

IPCCA Methodological Workshop Report

First Meeting of the IPCCA Local Assessments:
Indigenous Epistemologies and Methods for Responding to
Climate Change

01-07 April 2010



Panama City and Usdup, Comarca Kuna Yala, Panamá

Prepared by the IPCCA Secretariat

Table of Contents

1. Introduction.....	3
2. Participants.....	3
3. Location of Workshop and Local Organizing Committee	3
4. Workshop Methodology and Format.....	4
5. Workshop Synthesis	4
April 2 nd , 2010	4
April 3 rd 2010	6
April 4 th 2010	8
April 5 th 2010	9
April 6 th 2010	10
April 7 th 2010	12
6. Workshop Results	13
7. Evaluations.....	14
8. Next Steps/Follow up	15
9. Unforeseen Issues	16
10. Annexes	17

1. Introduction

This report, prepared by the IPCCCA Secretariat, provides a synthesis of the main themes discussed and results that emerged from the methodological workshop held during the first meeting of the IPCCCA local assessments in Panama City and Usdup, Kuna Yala April 1-7, 2010. The workshop represents a significant step in the implementation of the IPCCCA initiative, in which currently 9 local assessments have initiated assessment activities in a diversity of biocultural systems around the world.

The general objective of the workshop was to build coherence in the innovative principles, vision, methodology and tools across IPCCCA local assessments to ensure effective and efficient implementation and development of unified strategic outputs. Furthermore, two other indigenous groups interested in joining the IPCCCA initiative participated to learn about the objectives and approach of the IPCCCA.

The focus of the workshop was on the use of IPCCCA developed methodologies and other tools. As the first opportunity for project partners to meet face to face, the workshop also fostered a process for building a unified indigenous vision to the IPCCCA. Three specific workshop objectives were:

1. To promote effective local assessment implementation under the IPCCCA objectives
2. Exchange experiences and information on climate change issues affecting indigenous peoples around the world
3. To build links between local assessments and other IPCCCA processes in order to ensure strategic outputs

2. Participants

The workshop was attended by all of the IPCCCA local assessment teams, interested organizations from Mexico and Ethiopia, local community participants and members of supporting organizations (See **Annex 1** for Participant List). The participants represented 11 countries from Africa, Europe, Asia, and the Americas and 3 major ecosystems (including coast, forest, and mountain).

3. Location of Workshop and Local Organizing Committee

The majority of the workshop was carried out in the community of Usdup within the Comarca Kuna Yala. The ecosystem of Kuna Yala is in a state of extreme fragility, as the islands are in imminent risk of disappearing. The rationale behind holding the workshop in Kuna Yala was to demonstrate to governments of the region and the international community that indigenous peoples, like the Kuna, are actively looking for alternatives based on local experiences to address the negative impacts of climate change they face. Furthermore, carrying out the workshop in Kuna Yala created a space for reflection on the relationship between the problematic of climate change in Kuna communities and collective indigenous efforts.

The local partner in the organization of this workshop was the Fundación para la Promoción del Conocimiento Indígena (FPCI). FPCI is a Kuna organization in Panama funded in 1996 that is dedicated to the monitoring and sustainable use of natural resources based on traditional knowledge to better the quality of life and attainment of rights of indigenous peoples. Onel Masardule is the Executive Director of FPCI and a member of the IPCCCA Steering Committee who has been involved in the development of this initiative from its outset. This, combined with the fact that

FPCI is coordinating the Local Assessment in the Comarca Kuna Yala made Panama and FPCI an ideal choice for hosting the IPCCCA workshop. Furthermore, FPCI has years of experience in relevant thematic areas of: biodiversity and wetlands; climate change; protected areas gender and natural resources; youth and environment; indigenous and human rights; and environmental conventions and initiatives.

4. Workshop Methodology and Format

The workshop took place over six days, in Panama City and Usdup, Kuna Yala. As stated above, holding the workshop in Kuna Yala was important for asserting the role of indigenous peoples in the development of strategies and plans to face climate change. Furthermore, the location of the workshop in Kuna Yala was strategic in that it locates an important IPCCCA process within a context of indigenous autonomy. (The Kuna People carried out a revolution in 1925 that granted them autonomy and independent governance structures.)

The methodology was tailored to the objectives and needs of each session, as well as to the expectations of the participants. This was a participatory training workshop, and sessions were adapted according to feedback during the workshop.

Undertaking the workshop in Kuna Yala allowed use of indigenous methodologies, such as the chanting of the sahila (spiritual community leaders) in the central gathering house, as vehicles for reflecting through experiential immersion in a cultural context. Furthermore, a site visit to the location where assessment activities are underway in Kuna Yala helped illustrate the impacts of climate change and the methodological steps of the toolkit, providing more experiential learning opportunities for participants.

