



IPCCA Newsletter No. 2

December 2011

Climate Change: A Future Challenge or a Clear and Present Danger? Building Biocultural Responses



I. Hello from the Secretariat

For the IPCCA initiative, 2011 has been a year of actions, analysis and considerable progress in our most important realm; local action. The recent failure of the Durban UNFCCC COP 17 reinforces the importance of the local assessment processes. In this challenging context we strongly believe that we are on the right path as we are strengthening the resilience of our communities and ecosystems as well as creating local creative and realistic responses. Climate change is a clear and present danger, it is not an issue of the future and the local assessments are helping to illustrate how we are being impacted and how communities can respond through biocultural approaches. The international community must understand what we are facing, and beyond that it has a duty to address the inequities we face both in the impacts and the proposed solutions. This newsletter highlights key activities we have engaged in to speak to the multiple levels of challenges we face; from building local responses to informing the international community and processes in order to support our communities.

We are sure that 2012 will bring new challenges, but more importantly it brings multiple opportunities to progress on our main objective of building resilient communities!

IPCCA Secretariat Team

Cusco, 23rd December 2011



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II. 2011: A Year of Climate Action

FEBUARY 2011

i. **Sápara Methodological Workshop**

Sápara Territory, Ecuador

In February 2011, a delegation from the IPCCA-Secretariat accompanied by two members of the Potato Park held a workshop on the IPCCA methodology in the Sápara territory in the Ecuadorian



rainforest. The Sápara people are the smallest nationality (indigenous group) with a total population of 300. Originally they were hunters and gatherers, moving nomadically through the rainforest and have only been sedentary for approximately forty years. Due to historical processes of discrimination much of the traditional knowledge, including the Sápara language has been lost. In recent years, the Sápara have had floodings and droughts in their territory, threatening their livelihoods. The objective of the workshop, therefore, was to support the local assessment they are implementing by supporting the Sápara

in consolidating their traditional knowledge on climate change and their ecosystems in order to strengthen their local adaptive capacity.

During the workshop the impacts of climate change we analysed and indicators developed that demonstrate the effect of a changing climate and other outside factors with dangerous impacts on their livelihoods in the Ecuadorian Amazon basin were established. Through analysis of the impacts on livelihood practices such as manioc production and hunting, the Sápara people engaged with the IPCCA methodology in a practical manner.

For the IPCCA-Secretariat it was of crucial importance to experience and understand the local assessment implementation and the challenges they are faced with in order to reflect upon and adapt the methodology to the needs of the people.

Dorothea Hamilton (IPCCA secretariat staff)
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Read the full IPCCA Workshop report: [Sápara Knowledge and Climate Change in the Amazon](#)

ii. **Foro Indígena de Abya Yala sobre Cambio Climático - Indigenous Forum of Latin America on Climate Change**

Panama-City, Panama

The fifth meeting of the Indigenous Forum of Latin America on Climate Change met between February 28 and March 3rd, 2011, in Panama City. The coordinator of the IPCCA initiative was invited to participate and provide



technical assistance. The regional forum focused on the vulnerability of indigenous peoples to the impacts of global warming.

The meeting began with a critical reflection on how to best face the impacts caused by aggressive climate change which are caused by pollution and industrialised consumption which are endangering Mother Earth, indigenous cultures, ecosystems, and local livelihoods. Recent examples of extreme climatic variability include prolonged rains, floods and droughts, melting of glaciers, sea level rise, expansion of endemic diseases, forest fires, disruption of agricultural cycles, new epidemics and hunger were analysed and debated in the forum. Other discussions centred on mitigation and adaptation policies proposed by States, the UN, multilateral organisations, the private sector, international organisations and NGOs.

The forum concluded that collective efforts are required to respond to the effects of the climate crisis as they may be catastrophic. The forum also concluded that solutions to climate change such as carbon markets and mechanisms for the reduction of deforestation and forest degradation are false solutions that disrupt our collective rights, our spiritual and cultural relationship with Mother Earth, our territoriality and traditional forms of governance.

