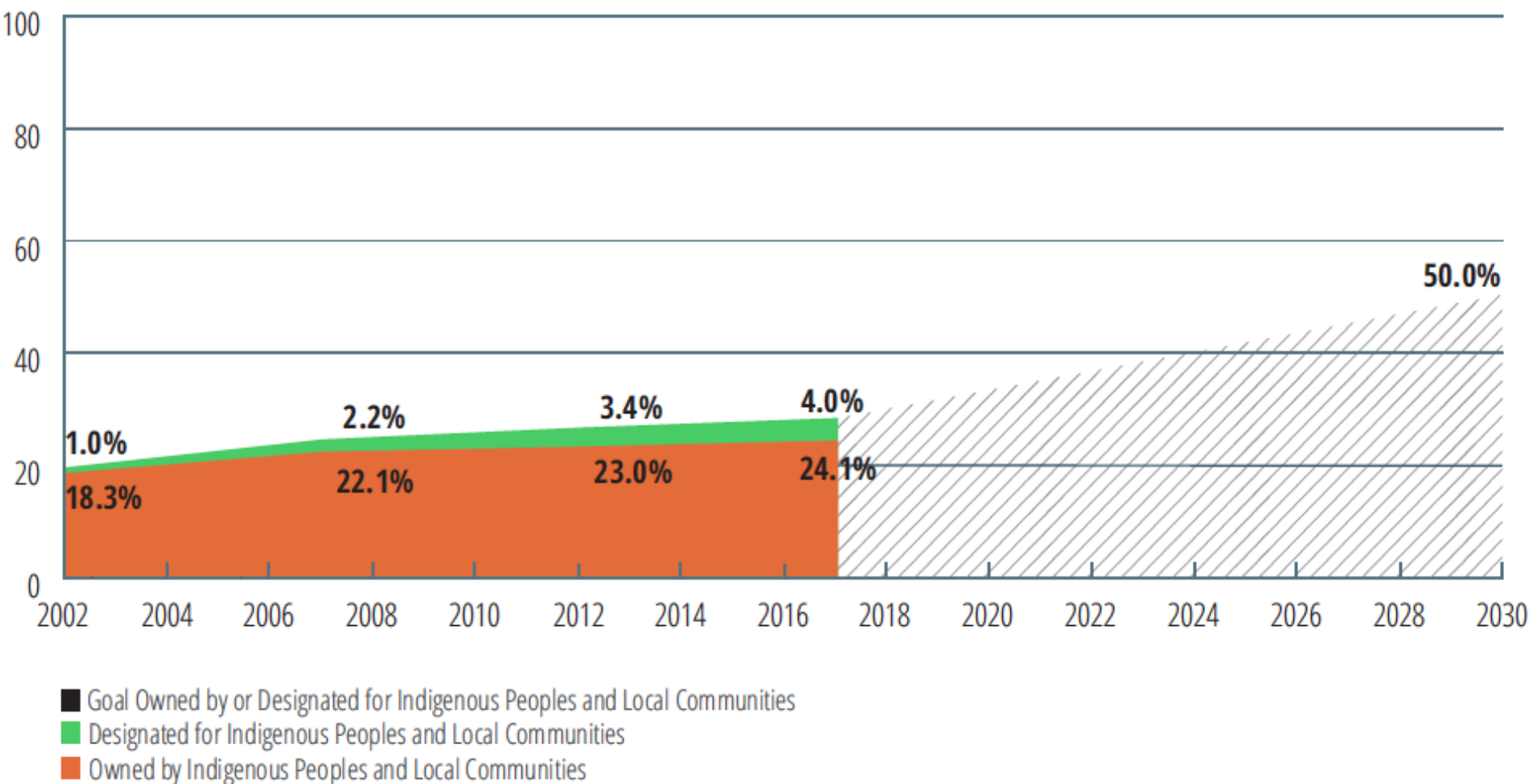




**Significant efforts are needed  
to secure collective territories  
around the world – both for  
communities and nature**