To facilitate flexibility and fine-tuning, each day opened with an overview of the day's agenda. Throughout each day, the workshop content was organized into thematic blocks and further divided into a variety of sessions that employed different formats such as discussion sessions, practical actions, working groups, and presentations. At the end of the day, closing reflections from participants provided an opportunity for all to review the content of the day's sessions, their expectations, items that were not covered and questions or suggestions they may have. There was also a suggestion box for anonymous comments.

5. Workshop Synthesis

April 2nd, 2010

Upon arrival in Usdup, Kuna Yala, on the morning of April 2nd, all participants were received by the traditional leaders of Usdup in the local congress house, and were welcomed to the community. Lunch was served, and the workshop began in the afternoon.

Warm up Session

The objective of the warm up session for the workshop was to provide an overview of the objectives, format and agenda for the workshop. It also allowed all participants to introduce themselves to the group and share the expectations they had for the meeting. The main expectations are shown in a synthesized manner in Table 1.

Table 1 – Participant expectations

Share experiences and knowledge of climate change
Define indicators
Share about Sumaq Kausay
Develop a common plan
Learn about IPCCCA methods and how to use traditional knowledge on climate change
Learn about Kuna Yala autonomy and culture
Strengthen strategies
Understand and share local stories of climate change
Learn about how the IPCCCA can help communities
Learn about ecosystem based adaptation
Strengthen the role of women in the IPCCCA processes
Integrate Local Assessment frameworks with the Global Assessment Framework
Discuss impacts of expected results on local and international policies

Session 1: Presentation of IPCCCA

Next, the IPCCCA Secretariat coordinator, Alejandro Argumedo presented an overview of the IPCCCA initiative, its strategy, goals and objectives and progress to date. The objective of this informative session was aimed at providing an overview of the IPCCCA for all participants, setting the scene for the following sessions on conceptual and methodological design and application, and illustrating the need for a common vision for guidance. The session was especially aimed at those participants who were new to the IPCCCA initiative, but also refreshed and updated IPCCCA partners on the principles, progress and current status of the initiative.

Discussion Session: Sharing of local contexts

The objective of this discussion session was for each participant to present her or himself and share the context of their work on climate change and traditional knowledge. This built a picture of the diversity of biocultural contexts within which the IPCCCA is working, providing a panoramic view of the initiative, highlighting similarities and differences between the assessment sites and project partners.

Welcome in the local congress

In the evening of the 2nd, the workshop participants were invited to join the traditional leaders in the local congress house, to participate in the traditional chanting of the Bab Igar. This Kuna ritual is a vehicle for engagement with the Great Father and Great Mother, facilitated by chanting of oral history by the sahila (spiritual leader) of the community, and an interpretation of the story by the

argar (spokesperson for the saila). In this occasion, the sahila chose to chant the story of the creation of the Kuna world, and stories that illustrate the dynamic and interconnected view of the world and ecosystems held by the Kuna. This formal welcome introduced the participants to the use of complementary traditional methods for reflection and analysis, providing an opportunity for experientially engaging with Kuna traditional knowledge, using the local context as a tool to reflect upon the workshop topic of use of indigenous methodologies for assessing climate change impacts and understanding local well being.

April 3rd 2010

The second day of the workshop in Kuna Yala focused on two main themes, divided into two blocks: Building a Common Vision and Assessment Methodologies. The objective of these sessions was to impart a better understanding of the IPCCCA CF and Toolkit on the participants and to enrich both with local experiences.

Session 2: Presentation of IPCCCA CF

Alejandro Argumedo presented the rationale behind the IPCCCA Conceptual Framework and explained the main concepts of *Buen Vivir*, Indigenous Resilience, Indirect Drivers, and Direct Drivers. The purpose of this session was to ensure that all IPCCCA partners grasp the basic concepts that guide the process and develop a deeper understanding of the IPCCCA Conceptual Framework.

Discussion Session: Enriching the IPCCCA CF and Reporting Session

In this session aimed at validating and enriching the CF, participants were split into working groups (organized so that each group had Local Assessment participants and individuals new to the IPCCCA). The working groups discussed the concepts of the Conceptual Framework and agreed upon common components of each concept to validate and enrich the IPCCCA CF. The presentations of the working groups illustrated that there was a lot of overlap between the components of *buen vivir* and indigenous resilience, as the division between the elements required to live well and the elements that allow a system to enhance *buen vivir* when faced with uncertainty and change can be the same. Some participants suggested that in their own adaptations of the CF, they combine *buen vivir* and indigenous resilience.

Another reflection offered by participants in the debrief session is that there was some confusion around the definition of indirect and direct drivers. Some participants preferred to define this as external and internal factors that contribute to the ability to achieve *buen vivir* and maintain indigenous resilience. Understanding how these drivers and concepts are linked to climate change was also a difficulty for many of the working groups.

This exercise was especially useful, as it allowed participants to engage with the CF concepts that guide the IPCCCA process and will be adapted to each local assessment (if it has not been done already). Additionally, the comments and obstacles encountered by the working groups in defining elements of the CF concepts showed that the interaction across scales, the understanding of CF within the context of climate change (and not just international and national policies affecting indigenous peoples) needs to be better articulated.