Alejandro Argumedo (Coordinator of the IPCCA)
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MARCH 2011

iii. **First Global Conference of the International Partnership for the Satoyama Initiative**

Nagoya, Japan

The IPCCA is an inaugural member of the International Partnership for the Satoyama Initiative (IPSI), launched during the Convention on Biological

Diversity COP 10 in Nagoya, Japan. As a member, we participated in the first Global Conference of the IPSI, in which there was an Assembly, a Public Forum and a Steering Committee meeting. The conference was held in Nagoya, Japan on the 10 – 11 of March, 2011. The meeting provided opportunity to liaise with global partners involved in collaborative activities that can support the goals of the IPCCA. The Satoyama approach to building resilient socio-ecological production landscapes shows many synergies with the biocultural approach we promote. A result of this meeting was that Alejandro Argumedo was invited onto the Steering Committee of the IPSI ensuring an active role for our initiative in future IPSI activities.

Marina Apgar (Research and Knowledge Officer of the IPCCA)
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iv. **Resilience Alliance Conference**

Arizona, USA

One of the key concepts of the IPCCA initiative is indigenous resilience, used in the conceptual framing of the assessment processes, and one of the goals of the IPCCA is to contribute into development of conceptual and practical tools to support building resilience in the face of climate change. The Resilience Alliance (RA), a group of researchers and academics working in the field of complex adaptive socio-ecological systems, are exploring an indigenous view of resilience. Through previous participation of Alejandro Argumedo with members of the RA, Alejandro was invited to attend the Resilience 2011 Conference to provide a keynote address on indigenous resilience as it is understood through the IPCCA.

The conference, with the theme of Resilience, Innovation, and Sustainability: Navigating Complexities of Global Change aimed to understand the relationship between resilience, vulnerability, innovation and sustainability. Marina Apgar represented the IPCCA Secretariat at the conference and provided a keynote address on an indigenous perspective of



resilience, emphasizing the process and learning that emerges from the IPCCa local assessments. The presentation generated much interest in a mainly academic crowd. An appreciation for the spiritual dimension of biocultural systems was an innovative perspective of resilience, and while discussed by some, is only beginning to be articulated. A result of this participation is the generation of a proposal to hold a workshop to further explore the concept and practice of indigenous resilience in collaboration with the RA. Gary Kofinas of Alaska University at Fairbanks, a member of the RA, is collaborating on this endeavor and we hope to have positive news regarding funding for the workshop in the new year.

Marina Apgar (Research and Knowledge Officer of the IPCCa)
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Watch the [presentation](#) held by Marina Apgar about the local assessments of the IPCCa

Source: <http://csid.asu.edu/resilience-2011/invited-speakers/videos/alejandro-argumedo/>

APRIL 2011

v. **Participatory Video Workshop**

Cusco, Peru

On April 27th till May 3rd, the Potato Park communities in Cusco, Peru, received the visit of two delegates from the Sápara nationality of Ecuador. This reciprocal visit was planned during the workshop held in the Sápara Territory in February 2011 on IPCCa methodology. The main objective of the visit was to participate in a workshop on participatory video for climate change assessments in order to strengthen the methodology and communication strategy of the IPCCa assessment in the Sápara territory. The

Potato Park local assessment team and Land is Life Ecuador facilitated the exchange between youth of the Sápara territory and the Potato Park.

The workshop was facilitated using a horizontal learning methodology developed by ANDES through its South-to-South exchange program. The Potato Park video collective shared their experiences and knowledge of using participatory video as a tool for building collective understanding and communicating traditional knowledge. The Sápara youth shared with the Potato Park members their experience in the Amazon with regards to their territory, their culture and the challenges they face today. A team of two expert video facilitators supported the process, providing technical skills on use of video cameras and filming techniques in the Potato Park communities, accompanied by Secretariat staff who ensured that the video training also reinforced the IPCCa methodological steps. At the end of a week in the communities, the participants spent two days in Cusco learning video editing in order to return to Ecuador with the skills they need to use participatory video as a tool for their local goals and the IPCCa methodology.



Marina Apgar (Research and Knowledge Officer of the IPCCa)
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AUGUST 2011



vi. Society for Ecological Restoration Conference

Merida, Mexico

Dennis Martinez, a Steering Committee member of the IPCCA initiative and leader of the Pacific North West Local Assessment in North America is a long standing member of the Society of Ecological Restoration International, providing a strong and constant indigenous voice within the Society. The SERI 2011 Conference with the theme *Re-establishing the Link between Nature and Culture* which took place in Merida, Mexico on August 21 – 25, provided an opportunity to present the IPCCA approach to an important academic forum, helping to systematize and consolidate learning through the IPCCA local assessments.

