

# Equitable and Effective: Local Community Biodiversity Conservation

## Insight Series: NBSAP Implementation Experiences

In the face of the global biodiversity crisis, effective and swift protection of 30 per cent of the planet's land and ocean by 2030 is key. In this drive to preserve habitats and the diverse species that inhabit them, we need to particularly empower Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IP&LCs) who rely on biodiversity and contribute to its conservation. Implementing National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) aligned with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) allows countries to strike a balance between effective and equitable biodiversity conservation. An example of such action is the recognition of areas in which customs and the rights of IP&LCs over their traditional territories are recognized. Two approaches have gained attention as crucial levers to reach the global conservation targets: Indigenous Community and Conserved Areas (ICCAs) and Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs).

The GIZ Global Project "Strengthening National Implementation of Global Biodiversity Targets (GBF Implementation)", financed by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD), bolsters local community biodiversity conservation action. Contributing to the objectives of the country-led NBSAP Accelerator Partnership, the project supports eight partner countries: Colombia, Peru, Brazil, Namibia, Madagascar, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Laos, and Indonesia. In selected partner countries, the project strengthens (non-)state actors to implement participative conservation to contribute to NBSAP implementation.

Visit the  
project  
webpage!



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Farms to participate in innovative biodiversity monitoring in Colombia

### Strengthening local governance: ICCAs and community conservation in Madagascar

The official recognition of areas - where Indigenous communities engage in conservation activities - as ICCAs in the [ICCA Registry](#) is limited in many countries, despite representing the most ancient conservation practice. In Madagascar, areas conserved through *Fokonolona* – village governance councils of local communities with close bonds to local culture and contributing to conservation – often meet all requirements to classify as ICCAs. They remain unconsidered and unrecognized however as the concept has not previously been used in Madagascar. The global project therefore supports the designation of ICCAs for inclusion in the ICCA Registry. Implemented by the non-governmental

**Indigenous Community and Conserved Areas (ICCAs)** are areas governed and conserved by IP&LCs for conservation and cultural purposes, through customary laws or other effective means.



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organisation Natural Justice, this includes workshops to develop a methodology for identifying, documenting, and recognizing ICCAs. A compendium of good practices on ICCA self-identification and documentation supports wider ICCA recognition. Five areas, of which three are newly identified, are documented according to principle of free, prior, and informed consent, and are included in the ICCA Registry. The process also allows for the development of policy briefs to facilitate communication between communities and public authorities, strengthening their capacity to participate in NBSAP revision and implementation. The ICCAs may additionally qualify as OECMs, thereby potentially contributing to Madagascar’s coverage targets.

## Agrobiodiversity zones: Natural resource stewardship by local communities in Peru

In Peru, the project supports local communities in the management of agrobiodiversity zones in close coordination with the National Institute of Agrarian Innovation (INIA). This activity forms part of the support to the implementation of the National Biodiversity Strategy (NBS), coordinated by the Ministry of Environment (MINAM). The complementary registration of agrobiodiversity zones as OECMs in the [World Database of OECMs](#) highlights the role of local communities for in-situ conservation also beyond the field and underlines their demand for secured land rights. Beside economic incentives, land tenure and cultural contexts are key



**Agrobiodiversity zones** are determined by their richness in native agricultural and biological diversity, in which IP&LCs manage and conserve native genetic resources through agricultural traditions.

determinants for biodiversity conservation and need to be understood in the context of any governmental or international support measure. The support to INIA as the nationally responsible body for agrobiodiversity zones and to MINAM, responsible for submitting OECM proposals, helps to ensure that traditional management practices of local Quechua and Aymara communities are valued as a contribution to the conservation of native agrobiodiversity. Simultaneously, these actions contribute to Peru’s coverage targets in the NBS.

### Reflecting forward



Sufficient time and resources must be planned and invested when more governing bodies are involved (e.g., ICCAs spanning multiple municipalities).



Enhancing governments’ recognition of the self-governance of IP&LCs and their land rights contributes to more effective conservation.



An intercultural approach is critical to recognize the perspectives and rights of IP&LCs as significant contributions to decision-making.

The project is preparing support for additional activities that improve participation of local actors in conservation, such as funding a pilot project on biodiversity monitoring in Colombia, in which members of local communities in the MiPáramo biological corridor are trained to use intelligent camera systems that record and identify species of wildlife.

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