While there was a significant commonality in the elements of the CF concepts defined by participants, these sessions also raised the issue of the appropriateness of the term *buen vivir*. The rationale is that it may not reflect the universality of this general CF because it is a translation of the

Quechua/Aymara term Sumaq Kausay or Allin Kausay and located within a South American context. This is a topic for the IPCCCA Steering Committee to take under consideration.

Session 3: Overview of the Toolkit

Marina Apgar presented the IPCCCA Methodological Toolkit to participants to give them a brief overview. While many participants have already seen the document and some have already used it to define their local assessments, this session was useful in that it further clarified objectives and content of the toolkit, as well as how it should be used as a guide.

Session 4: Toolkit Step 1

In this session, the field coordinator for the Kuna Yala Assessment, Jorge Andreve met the goal of providing concrete examples for the Toolkit steps by presenting the progress made in the development of a Steering Committee and Management Process. The presentation of how the IPCCCA Methodology and tools as well as IPCCCA and local principles have been used to identify a Local Steering Committee provided practical examples for understanding this initial step of the Toolkit. An explanation of how traditional governance structures and customary laws were used to choose candidates for the local SC demonstrated to other participants and the new LAs how local criteria should guide the process of selection.

Session 5: Toolkit Step 2

To illustrate Step 2 of the Toolkit (Methodology Scoping and Preliminary Design), Alejandro Argumedo presented a case study from the Potato Park in Cusco, Peru. This presentation described how, in the Potato Park, the local team selected priority issues of focus as well indigenous methodologies and tools for initial inquiry that would eventually be the foundation of the Local Assessment. The identification of expected results for this stage was aimed to help participants understand the purpose of this step of the toolkit and how the information gathered can be used during the following stages of the assessment.

Session 6: Toolkit Step 3

As the goal of this session was to show participants how to adapt the IPCCCA CF to their local contexts, the graphic of Santa Cruz de Pachakuti was presented as an illustration of the Andean worldview that has been used to adapt the IPCCCA CF for the Potato Park. Alejandro Argumedo explained the main components of the graphic and how the participants in the Potato Park assessment were able to find local equivalencies and context for the general IPCCCA CF. This session demonstrated to participants how the general IPCCCA CF as local relevance and through indigenous cosmovision and traditional understandings, can guide IPCCCA LAs. After this session, some participants identified synergies between the Potato Park's CF and their worldview, for example participants from India shared a cyclical interpretation of collective processes related to the agricultural calendar that facilitate well being.

Noticing the enthusiasm of participants to share their examples, and considering the difficulties that participants expressed in analyzing the IPCCCA CF as an abstract model in the morning session, participants were asked to take some time in the evening to think about how they think they would undertake Toolkit Step 3 of adapting the conceptual framework in their assessments. The following day's methodology was adapted to allow space for participants to report back on their exercise.

April 4th 2010

Session 6: Toolkit Step 3 Continued

The objective of continuing Session 6 was for participants to engage more deeply with the CF concepts in relation to their own worldview. Participants from the Local Assessments, Mexico, and Ethiopia presented the results of their ‘homework’ to adapt the IPCC CF to their local context. This was an especially useful exercise for the assessments that have just joined the initiative, as they were able to deeply engage with the CF concepts for the first time and share their knowledge with the larger group. Presentations by the Comarca Kuna Yala and Adivasi Traditional Territory sites also provided sound examples for the process of adapting the conceptual framework in communities.

Session 7: Toolkit Step 4

In order to illustrate Toolkit Step 4 “Designing the Local Assessment: Defining the Scope and Outputs and Developing and Testing Methodology,” Jorge Andreve presented the case of Kuna Yala. The areas and communities to be assessed were discussed, as well as the cosmivision, customary laws, and institutional structures that would govern the process. In explaining the composition of the local congress house (*onmakednega*) and Balu Uala, Jorge was able to share with participants the importance of grounding the scope and methodology of the Local Assessment in indigenous epistemologies and management systems.

Practical Action 2: Toolkit Step 4

The goal of carrying out this practical action session as a follow up to Session 7 was to allow participants to begin to apply the information gathered from Jorge’s presentation and to think in greater detail about components of their assessments. Participants worked individually on thinking about the scope, methodology, and outputs for their own local assessments. They were asked to think about an aspect of *buen vivir* that they would look at within their own biocultural context. While this step of the toolkit is meant to be carried out as a community process, it was useful for participants to apply the concepts discussed in Session 6 and to think about their proposals. Moreover, this individual work time allowed for the Secretariat Staff to discuss refining individual LA proposals with several participants.