## RRI TARGETS AND TRENDS IN TENURE RECOGNITION IN 33 LMICS, 2002-2017



## RRI 2018, “At a Crossroads”

# Iran



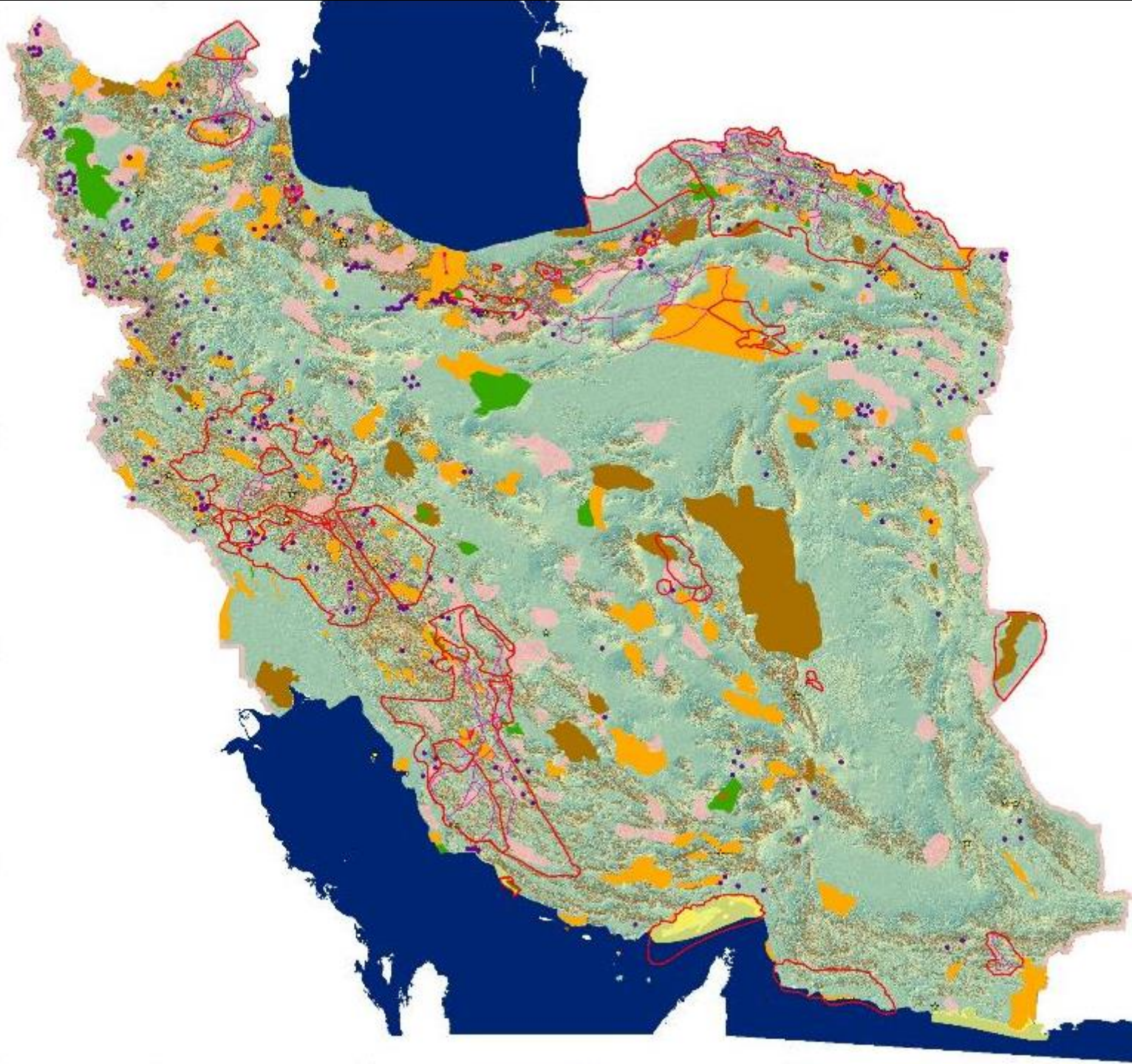














A woman wearing a blue cap and a red headscarf is sitting on a large, dark, gnarled mangrove root. She is wearing a striped long-sleeved shirt and patterned pants. She is barefoot. The background is a dense mangrove forest with many thin trees and roots. The text "Our collective actions" is overlaid in orange on a dark rectangular background in the upper right.

# Our collective actions

**Safeguard watersheds**

**Protect and restore  
sensitive ecosystems**



A woman with dark skin and glasses is in the foreground, looking towards the camera. She is holding a large green leaf. In the background, there are tall sorghum plants with yellow flowers and brown seed heads. Another person is partially visible in the background on the left.

