



*Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.*



INDIGENOUS PEOPLES COMMUNITY CONSERVED TERRITORIES AND AREAS **ICCA**



Legend

- Key Biodiversity Areas
- Ancestral Domains



DATA SOURCES

- KBA boundary data obtained from Haribon Foundation for the Conservation of Nature. 2006. Quezon City, Philippines.
- Ancestral domain boundaries may be CADC, CALT, CADT, ancestral domain claims. Data from NCIP, AnthroWatch and PAFID as of 2012.
- Jarvis, A., H.I. Reuter, A. Nelson, E. Guevara. "Hole-filled SRTM for the globe Version 4, available from the CGIAR-CSI SRTM 90m. Database (<http://srtm.csi.cgiar.org>), 2008.

Disclaimer: PAFID may not be held accountable for omissions or positional inaccuracies of sourced information. Notification of any errors will be appreciated.





KALAHAN EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION, INC.
Imugan, Santa Fe, Nueva Vizcaya
Philippines



Daluhay
Daloy ng Buhay

SIPAG



PHILIPPINE ICCA PROJECT

Biodiversity Management Bureau (BMB)
Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)
Phone: (02) 925-8947/ (02) 924-6031 Loc. 233



**WHAT ARE
ICGAs?**

Indigenous Peoples Community Conserved Territories and Areas or ICCAs are biologically significant areas that are important to the livelihood and culture of Indigenous Cultural Communities/Indigenous Peoples (ICCs/IPs). ICCAs are voluntarily conserved by ICCs/IPs and are governed through their customary laws and indigenous governance structures and mechanisms. ICCAs embody the cultural and spiritual relationship of ICCs/IPs with their land and environment.

Is ICCA a new governance mechanism?

No. ICCs/IPs have been governing our environment for thousands of years. Their indigenous ways of

life, sustainable use of natural resources, and close interactions with the environment have all contributed to biodiversity conservation in their areas. The ICCs/IPs' culture and tradition that has withstood the test of time encompasses their governance system over their resources and sacred grounds.

What are the characteristics of an ICCA?

First, it is important to ICCs/IPs. Second, this is being governed by ICCs/IPs. Finally, because of their governance, biodiversity in the area is conserved.


"What is ICCA? This is what we have been doing since time immemorial... If ICCAs are destroyed, how can we provide for the needs of everybody?"

Teresa Gaspar, Tinglayan, Kalinga

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF ICCA?

ICCAs provide ICCs/IPs with sustainable sources of livelihood. Through ICCs/IPs' governance of ICCAs using their "Indigenous Knowledge, Systems, and Practices (IKSPs), communities within and outside their ancestral domains are able to enjoy fresh air, clean waters, and scenic surroundings. Landslides that destroy rivers, springs, and other water sources are also prevented. Communities and the environment are provided an additional layer of

protection since ICCAs recognize and promote ICCs/IPs' capacity to stand up and face the threats and changes that they are encountering. ICCAs also strengthen the capacities of ICCs/IPs to assert their rights to govern their ancestral domains. ICCAs are considered heritage sites not only by ICCs/IPs, but also by the country and the world. It is the continuous exercise and preservation of IKSPs that supports the conservation of these sites.