Session 7: Toolkit Step 5

This session focused on assessing conditions and trends by explaining biocultural indicators. The goal was for participants to understand what biocultural indicators are and how they can be used to measure indigenous resilience and *buen vivir*. Jadder Mendoza carried out this presentation on an equivalent of *buen vivir*, community governance as self-determination, in Meskito communities of Nicaragua. He identified structural components and processes of community governance as a starting point for understanding how indicators can be identified. These components were explained as interacting socio-demographic, economic, bicultural, or socio-cultural elements that affect or drive community governance and can be measured qualitatively or quantitatively. A concrete example provided to participants followed: a structural component of governance is territory and biodiversity or natural resources, and this can be measured by looking at the functioning of systems of natural resource management.

Discussion Session: Defining what to Assess and Reporting of Session

The aim of this session was for participants to synthesize the information about the conceptual framework, methodologies, and the recent presentation on biocultural indicators to identify biocultural indicators that affect *buen vivir*. Participants were split into working groups by ecosystem and asked to first brainstorm about key themes of *buen vivir*. Based on this discussion, they chose five elements common to their ecosystems and defined indicators, threats, and drivers of these elements.

For example, the forest group identified the following five elements of *buen vivir*: territorial rights, self-governance/autonomy, spiritual relationship with the forest, transmission of indigenous knowledge and its use and practice (care of the forest), multiple and diverse livelihoods. Similar themes were also identified in other groups. There were questions about the difference between threats and indicators, as several groups indicated that understanding, for example, the undermining of rights is a threat to the achievement of territorial rights, but is also an indicator that it is not being met.

This exercise was useful in drawing the connections between the conceptual framework and the toolkit steps, as well as for thinking about what and how the assessments will actually conduct inquiry into conditions and trends affecting *buen vivir* and indigenous resilience. Working groups also discussed the use of both qualitative and quantitative measures of indicators

Additionally, this session allowed participants to exchange more details of their local contexts. Discovering synergies between cosmovisions, issues, and threats was not only useful for the purpose of the exercise, but also for helping build solidarity and a common vision for the IPCCA LAs.

April 5th 2010

Discussion with Elders and Traditional Knowledge Holders

The purpose of this morning session was to hear about the local Kuna conceptualization of the complex problem of climate change. The session opened with an invocation of the Great Father and the Great Mother by Argar Andres, who then continued to talk about the importance of Kuna knowledge and local congresses in facing climate change. Finally, he closed with a lesson on the knowledge of the great Kuna leaders on themes related to climate change (rain, forests, management, temperature).

The second presentation was carried out by a Kuna historian, Jesús Smith Kantule, who spoke about the damage that has been done to mother earth (*Napguana*) and to her environmental components, such as animals, trees, and rivers. The impact of the Kuna people on the climate and ecosystem of the Comarca was also discussed. As a historian, Jesus discussed the importance of cultural practices, such as the *absogot nega* ritual of the Kuna, as vehicle for visioning and building responses to the current crisis that *Napguana* faces.

Rufino Gonzales followed this presentation by sharing his medicinal plant knowledge. Through an overview of the traditional system of knowledge on medicinal plants, the presentation illustrated how a holistic system of interpreting relationships in the world is fostered through studying traditional specialties. He discussed the importance of understanding and protecting the trees, bushes, and medicinal plants, as they are sisters and brothers of human beings and are made up of water, nutrients, and amino acids. As such, nature must be understood as a living element in which all is interconnected and related. He went on to raise the point that the trees, bushes, and plants

hold the cures to all diseases (including climate change) as Great Mother and Father have put them on earth for just that purpose.

This was an important aspect of the day in that it framed field visit and observation of sites in the Comarca affected by climate change in a Kuna vision of the world and ecosystems.

Field Visit

During the field visit, aimed at showing local impacts of climate change and describing their drivers, participants took a boat tour around the Usdup marine, island and coastal ecosystems. The visit focused on analysis of sea level rise and indicators that can be used to measure its impact in the ecosystems, social and cultural aspects of community life. For example, several sites of islands that have disappeared were visited, and sites where mangroves are being destroyed by the sea – biocultural indicators were discussed in terms of the different types of mangroves and their cultural uses, as indicators of sea level rise and its impacts.

Roundtable on Global Links and Relevance of the IPCCCA

This evening session sought to articulate the links between the local aspects of this initiative, as embodied in the workshop being carried out in Kuna Yala. Short presentations were made by: Stephen Leahy, international journalist, focusing on how global processes of climate change are understood by indigenous networks; Marcial Arias, Kuna participating in UNFCCC and other processes, focusing on the historical process of participation of indigenous networks in climate change fora; Gleb Raydorodetsky, global program officer at TCF, focusing on the role of donors in supporting indigenous processes; Stephen Leahy, an environmental journalist gave an overview of current events and important issues in global climate change discussions and; Sagari Ramdas, of ANTHRA organization in India, on the Indian national political context that indigenous peoples face. The presentations and questions and answers session that followed were open to a large number of community members and leaders, providing opportunity for Usdup to learn about the global climate change policy arena and how the IPCCCA work and local assessments provide opportunities for effective participation.