Dennis proposed a special session on *Indigenous Ecosystem-based Adaptation and Community-based Ecocultural Restoration during Rapid Climate Disruption: Lessons for Western Restorationists* with the objective of offering restorationists a look into the indigenous world of adaptation to climate disruption with a particular focus on the role of community ecosystem management and eco(bio)cultural restoration as revealed in the work of the IPCCA. Unfortunately, due to an accident, Dennis was unable to attend the Conference, and was replaced by Preston Hardison who read Dennis' inspiring paper, which highlighted the complementarity between traditional ecological knowledge and Western science for eco-cultural restoration. The IPCCA biocultural approach was presented by Marina Apgar and touched upon the methodology used by the local assessments, showcasing the diversity of ecosystems involved. The special session was well attended and proved an important moment for disseminating the IPCCA initiative and illustrating its potential for contributing into areas that are tackling the practical and theoretical aspects of dealing with climate change.

Marina Apgar (Research and Knowledge Officer of the IPCCA)
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Read the [full paper](#) presented by Dennis Martinez on the **Conference**: "Indigenous Ecosystem-based and community-based ecocultural restoration during rapid climate disruption: Lessons for Western restorationists"

Source: <http://www.scribd.com/doc/76322289/Dennis-Martinez-2011>

SEPTEMBER 2011

vii. IPCCA Workshop Finland

Sevettijarvi, Finland

Best of Season's Greetings from Finland to all IPCCA Communities, staff and coordinators! First, all Snowchange Finns and the Skolt Saami wish to extend the warmest thanks to the IPCCA and delegates who visited Sevettijärvi in September 2011. The powerful messages from the workshop and the stories from the different communities have already transformed the Sevettijärvi community in a number of ways. The Declaration seems to have received a large coverage in the international media.

We are also pleased that the work with IPCCA and the Saami continues at least to 2013 – we look forwards to contribute on all aspects of





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the process. A powerful recognition of the change that IPCCA is creating here in Finland was the Kekrinpäiväpalk into 2011 that was given out by the Kalevala Association – it is the most important award to recognize work with traditions in Finland and it was specifically given to the [Eastern Saami Atlas](#) – the first book of its kind to document oral histories, climate change and land use of the Eastern Saami from Finland or Russia – so in short, IPCCA is becoming the change we all need here already. We Finns who are working with the Saami on this feel that this is the beginning of a much-needed peace process between our peoples here domestically.

In the recent meeting in Sevetijärvi I was asked to become Chair of the Synthesis Report for the IPCCA – I wish publicly to thank all for this powerful and demanding task. We are currently discussing with the Secretariat the details, timetables, materials and resources needed to accomplish this document in 2012.

I feel my main task now that it has been placed on me is to produce a powerful document which will tell the messages from the various IPCCA communities around world on Indigenous knowledge and climate change. I will be assembling a team of lead authors on different topics and chapters over the next few months. We will put much emphasis on allowing Indigenous and traditional knowledge perspectives on weather and climate change. We need to transform the way discussions are had on climate data, observations and policy. The Synthesis Report will be a powerful tool to achieve this goal. I welcome all people and all ideas into this preparation process – please make contact with us to make this work!

With all the best from the warming North.

Tero Mustonen, PhD Snowchange Cooperative, Finland,
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[Download SEVETTIJARVI DECLARATION as PDF](#) and read the official [IPCCA workshop report](#) for detailed information on the workshop outcomes!

Sources:

Sevetijarvi: <http://www.globalforestcoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/Declaration-Finland.pdf>

Saami Atlas: <http://www.snowchange.org/2011/01/eastern-sami-atlas-published/>

OCTOBER 2011

viii. UNFCCC Side event

Panama-City, Panama

Since November 2010 the IPCCA has been undertaking a program of work funded by the Ford Foundation on biocultural analysis of REDD+, with the aim of empowering forest dwelling indigenous communities to build alternative, biocultural approaches to climate change mitigation in forest ecosystems. In order to progress with the strategic goals of contributing to reframing the climate change debate internationally, the IPCCA co-organised a side event, together with the Global Forest Coalition and the Fundación para la Promoción del Conocimiento Indígena during the UNFCCC climate talks in Panama City, 1-7 October. The workshop proposed the innovative use of Biocultural Protocols for developing safeguards for REDD+. The first example of this is being undertaken in Kuna Yala Panama, through the IPCCA local assessment work. Kuna Yala was chosen as a case study due to the past experience of the Kuna in developing and using Biocultural Protocols.

