

# FOREST GOVERNANCE, TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE, COMMUNITY CONSERVATION AND RESILIENCE



CCRI projects in action in Colombia, Malaysia and Ethiopia

## CONTEXT

Indigenous peoples and local communities play a critical role in the protection and conservation of forests and other ecosystems and genetic resources and diversity. It is estimated that territories and areas managed and conserved by Indigenous Peoples and local communities encompass up to 22% of the earth's terrestrial area and coincide with 80 percent of the planet's biodiversity. [1]

There is an increasing scientific and political recognition of this role by the UN Convention on Biodiversity (CBD), which acknowledges that ecosystem conservation and restoration initiatives by indigenous peoples and local communities can contribute significantly to forest conservation and restoration. [2] In addition, it appreciates the role of collective action, including by indigenous peoples and local communities. [3]

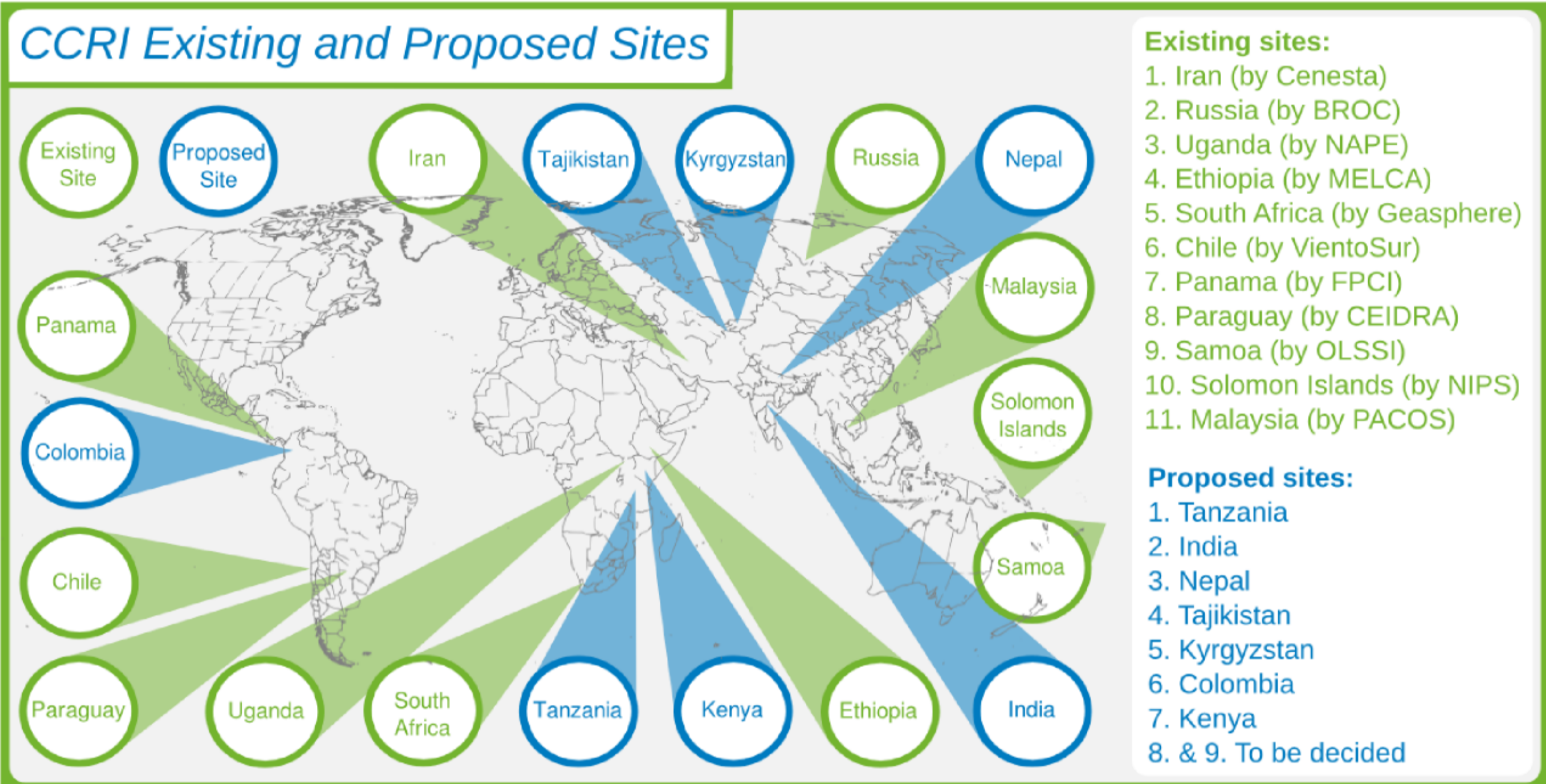
These collective actions are a bundle of inherent capacities of resilience. They embrace learning, diversity and above all the belief that humans and nature are strongly coupled to the point that they should be conceived as one social-ecological system. However, such relationships have not been systematically addressed in the regions where a great number of community conservation initiatives are found.