April 6th 2010

Summary of Toolkit

The morning opened with a summary of the toolkit and the steps covered thus far presented by Alejandro Argumedo. The objective of this short session was to clarify and highlight main points of the toolkit before covering the final toolkit steps. Again, it was stressed that the toolkit should be used as a guide and adapted to each biocultural context. Furthermore, the use of participatory, emancipatory and indigenous methodologies throughout the steps of the toolkit, and especially in the designing of the local assessment was emphasized. An important result of this session came out of the description of step 5, which was the beginning of a diagram connecting the main themes of *buen vivir* and indigenous resilience to their drivers and indicators and to related policies. This diagram will be further elaborated upon for incorporation into the Toolkit.

Dennis Martinez, a Steering Committee member, then presented the case of how he envisioned the adaptation of the IPCCCA toolkit steps to the Pacific Northwest context. This was based on his work as part of the Indigenous Peoples' Restoration Network. Providing practical examples of *buen vivir* and resilience, as well as of drivers, qualitative and quantitative indicators, and how to build

epistemological bridges, Dennis helped to illustrate the steps of the toolkit and how they may be adapted to specific contexts.

Conversations with the Earth

Nicolas Villaume and Brian Keane presented the collaborative multimedia project “Conversations with the Earth,” the goal of which is to encourage indigenous peoples to share their stories about climate change through participatory video, photographs and exhibitions. The goal of this session was to introduce participants to one example of a media strategy that could be used in the LAs. Nicolas and Brian also briefly mentioned the possibility of linking to IPCCAs. A conclusion that arose from the group question and answer session that followed the presentation is that Conversations with the Earth and the IPCCAs have different approaches to intellectual property rights and participatory methodologies. Participants, such as Marcial Arias brought attention to the need to have sound protocols for ensuring intellectual property rights of communities when participating in multimedia presentation of traditional knowledge and values. An outcome of this session is the realization for the need to provide a space for reflection on this very important issue of intellectual property rights and indigenous communication through initiatives such as the IPCCAs.

Session 8: Toolkit Step 6&7

In this session on futuring activities and response strategies, Alejandro Argumedo presented a case from Asociación ANDES during their work in the Vilcanota Sub-Global Assessment as part of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. The need to ground these steps in local methods and institutions was stressed. The use of local traditions, such as coca leaf reading, were discussed as a part of futuring activities for scenario development. Several participants commented on how similar these Quechua processes and practices were to those performed in their communities, such as the role of clairvoyants in Adivasi communities in India.

Discussion Session: Development of Scenarios and Presentations

Following the presentation, participants were split into ecosystem based working groups again to develop three ecosystem-based future scenarios based on the conditions and trends. The goal of this exercise was to begin reflecting on possible futures for each ecosystem based on information gathered in previous discussion sessions. Furthermore, this session created a space for participants to reflect on local tools and methods for scenario development. Three scenarios and their tendencies were developed—catastrophic (red), resilient (yellow), and the “rosy picture” (green). All groups agreed that during the actual assessment, more than three scenarios would be needed, but that this was useful as a starting point for understanding the range of possible futures.

Groups were asked to present their scenarios and an ideal life plan. While the groups were able to thrash out the extreme scenarios and identify that actions must be taken toward achieving the green scenario, they did not develop life plans. For all groups, the green scenario was grounded in the maintenance of traditional livelihoods and indigenous practices. Likewise, groups defined the red scenario as one overtaken by industries, environmental exploitation, and a lack of indigenous rights. Gleb Raygorodetsky commented on the need to use traditional scenario development and visioning tools with scientific tools at the end of the session.

Session 9: Communication Strategy

This final session of the training part of the workshop was aimed at giving a brief overview of the communication strategy and tools in development. Alejandro Argumedo discussed the principles and strategies to communicate results of the LAs to the general public, to policy makers, and within the community. Tools discussed here included participatory video, Conversations with the Earth, the Webpage, and school curriculum development, to name a few.

Finally, Canadian environmental journalist, Stephen Leahy discussed the role media can play in training indigenous peoples and journalists. He described the lay of the land when it comes to the possibilities of involving external media sources in promoting the stories and results of the LAs and practical ideas of how to develop both a network for communication between IPCC partners and newsletter publications of the LA progress were discussed; ideas included use of social networking sites and having a member of each local assessment designated to developing progress reports to be included in newsletters.

Afternoon Session: Individual Consultations

This was an important session aimed at having one-on-one time with each local assessment to discuss progress, key issues, needs, products, and project timeframe. Most of the local assessments are focusing on food systems and/or livelihoods. The main themes that were discussed were how the Secretariat can support in terms of fundraising and technology for achieving communication goals. Additionally, working with students, linking to local universities, and policy advisors in the region were discussed as ideas for the incorporation of more users and stakeholders to each LA team. Products proposed included Life Plans and recommendations to National Strategy Plans.

Closing Session: Dinner with Authorities and Films

The final session in Usdup was dedicated to building solidarity among participants and the community around the issue of climate change. The saila discussed the importance of the workshop to the local and international communities. Two participatory videos from the community were shown to highlight the effects of climate change in the Comarca. Finally, several participants shared movies, photos, songs, and dances from their communities.