The Cacique of Kuna Yala, Anibal Escada opened the side-event through sharing the relationship the Kuna nurture with their forests found in their ancestral territory, which is based on a spiritual connection to all beings.



Forest management and use is guided not by its ability to mitigate climate change, but rather, by the responsibility the Kuna have as guardians of their territory and Mother Earth. The work being undertaken in Kuna Yala was presented, illustrating how protocols provide parameters for engagement within and among communities, and between communities and other actors, on the use of natural resources and associated knowledge. The IPCCA-led Biocultural Protocol initiative was met with enthusiasm and interest by members of the audience, including UN-REDD representatives, who wished to know more about the practical aspects of developing a Biocultural Protocol to improve their engagement with indigenous peoples.

Marina Apgar (Research and Knowledge Officer of the IPCCA)
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Photo by Onel Masardule, from left to right, Atencio Lopez, Aresio Valiente, Onel Masardule, Anibal Escada and Marina Apgar at the IPCCA, FPCI and GFC joint side event on biocultural protocols

NOVEMBER 2011

ix. **Article 8j workshop**

Montreal, Canada

The seventh meeting of The Ad Hoc Open-ended Inter-Sessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions (the Working Group) convened in Montreal from 31 October to 4 November 2011 to review progress in the implementation of the priority tasks of the programme of work. Highlighted agenda items reflected concerns on national and sub-national policies to ensure protection and encouragement of customary sustainable use of biodiversity, and the relationship between climate change and customary sustainable use. Important outcomes related to the IPCCA and development of Biocultural Protocols included recommendations from The Maritime Aboriginal Peoples Council emphasizing the importance of building a mechanism to standardize use of “indigenous peoples” and “free prior informed consent” under the CBD. The International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity also underscored the parties’ responsibilities to carry out their work on the premise of indigenous peoples’ rights.

On Tuesday, 1 November the IPCCA organized a side event on *Biocultural Community Protocols and Article 8(j) and Related Provisions*, which focused on Biocultural Protocols as a tool for empowering indigenous peoples and driving the local implementation of Article 8j and related provisions. Selected presenters provided a variety of perspectives related to the use of Biocultural Protocols for protecting and promoting traditional knowledge, practices and innovation systems of indigenous peoples and local communities. Lucia Fernanda Kaingang, from INBRAPI moderated the workshop and presenters included Kabir Bavikatte from Natural Justice, Alejandro Argumedo from ANDES, and Kaylena Bray on behalf of the IPCCA. Discussion points were focused on why Biocultural Protocols are critical for maintaining cultural



symbols, beliefs, attitudes, values, expectations, and norms of behavior associated to the respect for Mother Earth.

Kaylena Bray (Director of Seneca International)
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DECEMBER 2011

x. **IPCCA Workshop Indigenous Biocultural Protocols: Empowering Forest Dependent Indigenous Peoples and Developing Standards for REDD+**

Durban, South Africa

On November 24 – 27th the IPCCA organised the workshop *Indigenous Biocultural Protocols: Empowering Forest Dependent Indigenous Peoples and Developing Standards for REDD+* in Durban, South Africa. The workshop was the culminating activity of the IPCCA REDD+ work stream undertaken with Ford Foundation funding, consolidating results of activities relating to the component of building a network of indigenous communities for biocultural analysis of REDD+ and reframing the REDD+ policy debate. While the workshop was aimed primarily at IPCCA partners located in the REDD belt, it enabled inclusion of new partners interested in collaborating on REDD+ safeguards through the IPCCA led proposal of developing Biocultural Protocols. The workshop provided an important space for growing and strengthening the IPCCA network, and led to setting up a Working Group within the IPCCA network to facilitate biocultural analysis of REDD+.

The dates and venue were chosen strategically prior to the COP17 of the UNFCCC, which took place in Durban, South Africa November 28 – December 10, in order to ensure that the workshop results fed directly into the COP17 activities. A resulting declaration from the workshop had significant impact on

the REDD+ debate within the caucus of the International Indigenous Forum on Climate Change and the COP 17 negotiations.

Read the [The IPCCA Declaration](#) alerting the UNFCCC and the world to the imminent threat that REDD poses to Indigenous territories and livelihoods and see the [IPCCA website on Durban](#) to be informed on any news on the Durban conference!