## APPLYING RESILIENCE THINKING: COMMUNITY CONSERVATION RESILIENCE INITIATIVE (CCRI) [4]

The Community Conservation Resilience Initiative (CCRI) was established with the aim to sustain and strengthen the resilience of community conservation practices. It is currently assessing the legal, political, socio-economic, financial, technical and capacity-building support that is required to assist in sustaining and strengthening such initiatives and approaches in 11 countries (Panama, Chile, Paraguay, South Africa, Uganda, Ethiopia, Iran, Russia, Malaysia, Solomon Islands and Samoa).

The CCRI methodology is a simple guiding framework meant to be adapted to specific nation and local contexts and it can help to better understand and address threats and challenges.

The CCRI is aimed to contribute to the implementation of the CBD's 2011 – 2020 Strategic Plan and Aichi Targets and the proposed Sustainable Development Goals related to forests by providing policy advice on effective and appropriate forms of support for community conservation.



## LESSONS LEARNT AND RECOMMENDATIONS SO FAR

The initial CCRI pilot sites was implemented in Uganda, Samoa, Malaysia and Colombia from September 2013 to April 2014 and these are the key messages that came out of the evaluation workshop in November, 2014:

- A strong facilitation and support organization, which is capable of undertaking the work
- Listen to, understand and respond to the community's plans, ideas and proposals, rather than rushing in with readymade proposals.
- Create synergies between the communities aspirations and conservation initiatives
- Look for opportunities to build trust and cooperation between all stakeholders, in a way that is sensitive to the community's concerns through Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)
- Methodologies should be participatory, flexible, creative, visual and accessible to accommodate the project design to suite the specific needs and concerns of different communities and cultures.
- Ensure inclusion of women in all levels of project planning and implementation and perform a gender analysis to assess the distinct rights, roles and needs of women.

Starting 2015 to 2019, the CCRI project will document and review the findings in at least 20 countries by 2019.

## REFERENCES

- [1] World Bank, 2008; Kothari et al, 2012  
[2] <https://www.cbd.int/decision/cop/default.shtml?id=13382>  
[3] <https://www.cbd.int/decision/cop/default.shtml?id=13366>  
[4] <http://globalforestcoalition.org/resources/forests-and-climate-change>

## FOOTNOTE

This project is part of the International Climate Initiative (IKI). The German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) supports this initiative on the basis of a decision adopted by the German Bundestag.

Supported by:



Federal Ministry for the  
Environment, Nature Conservation,  
Building and Nuclear Safety

based on a decision of the German Bundestag



<http://globalforestcoalition.org/>  
Simone Lovera: [simone@forestcoalition.org](mailto:simone@forestcoalition.org)  
Mrinalini Rai: [mrinalini.rai@globalforestcoalition.org](mailto:mrinalini.rai@globalforestcoalition.org)