April 7th 2010

Local Assessment Group Session

Upon arriving in Panama City, the Secretariat met with the Local Assessments to discuss a work plan for the year. The objective of this session was to discuss, as a group, a common vision for the year's work and to define milestones. In this meeting, the UNFCCC COP 16 and the CBD COP in Nagoya were discussed as important meetings for which reports should be produced. Likewise, the reports would also be aimed at making recommendations to the IPCC AR5, specifically on matters of traditional knowledge. It was decided upon that the Local Assessments will meet in mid-August to discuss the format of information to be presented at the CBD and UNFCCC meetings. The Secretariat has solicited a space for a workshop, which will be focused on developing indigenous responses in the wake of the COP15.

Press Conference

In the afternoon, a press conference was held with the objective of publicizing the results of the workshop. Alejandro Argumedo presented the workshop and moderated as participants from the

Philippines, India, Thailand, the US, and Finland shared their experiences of climate change. Onel Masardule discussed the importance of this meeting within the international context of developing indigenous-led, bottom-up initiatives and strategies for facing climate change. As a result of the press conference, coverage of the workshop was published in Panama's two largest newspapers (See Annex 2 for scanned copies of the articles).

Workshop Closing: Dinner with Authorities

During this finale to the workshop, participants joined local indigenous leaders active in issues of indigenous rights and climate change, as well as a representative from the Ministry of the Environment, and a representative of the CBD secretariat over dinner. The goal of this dinner was to stress the local and international importance of the IPCCCA initiative and the workshop that was being carried out in Kuna Yala. Likewise, the representatives of the government and the CBD offered their support to the initiative.

6. Workshop Results

This workshop overwhelmingly met the expectations of the participants (details below), which is a success for the initiative as a whole because it means that the LA teams are aware of the initiative, the vision and the methodology. This workshop reviewed and harmonized the local assessments, produced the beginnings of a reviewed IPCCCA CF for a common vision, trained participants on how to use the Toolkit to develop assessment steps, discussed the application of IPCCCA tools, and created an initial proposal for reporting needs and strategies. After this workshop, LA teams will be able to return to their communities and apply the knowledge and experiences they gained in Kuna Yala.

The main result of this workshop was that local assessment implementation under the IPCCCA objectives was promoted through the training on the IPCCCA CF and Toolkit. These sessions, which took up the majority of the workshop allowed LAs to learn more about the IPCCCA and engage with the tools that will allow them to lay the groundwork for effective implementation in the community. A vital result for creating a strong LA network is a shared understanding and ownership of the initiative. Discussion of the IPCCCA CF, vision, and principles allowed participants to jointly shape the trajectory of the IPCCCA initiative.

The joint ownership of the initiative is an important aspect of another result—links established between the local assessments and other IPCCCA processes to ensure strategic outputs. This workshop was important for creating the time and space for the LAs to connect among themselves and also with the Secretariat. Working groups provided the participants with an opportunity to build solidarity by sharing experiences and identifying common issues faced. As such, an important result of this meeting is the construction of a network of LAs. Through the consultations with the Secretariat, LAs were also able to identify a common work plan, which builds links between local realities and results and global processes. Another result within the identification of milestones for the work plan was also a decision on the types of reports that will be needed from the LAs. LAs agreed to turn in both administrative and technical reports, which will contribute to synthesis recommendations to meet IPCCCA LA policy milestones (such as contributing to the IPCC AR5, recommendations to the CBD and UNFCCC for this years COPs). In addition, time with the Secretariat allowed the LAs to better define their own process, needs, and results. Revised proposals are expected from the LAs.

7. Evaluations

During the last day of the workshop in Kuna Yala, participants reviewed the expectations for the workshop. The synthesis of the results is shown below.

Table 2 – Participant expectations

Expectation	Yes	No
Share experiences and knowledge of climate change	X	
Define indicators	X	
Share about Sumaq Kausay	X	
Develop a common plan	X	
Learn about IPCCCA methods and how to use traditional knowledge on climate change	X	
Learn about Kuna Yala autonomy and culture	X	
Strengthen strategies	X	
Understand and share local stories of climate change	X	
Learn about how the IPCCCA can help communities	X	
Learn about ecosystem based adaptation	X	
Strengthen the role of women in the IPCCCA processes		X
Integrate Local Assessment frameworks with the Global Assessment Framework		X
Discuss impacts of expected results on local and international policies	X	

In addition to this evaluation of meeting expectations, participants were asked to fill out evaluation sheets on the last day. The questions asked are as follows:

1. Were your expectations for the Workshop met?
2. Did we meet the Workshop objectives? Please comment.
3. Which topics/themes/issues do you feel were well covered?

4. Which topics/themes/issues would you have liked to hear more about?
5. Do you think the methodology used was appropriate for achieving the Workshop objectives?
6. Please comment on the workshop logistics and organization.
7. Please provide comments or suggestions that can help us in future activities.
8. What further support/information/help would you like from the Secretariat?