**Our collective actions**

**Safeguard watersheds**

**Protect and restore  
sensitive ecosystems**

**Provide healthy food  
and livelihoods**

**Care for species**



# When a community

1

Has a close and deep connection with their territory through identity and culture





# When a community

1

Has a close and deep connection with their territory through identity and culture

2

Makes and enforces decisions and rules on their territory through their own governance system





# When a community

1

Has a close and deep connection with their territory through identity and culture

2

Makes and enforces decisions and rules on their territory through their own governance system

3

Contributes to nature and wellbeing through these decisions and efforts, regardless of intention or motivation



**We speak of “ICCAs” or**

**Territories  
of Life**





A group of indigenous people, likely from the Philippines, are standing outdoors in a mountainous region. They are wearing traditional clothing, including blue patterned shirts and colorful striped skirts. Some are wearing headbands and necklaces. The background shows steep, rocky hills under a clear blue sky. The text is overlaid on the image in a semi-transparent box.

**If you care about  
nature and biodiversity,**

**We are your  
strongest allies**



# Could we set aside half the Earth for nature?

Review Paper

The essential role of other effective area-based conservation measures in achieving big bold conservation targets

## How to protect half of Earth to ensure it protects sufficient biodiversity

Stuart L. Pimm<sup>1\*</sup>, Clinton N. Jenkins<sup>2</sup>, Binbin V. Li<sup>3</sup>

obligation to  
working to  
build a

Will protecting half the Earth save biodiversity? Depends which half

by Shreya Dasgupta on 30 August 2018

f t in

HOW TO CONSERVE HALF THE planet  
without going hungry

nothing

Half-Earth or Whole Earth? Radical ideas for conservation, and their implications

transform the way  
struggles for social justice.





# Key Aspects of Half Earth / Nature Needs Half Debate

## The problem?

Global biodiversity crisis and breakdown  
of Earth's life support systems

## The solution?

Protect half of the planet to safeguard  
the bulk of biodiversity



# The rationale?

**Ecology of habitat loss (species-area curve):**

- **Protecting 50% of planet should protect 85% of species from extinction ('safe zone')**
- **If we only protect 10% of Earth, we will lose half of the planet's species over time**

**“We need big goals, not incremental progress”**





# **Underlying assumptions?**

**Species diversity is the basis of Earth's life support systems**

**Protected areas are the best tools to prevent species extinction**

**We can identify the best areas for protection using Western science and technology**



The background image shows three men in a small, weathered wooden boat on a choppy sea. One man in the foreground is wearing a blue jacket and a white headscarf, holding a glass of beer. Another man in a grey jacket is in the middle ground, and a third man in a white shirt is in the background. The boat is painted in shades of blue and yellow.

# Key Critiques of Half Earth / Nature Needs Half Debate

## The “problem”

Global biodiversity crisis is closely linked to loss of linguistic and cultural diversity – fails to examine common threats and drivers

## The “solution”

Even if half of the planet is protected in equitable ways, what happens to the other half?



The background image shows three men in a small wooden boat on a choppy sea. One man in a grey jacket and pink pants sits on the left. Another man in a white shirt sits on the right. A third man in a blue shirt is in the foreground, looking down. In the distance, a sailboat is visible on the horizon.

# Underlying assumptions

**Focus on species diversity but not ecosystem functions or processes – does not consider climate change**

**Promotion of protected areas primarily based on biology & ecology – limited human rights, governance and equity considerations**

**Some mention of Indigenous peoples, but does not draw on existing literature on collective tenure, collective action, etc.**



