

GEF Small Grants Programme

Global Support Initiative for Indigenous Peoples and Community-Conserved Territories and Areas (ICCA-GSI)

MADAGASCAR

Global Context

With the adoption of the 2010 CBD 2020 Aichi targets, attention has been focused on recognizing and supporting the vital role of indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs) in conserving biodiversity outside the framework of formally-gazetted and managed government protected areas. To this end, the Global Support Initiative for Indigenous Peoples and Community-Conserved Territories and Areas (ICCA-GSI) was formed in 2014 to broaden the diversity and quality of governance types and protected areas (PAs) and conserved areas (CAs) which contribute to the CBD Aichi Targets.

The ICCA-GSI is a multi-partnership initiative delivered by the UNDP-GEF Small Grants Programme (SGP) in 26 countries, with \$16.3m funding provided by the Government of Germany, through its Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) International Climate Initiative (IKI). Key partners include the Convention of Biological Diversity (CBD), Global ICCA Consortium, IUCN's Global Programme on Protected Areas (IUCN GPAP) and the UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP WCMC).



Andranobe community territory, featuring a lake, forest, crops and grassland, continuous to be threatened by land grabbing in Madagascar's Vakinankaratra region

Goals

ICCA-GSI's central goal is to improve the recognition, support and overall effectiveness of ICCAs for biodiversity conservation through sustainable livelihoods and self-strengthening of ICCAs. Its work focuses on **Aichi Target 11** (increasing PA coverage), **Aichi Target 14** (safeguarding ecosystems and increasing the effectiveness of its services), and **Aichi Target 18** (Protecting traditional knowledge). ICCA-GSI support is provided at three levels thru:

- (i.) Direct financial and technical support to community-based action and demonstration for the self-strengthening of ICCAs leading to ecosystem protection, legal empowerment, sustainable livelihoods and poverty reduction.
- (ii.) National legal, policy and other forms of support to enhance ICCA recognition and conservation, including governance assessments of protected and conserved areas; and
- (iii.) Global and regional networking, knowledge production and exchange support between national CSO initiatives.



Country Programme Strategy

Since 2007, the SGP has been supporting local community initiatives in Madagascar including the empowerment and stewardship of more than 300 local community organizations and their networks. With the launch of the ICCA-GSI, the breadth and depth of support to IPLCs has been expanded, particularly to the *fokonolona*, a Malagasy local community structure based on a self-rule concept. Despite efforts in reviving the *fokonolona* in 1962 through the involvement of

Way of Life linked to Nature: Communities' decision-making process under tamarind trees – traditionally known for evoking peace, where anger and conflict is prohibited.

For more information contact:

Faliarimino Rakotomanana, National Coordinator, Small Grants Programme (SGP) in Madagascar

Email: faliarimino.rakotomanana@undp.org

www.sgp.undp.org/

IPLCs in plans for rural economic and social development and being constitutionally recognized in 1975 as the "decentralized collective of the state" responsible for economic, social, cultural and municipal development at the local level, the *fokonolona* has been superseded by Decentralized Territorial Collectives. Today, local communities are still not recognized by the national legislation nor by the Malagasy laws. Furthermore, natural resources transfer mechanisms that are developed and implemented by Madagascar's Forest and Environmental Department do not secure the community land ownership nor their social, cultural and economic needs.

In 2012, the Tafo Mihaavo, a national network of grassroots communities was established. They developed strategies and action plans on the governance and community management of natural resources in order to enhance the legal and national recognition of local community rights. The strategies are based on *fokonolona* values wherein members of one or several clans residing in a defined territory are brought together. Each *fokonolona* has a large degree of management autonomy, security and justice, and operates in a democratic way, with the participation of women and children, and decisions are taken unanimously according to the code of *Dina* (social pact). The Tafo Mihaavo is a member of the ICCA Consortium, one of the ICCA-GSI key partners.

Under this guidance, the ICCA-GSI portfolio of projects in *Madagascar* aims to increase the recognition of ICCAs through strategic initiatives based on three main components: (i) Securing ICCAs, particularly in relation to their community status, land ownership mechanisms, community knowledge protection and organizational structure based on the bi-cultural wealth of the ICCA. (ii) Support to the autonomy of the *fokonolona* living in ICCAs by promoting economic activities at the local, regional and national levels that is harmonious with their social and cultural values as well as their sustainable utilization of natural resources; and (iii) Advocacy actions for recognition of and support to *fokonolona* at the national and international levels. These components will be transversely supported by documenting the know-how and values of IPLCs in each ICCA and the assurance of inter-generational transfer of knowledge.

Project Portfolio

Project Name	Implementation Period
Malagasy ICCAs Strategic Support Project, Madagascar	April 2017 – February 2020
Re-dynamization of community structures in the Amoron'i Mania Region in order to make the communities autonomous, heard, healthy, recognized and indispensable in decision-making process affecting the sustainable management of natural resources	April 2018 – October 2020
Sustainable management of natural resources by local communities and promotion of sustainable agriculture to increase income sources in CR Ambohimahazo and Anjoman'Ankona Manandriana District, Amoron'i Mania Region	April 2018 – October 2020
Strategical Support for the local communities land ownership and forest, soil sustainable management, District of Ikongo, Vatovavy Fitovinany Region, Madagascar	April 2018 – October 2020
Strategical Support for the local communities land ownership and community sustainable development initiatives for natural resources management, Haute Matsiatra Region, Madagascar	April 2018 – October 2020
Community governance, advocacy and communication enhanced for the TAFO MIHAOVO members, Vakinankaratra Region, Madagascar	April 2018 – October 2020

For more information contact:

[Faliarimino Rakotomanana](mailto:faliarimino.rakotomanana@undp.org), National Coordinator, Small Grants Programme (SGP) in Madagascar

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www.sgp.undp.org/