Overall, participants responded that the majority of their expectations were met and that “we reached a good level of understanding of the IPCCCA.” Regarding the objectives, for the most part, participants responded that yes the objectives were met. However, there were some caveats. One participant stated that “a little more dialogue on Global Policies and Collective Vision” would have been useful. Participants overwhelmingly agreed that the concepts of the Conceptual Framework, the toolkit steps (especially 1-3) and indicators were well covered. Respondents noted that in addition to global policy links, the issue of gender was not sufficiently discussed. Likewise, participants mentioned that scenario development needed to be developed in more detail.

Most participants felt the methodology was fairly appropriate, though overall the content and presentation was too theoretical. One participant commented, “Being in a place where the effects of climate change are evident and one can see how a particular indigenous group within an ecosystem is facing climate change is something that invites reflection.” Other participants commented that there should have been more song, dance and “energies” incorporated throughout the workshop. Another participant mentioned that the methodology was boring and that people were not engaged.

Respondents, for the most part, were happy with the logistics of the workshop, noting that personal attention was always given and that they enjoyed being immersed in the community and trying the traditional food. However, one did comment that, “it was a good idea to be in the community, but I think that it was too long and too hot, so we weren’t able to pay attention.”

Of the additional comments left, most people commented on strengthening the role of women by having a separate women’s session or workshop. Also several people mentioned incorporating more “getting to know one another” time.

Finally, almost all participants articulated a desire for “ongoing communication, updates...with the Secretariat,” workshop information (such as the presentations and contact information), as well as to be informed about funding opportunities.

8. Next Steps/Follow up

Based on the results and reflections from the workshop, the Secretariat has identified several needs and future actions:

1. To incorporate participants’ vision into the CF based on the results from the working groups and presentations. Similarly, based on some participants’ comments about the theoretical approach of the toolkit, the Secretariat plans to rework the toolkit based on examples provided throughout the workshop. Furthermore, a case study of the toolkit in the Peru context will be developed.

2. An action plan based on the work plan discussed with the LAs will also be developed in conjunction with a policy strategy for providing recommendations and analysis of global policy decisions to the Local Assessments. Additionally, the Secretariat has identified the need to further develop communication tools with the local assessments and link this to the action plan.
3. In addition to the revision and improvement of already existing IPCCCA documents and the development of new ones based on this exchange, the IPCCCA will develop a gender policy and framework. While gender is articulated in the IPCCCA brief and objectives, the need for a more specific policy and criteria for incorporating a gender-lens into the IPCCCA initiative was identified by the Secretariat and several participants. This will be contextualized within the IPCCCA vision and principle of emancipation and decolonization,
4. Finally, the logistical issue of translation during the workshop, as well as comments from participants that the documents and all workshop materials should be in both Spanish and English has reinforced the Secretariat's view that an official translator is needed on the IPCCCA Staff. As funds are needed for this important staff member, so too are resources required to provide professional translation in future IPCCCA meetings.

9. Unforeseen Issues

There were several logistical and methodological challenges that emerged throughout the workshop. Due to visa complications by the airlines, several participants arrived late. The Secretariat staff in Panama resolved this issues by sending a special letter from the Director of External Affairs to the airlines requesting that the airlines allow the participants from India, Kenya, and Ethiopia to board. In addition to this, the Secretariat spoke with the participants and the airline staff checking participants in to confirm that they were approved for travel. The four participants from India and Ethiopia arrived a day late. A special charter plane was organized for their travel to Kuna Yala. After their arrival to the workshop, they were given time to present themselves and their initiatives. Later in the afternoon, a recap of the topics already covered was carried out for their benefit. The Kenyan participant had to delay her flight (in addition to visa issues) due to personal problems. Unfortunately, she was unable to make it. She will be sent workshop materials translated into English, as well as a summary.

A facilitation issue faces was difficulty in translation for Spanish, English and Kuna speakers. Due to lack of sufficient funds, the local organizing committee arranged for a support team to help with translations. However, the language of the workshop was too technical and specialized for the translating team. As such, the Secretariat staff had to translate for the workshop, and this impacted the facilitation ability of the staff.

10. Annexes

1. Participant List

Name	Organization	Country
Jorge Andreve	FPCI	Panama
Marina Apgar	IPCCA Secretariat	
Alejandro Argumedo	IPCCA Secretariat	
Marcial Arias	FPCI	Panama
Coral Calvo	Asociación ANDES	Peru
Irma Chavez Cruz		Mexico
Anna-Maria Feodoroff	Saa'mi Nue'tt	Finland
Manuel Alberto Herrera Ortiz		Mexico
Rufunito Gonzalez	Community of Ustupu	Kuna Yala
Yamil Gonzalez	FPC	Panama
Darout Guma Gugie		Ethiopia
Brian Keane	Land is Life	USA
Laura Keane		USA
Katrina Quisumbing King	IPCCA Secretariat	
Stephen Leahy	Periodista / Journalist	Canada
Linda Lombardo	Community of Ustupu	Kuna Yala
Florina Lopez	FPCI	Panama
Andres Martinez	Community of Ustupu	Kuna Yala
Dennis Martinez	Indigenous Peoples' Restoration Network	USA
Onel Masardule	FPCI	Panama
Jadder Mendoza	FPCI	Nicaragua
Marisela Mendoza Rodriguez		Mexico