///. **Post Durban News**

Durban Package lacks ambition and equity

12th December 2011

Payal Parekh - Climate and Energy Expert

Thirty-six hours after the climate change conference countries agreed to a weak agreement that is lacking in ambition, equity and justice. While a second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol has been agreed to, three major polluters Japan, Canada and Russia (and of course the United States) are not participating, the targets are much lower than what science demands, and there are a number of loopholes that essentially negate the targets. Forestry management rules are akin to cooking the books, and dealing with surplus AAUs has been punted to next year. It is not yet clear.....

[Read full text!](#)

Source: <http://www.climate-consulting.org/2011/12/12/durban-package-lacks-ambition-and-equity/>



Where now for Climate Justice? FOEI's Post-Durban Analysis

Durban, 13th December 2011
Friends of the Earth International
MEDIA ADVISORY

The UN climate talks in Durban were a failure and take the world a significant step back by further undermining an already flawed, inadequate multilateral system that is supposed to address the climate crisis, according to Friends of the Earth International.

Developed countries engaged in a smoke and mirrors trick of delivering rhetoric but no action, failed to commit to urgently needed deep emissions cuts, and even backtracked on past commitments to address the climate crisis...

[Read full text!](#)

Source:
<http://www.foecanada.org/index.php?option=content&task=view&id=452&Itemid=2>

Indigenous Peoples Condemn Climate Talks Fiasco and Demand Moratoria on REDD+

Durban, 14th December 2011
Tom Goldtooth

"The UN climate negotiation is not about saving the climate, it is about privatization of forests, agriculture and the air," Berenice Sanchez of the Mesoamerica Indigenous Women's Biodiversity Network says in a press release earlier this week.

The press release came from The Global Alliance of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities against REDD+ and for Life, that was formed in Durban during the UN climate negotiations, COP17. It's interesting because the Alliance includes

Read full article: [\[English/ spanish\]](#)

Source: <http://www.redd-monitor.org/2011/12/17/indigenous-peoples-condemn-climate-talks-fiasco-and-demand-moratoria-on-redd/>

COP-17: Bolivia's forest proposal gets little attention

Jocelyn Newmarch
2nd December 2011

Bolivia has tabled a new proposal on forest conservation, but has so far been disappointed by the lack of attention from other negotiators



BOLIVIA has tabled a new proposal on forest conservation, but has so far been disappointed by the lack of attention from other negotiators, it said yesterday at the United Nations (UN) climate- change talks in Durban.

Any comprehensive solution to climate change will have to take account of forests, which trap and store carbon dioxide. According to the Food and Agriculture Organisation, forests trap 1-trillion tons of carbon — twice the amount in the atmosphere. ...

[Read full text!](#)

Source: <http://www.businessday.co.za/articles/Content.aspx?id=160224>

Indigenous Peoples Call for REDD Moratorium

Durban, 12th December 2011
Steven Leahy
Steve.leahy0@gmail.com

A new coalition of indigenous peoples and local communities called for a moratorium on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) programs, a key part of the negotiations for a new international climate treaty that took place over the last two weeks in South Africa.

The new Global Alliance of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities against REDD and for Life issued a statement stating that based on "in-depth investigations, a growing number of recent reports provide evidence that indigenous peoples are being subjected to violations of their rights as a result of the implementation of REDD+-type programs and policies.

[Read full text!](#)

Source: <http://ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=106187>

IV. Recent IPCC Publications

Analytical Background Paper on REDD+

Publication: Asociación ANDES – IPCC

This analytical background document aims to provide information on REDD+ mechanisms, and critically analyses how these mechanisms can potentially impact upon the rights of indigenous peoples. It also provides proposals for responding to challenges through a biocultural approach.

[View and Download](#)

IPCCA Local Assessment Methodological Toolkit

Publication: Asociación ANDES – IPCC

This First Edition of the IPCC Methodological Toolkit for Local Assessments has been developed using a participatory process which enabled learning from practice in the first Local Assessments to be implemented. It is not intended as a prescriptive tool, but rather, as a framework and guide which must be adapted by each team to the local context. As always, this is an ongoing process, and we intend to build upon our initial experiences and learning to enrich the toolkit into a Second Edition. We welcome all feedback and comments!

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The IPCCA Secretariat wishes you a Happy 2012!

Alejandro Argumedo
Marina Apgar
Dorothea Hamilton

The IPCCA is supported by:

