



Le Consortium  
APAC

## DECLARATION DE GOMA – MARS 2022

### AREAS AND TERRITORIES CONSERVED BY INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES (APAC)

First Sub-Regional Assembly of ICCAs in Central Africa  
From 07 to 09 March 2022  
Goma, Democratic Republic of the Congo

### GOMA DECLARATION – MARCH 2022

We, representatives and support organizations to the Indigenous and Community Heritage Areas and Territories (ICCAs-territories of life) of Central Africa, gathered in Goma, North Kivu Province in the Democratic Republic of Congo from 7 to 9 March 2022 at the MBIZA Hotel during the Sub-Regional Assembly of ICCA-Territories of Life;

**Considering** the following referencies:

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights by the United Nations General Assembly: "International Law to Local Communities" (1966);

African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (1981);

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (1992);

United Nations Convention to combat Desertification (1994);

International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Guidelines for the Application of Protected Area Management Categories: "Matrix of Types of Governance and Community Conservation" (2008);

United Nations 2030 Strategy: "Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 1-Eradication of poverty; 2-Fight against hunger; 3-Health and well-being; 6-Clean water and sanitation; 13-climate change, 14-Protection of aquatic fauna and flora; 15-Ecosystem restoration and biodiversity; 17-Global Partnership for the Implementation of the SDGs (2015);

Declaration of African Guardian Communities: "Recognition and Protection of Sacred Natural Sites and Sacred Territories and Customary Governance Systems in Africa" (2015);

Decision 14-8 on protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECM) of Charm-el Cheick (CoP 14 CBD, 2018);

Revised Convergence Plan of the Central African Forestry Commission (COMIFAC) (2018-2025);

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework: Update of the initial draft post-2020 global biodiversity framework (2020);

COMIFAC Operational Directives on the participation of local communities and Indigenous Peoples in the management of natural resources in Central Africa;

Sub-regional Guidelines on Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit-sharing arising from their Utilization (2021);

World Bank Standard 7 "Indigenous Peoples-Traditional Local Communities of Sub-Saharan Africa" on the Recognition of indigenous Peoples' Rights (2021);

**Thanking** nature for the many goods and services it gives us (food, oxygen, medicine, spaces of initiation), the wisdom it teaches us and the peace it gives us;

**Thanking** our ancestors for their work, perseverance and wisdom in the service of life, for the path they have paved for us and for the assistance they continue to provide us;

**Having taken note** of the dynamics of ICCA-territories of life at the level of Central Africa;

**Aware** of the role of Indigenous People and local communities in the various national and sub-regional issues and policies for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the sustainable management of biodiversity and ecosystems;

**Concerned** about our well-being and that of future generations;

**Recognizing** the effectiveness of the knowledge and know-how of Indigenous Peoples and local communities and their contribution to nature-based solutions, the fight against biodiversity loss and climate crises;

**Concerned** about the preservation of natural and cultural values, material and immaterial, including respect for traditional rules, solidarity and pride in identity;

**Aware** of the various social, cultural, environmental and economic functions that ICCA-territories of life fulfil for the conservation of nature and the well-being of local communities;

**Aware** of the current threats to ICCA-territories of life, including the regression of respect for sacredness, modernism, overexploitation and land grabbing,

deforestation, illegal hunting and corruption, demographic pressure and rampant urbanization, as well as the loss of biological diversity;

**Concerned** about the low consideration of ICCA-territories of life in most national legislations;

**Determined** to sustainably preserve our territories of life that perpetuate our endogenous values in the interest of communities;

**make a commitment** to encourage the promotion of ICCA-territories of life to:

1. increase the awareness of Indigenous Peoples and local communities of the values of their territory of life and strengthen their mobilization for self-determination in the governance and management of these territories;
2. support communities in their self-capacity building to better document, advocate for legal recognition and defend their territories of life;
3. strengthen the mobilization of Members and Honorary Members of the Sub-Region;
4. organise an annual sub-regional forum on Community management, applying the principle of rotation by country;
5. consolidate the achievements in the countries most advanced in the process and support the identification of ICCA-territories of life in the other countries of Central Africa;
6. prioritize exchange trips as an effective tool for self-capacity building of Indigenous Peoples and local communities;
7. continue dialogue and partnership with religious denominations;
8. intensify dialogue and advocacy with state institutions and aligned technical and financial partners;
9. strengthen communication between the actors of the ICCA-territories of life, the Members and Honorary Members of the ICCA Consortium.

**and call for:**

1. support to the ICCA Global Consortium in finalizing its regionalization process;
2. the acquisition of observer status in sub-regional bodies;
3. the institutional commitment for the recognition of ICCA-territories of life at the sub-regional level with legal guarantees, such as the ABS and traditional knowledge directives;
4. the legal recognition, in each country, of ICCA-territories of life by legislated texts,
5. The creation of a monitoring group guardian of the "ICCA quality" of the territories of life and their networks in the sub-region.

Done at Goma, 9 March 2022  
For the Sub-Regional Assembly Central Africa

Signatures :