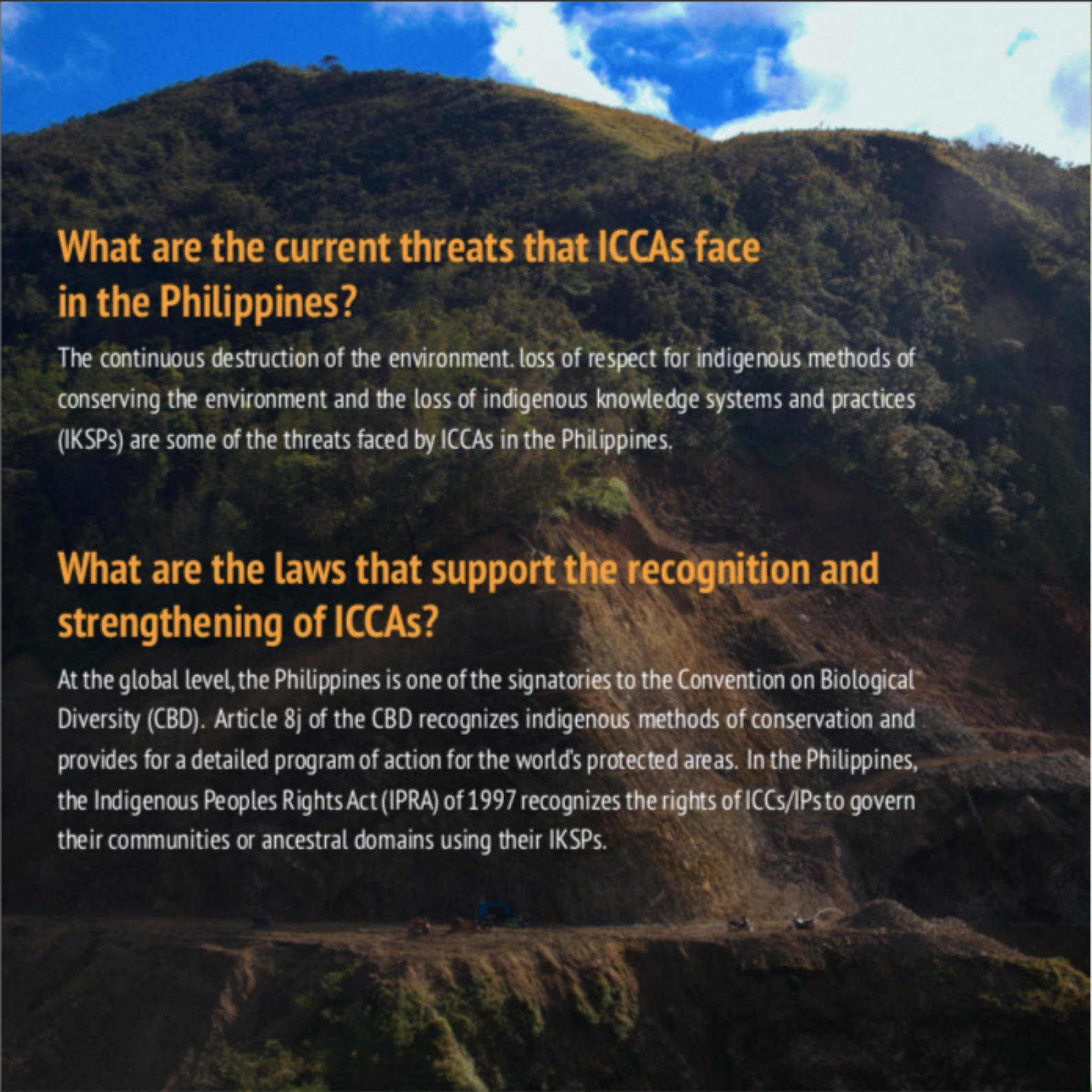
"For us, when we protect our ICCAs, nature will protect us. If we abuse nature, it will no longer be able to protect us."

Datu Makalipay, Esperanza , Agusan del Sur

PHOTO: ©Philippine Association for Inter-Cultural Development

**WHAT ARE THE
BENEFITS OF
ICCA?**

ICCA stands for Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas. It is a term used by the United Nations to describe areas of land and water managed by local communities to conserve biodiversity and ecosystems. ICCAs are often found in rural areas and are managed by local people who have a deep understanding of the area and its resources. ICCAs can provide a range of benefits, including improved livelihoods, increased resilience to climate change, and the conservation of biodiversity and ecosystems.



What are the current threats that ICCAs face in the Philippines?

The continuous destruction of the environment, loss of respect for indigenous methods of conserving the environment and the loss of indigenous knowledge systems and practices (IKSPs) are some of the threats faced by ICCAs in the Philippines.

What are the laws that support the recognition and strengthening of ICCAs?

At the global level, the Philippines is one of the signatories to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). Article 8j of the CBD recognizes indigenous methods of conservation and provides for a detailed program of action for the world's protected areas. In the Philippines, the Indigenous Peoples Rights Act (IPRA) of 1997 recognizes the rights of ICCs/IPs to govern their communities or ancestral domains using their IKSPs.

A photograph of four people standing in a lush, green forest. From left to right: a man with long dark hair and a beard wearing a red shirt; a woman with dark hair tied in a bun with a purple hair tie, wearing a green long-sleeved shirt; a woman with long dark hair wearing a white t-shirt with a black backpack; and a woman with dark hair wearing a white long-sleeved shirt and a yellow strap over her shoulder, holding a pink folder. They are all looking towards the right side of the frame. The background is filled with dense tropical foliage and trees.

WHAT IS THE PHILIPPINE ICCA PROJECT?

PHOTO: ©Philippine Association for Inter-Cultural Development, Inc. (PAFID)

The “Strengthening National Systems to Improve Governance and Management of Indigenous Peoples Community Conserved Territories and Areas” (Philippine ICCA Project) is the government’s response to the need to protect and manage key biodiversity areas through the recognition of ICCAs as an additional and innovative type of governance and sustainability mechanism for protected areas. The Philippine ICCA Project will be implemented from 2015 to 2019 by the Biodiversity Management Bureau of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources. The Project is funded by the Global Environment Facility through the United Nations Development Programme and in partnership with various civil society organizations.

What is the objective of the Philippine ICCA Project?

The Project aims to strengthen the conservation, protection and management of key biodiversity areas in the Philippines by pushing for policies that institutionalize ICCAs as an additional and innovative type of governance and sustainability mechanism for protected areas. The Project also aims to support the improvement of capacities of ICCs/IPs and key stakeholders in effectively managing and conserving ICCAs.





29% OF KEY BIODIVERSITY AREAS ARE WITHIN ANCESTRAL DOMAINS
AND ANCESTRAL LANDS

1.44M OF ANCESTRAL DOMAINS AND LANDS ARE INSIDE PROTECTED AREAS