Jose Luis Montes Zamarron	World Wildlife Fund	Mexico
Kunjam Pandu Dora	Adivasi Aikya Vedika	India
Jose Proaño	Land is Life Ecuador	Ecuador
Sagari Ramdas	Anthra	India
Kittisak Rattanakrajangsri	Indigenous Peoples' Foundation for Education and Environment	Thailand
Gleb Raygorodetsky	The Christensen Fund	USA
Julio Cesar Reyna Escaname	Consejo Ecoregional Tarahumara	Mexico
Jesus Smith Kantule	Community of Ustupu	Kuna Yala
Jesus Smith Richard	FPCI	Panama
Matthew Tauli	MRDC	Philippines
Gloria Ushigua	Asociacion de Mujeres Zaparas— Ashiñwaka	Ecuador
Nicolas Villaume	Conversations with the Earth	France
Marcia Watler		Nicaragua
Kitla Yalke Waysala		Ethiopia

2. Scanned copies of articles published in Panamanian newspapers

Indígenas analizan cambio climático

JOSE ARCIA
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Comunidades indígenas de tres continentes se reunieron en Panamá para evaluar su situación frente al cambio climático.

Durante el encuentro, que se realizó del 2 al 7 de abril pasado, aprobaron una metodología de evaluación de los ecosistemas que sea aplicable para todas las comunidades.

Onel Masardule, indígena kuna, explicó que la idea es contar con una herramienta unificada para hacer las evaluaciones sobre los efectos del cambio climático en las comunidades indígenas.

Esas evaluaciones, dijo, no solo deben contemplar el aspecto ambiental, sino también las características culturales y sociales de los pueblos indígenas, por lo que los estudios que se realicen deberían estar en un lenguaje entendible para los indígenas.

Líderes de las comunidades de Filipinas, Etiopía, Kenia, Perú y México estuvieron presentes en el encuentro, en el que además se ana-



Kuna Yala es afectada por el nivel del mar. LA PRENSA/ Archivo

lizaron situaciones concretas que han sufrido los indígenas como consecuencia del cambio climático.

En el caso de los pueblos filipinos se expusieron los problemas que enfrentan por el deshielo que sufren algunas comunidades.

Los de Etiopía y Kenia plantearon la falta de agua, en vista de que la sequía ha agotado los pozos de las comunidades.

Los kunas de Panamá expusieron su situación del aumento del nivel de mar que ha provocado que pequeñas islas hayan desaparecido.

JUDITH REQUENA
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El cambio climático es un fenómeno que está afectando a todos los países del mundo, pero impacta más a los pueblos indígenas debido a su dependencia directa en los sistemas naturales y porque viven en los ecosistemas de más biodiversidad y frágiles del planeta.

Por esta razón, representantes de grupos indígenas de Finlandia, India, Perú, el Noreste de EE.UU., Tailandia y Filipinas se reunieron por cinco días en la comunidad de Ustupu en Kuna Yala para discutir e intercambiar experiencias sobre cuál es la mejor manera de realizar evaluaciones en las comunidades para hacerle frente al cambio climático, siendo

éste el “Primer Encuentro de las Evaluaciones Locales de la Iniciativa IPCC: Epistemología y Métodos Indígenas para responder al Cambio Climático”.

La iniciativa IPCCa está enfocada en buscar alternativas desde las comunidades para responder al problema global, según lo manifestó Alejandro Argumedo, coordinador internacional de la secretaría de la IPCCa.

Argumedo señaló que el encuentro arrojó como resultado el desarrollo de una visión común que ayudará a realizar las evaluaciones de manera coordinada y colaborativa y la creación de un Plan de Acción Conjunto que les permitirá participar como un grupo en los procesos internacionales que debaten el tema del cambio climático y poder contribuir con

las políticas nacionales e internacionales.

Onel Masardule, director ejecutivo de la fundación para la Comisión del Conocimiento Indígena de Kuna Yala, señaló que en el caso del cambio climático los gobiernos anteriores y el actual no le han tomado la debida importancia de los impactos que están sufriendo los pueblos indígenas, ya que han priorizado el tema de la mitigación con el tema del REDD que reconoce que es importante, pero sin olvidar el problema que aqueja a la comunidad indígena.

Masardule enfatizó que no dependerán de la posición del gobierno y que seguirán trabajando para buscar alternativas para poder hacerle frente al cambio climático.



Indígenas atentos al cambio climático

Representantes de varios países se reunieron en Kuna Yala para hacerle frente al fenómeno