# Current Extent of Protected Areas

Protected Planet Report 2018

**14.9%**

**Land**

**7.3%**

**Ocean**

**16.8%**

**EEZ**

**1.2%**

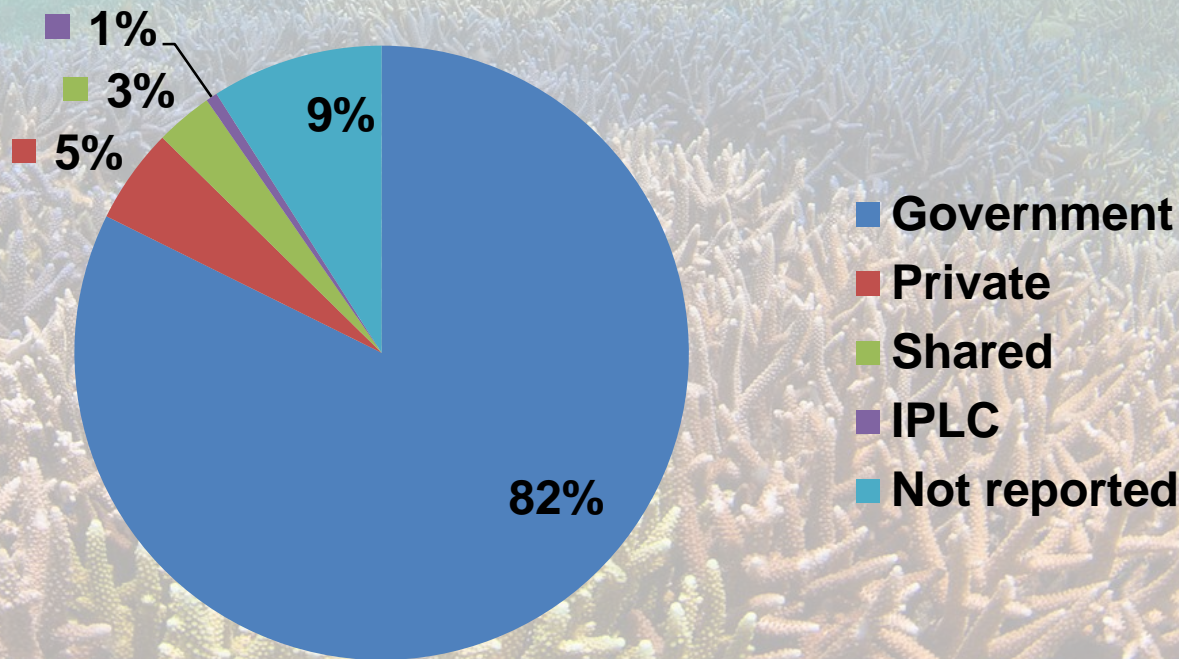
**ABNJ**



# Key Gaps in Global PA System

Protected Planet Report 2018

Global dataset is heavily skewed towards protected areas governed by governments



**<1% of  
reported PAs  
are governed  
by IPLCs**

**Much more  
*de facto***



# Key Gaps in Global PA System

Protected Planet Report 2018


9%

Of protected areas reported having assessed management effectiveness (and this assumes conservation effectiveness...)

**Very limited** assessment of equitable governance and management – **priority** at site and system scales up to 2020+

Overall: **lacking** in qualitative elements



A photograph of a group of people in a traditional outrigger canoe on the ocean. The canoe is long and narrow, with a large, colorful sail (red, orange, and yellow) visible. Several people are inside the canoe, some standing and some sitting. The water is blue and choppy. The background shows a rocky coastline. The text is overlaid on the top half of the image.

As Indigenous peoples and local communities, should we **reject** these big targets altogether?

Or can we turn them into **opportunities** to advance our self-determined aims?



# Key Opportunities on the Horizon

**1**

**Securing our collective Territories of Life in the context of conservation, on our terms**

**2**

**Defending our Territories of Life – and ourselves – against threats from dominant economic, political and legal systems**

**3**

**Advancing support for sustainable self-determination and livelihoods – economic activities in harmony with the whole planet**



Respect us as  
the **original**  
conservationists.

Conservation in our  
territories must be  
**on our terms.**

**We decide** if and how  
to include others, not  
vice versa.





**We are the first  
and last lines of  
defense against  
the main  
threats to  
biodiversity  
and nature.**





We need **collective security** of our territories and ways of life and strong, self-determined and sustainable **governance systems.**







These big, bold targets have to go **beyond protected areas** to conserved areas (OECMs) – redefining conservation for whom and by whom

They also need to go **beyond mapping spatial coverage** (30 or 50%, etc.) to qualitative aspects of securing the areas



Just like Aichi Target 11, they cannot be achieved without **intersectional qualitative elements** such as governance, equity, participation and cost- & benefit-sharing







If our Territories of Life (ICCAs) are “counted” towards global targets, whether as protected areas or as conserved areas (OECMs):



It must be on the basis of **self-identification** of our territories and **respect** for our **self-determined governance** systems



It must be subject to our **free, prior and informed consent** and our human rights



It must include **counterpart support** to **strengthen and secure** our Territories of Life, including to defend against threats



**In loving memory of Dr. Mohammad Taghi Farvar (1942-2018)**



***Indigenous Shahsevan of Iranian Azerbaijan, President of the ICCA Consortium  
and beloved friend and ally to many around the world***



A photograph of three Black women smiling and hugging each other. They are wearing colorful traditional headwraps: one in red and blue, one in green and black, and one in light purple. They are also wearing patterned clothing. The background is a textured, brownish surface.

# Thank you!

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