

PLANTS, LIVELIHOODS, AND  
COMMUNITY CONSERVATION IN THE KALAHARI



4-8 MARCH 2009

Dq̄e Qare Game Lodge

D'Kar, Ghanzi District, Botswana



## Acknowledgements

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## Facilitating Organisations



### Indigenous Peoples of Africa Coordinating Committee (IPACC)

The Indigenous Peoples of Africa Coordinating Committee (IPACC) is a network of 150 indigenous peoples' organisations in 22 African countries that works to empower indigenous African communities to determine freely their own economic, political and cultural future, including on issues of rights, land tenure, and natural resource access and use. In April 2007, IPACC's leaders elaborated the Bujumbura Plan of Action on the Environment, Natural Resources and Climate to help guide member organisations in their advocacy in relation to sustainable development and engagement in national, regional and multilateral policy making.

The Bujumbura strategic planning meeting concluded that the imperative development goal is for African indigenous peoples to:

...demonstrate convincingly to influence decision makers that indigenous peoples are holders of sophisticated indigenous (traditional) knowledge of the environment which is valuable to national resource management planning.

The project purpose arising from the Bujumbura Strategic Action Plan is:

... to ensure that Indigenous African leaders have adequate knowledge and preparation to engage in multilateral and national forums dealing with environmental, climatic, natural resource and land management policy and implementation which favour biological and cultural diversity.

IPACC aims to help the indigenous peoples' movement communicate to African governments and influential NGOs that those people who are holders of important traditional ecological knowledge, are also holders of rights – human, civil, environmental, political, cultural and intellectual rights.

Since 2007, IPACC has been engaged in a series of workshops and dialogues across Africa, to help indigenous peoples, civil society and governments explore how linking traditional ecological knowledge (TEK), with community based natural resources management (CBNRM) within a rights-based approach to development can create new positive synergies for nature conservation, reduction of rural poverty, and improved governance in Africa.



**GDF**  
A world of difference

## **GDF**

GDF is a family of organisations and regional initiatives that promote agricultural, biological and cultural diversity around the world through research, training and social action. It comprises the Global Diversity Fund, a registered 501(c)3 non-profit in the United States, and the Global Diversity Foundation, a UK charitable organisation, as well as programmes in Mesoamerica, North Africa, Southeast Asia and Southern Africa.

A crosscutting International Programme focuses on disseminating results and providing courses, seminars and workshops on contemporary issues in biocultural diversity and research methods in ethnoecology. It coordinates the Biocultural Diversity Learning Network (BDLN), which brings together a group of innovative colleagues from diverse backgrounds and institutions to launch new courses, convene meetings to review progress and contribute to an Online Learning Guide on Biocultural Diversity.

In May 2008 GDF and collaborators from other institutions concluded a meeting on international capacity building and training in biocultural diversity with the 'Assling Accord', which sets out a common goal of fulfilling the desire of our local and indigenous colleagues around the world to acquire and develop research and teaching tools. It noted that the guardians of biocultural diversity and their allies have a distinct preference for:

- Pursuing community-based ethnoecology (making biological collections, mapping resources, recording knowledge) in contrast to hosting scientific expeditions from abroad
- Learning about community and participatory photography and video along with having professional documentary makers and photographers represent their regions in words and images
- Acquiring the hardware, software and skills to create their own multimedia databases and geographical information systems rather than having highly technical – and difficult to maintain – informatics products from abroad
- Developing in-country expertise for identifying species and authenticating herbal remedies, including through advanced techniques such as genetic bar-coding, in place of sending biological collections and samples abroad
- Engaging in training on place-based writing to complement written works by international authors and in place-based research to address local intellectual and practical priorities
- Establishing viable living museums in their own communities as an alternative to cultural artefacts and portrayals of their lifestyles housed in overseas institutions

GDF's International Programme seeks to implement the Assling Accord by embracing the growing awareness that any work on the cultural knowledge and genetic resources of local communities and indigenous peoples should follow ethical best practice. It focuses on building local infrastructure and skills, and while applying the letter and spirit of international conventions, national laws and local customs.

Since 2003, GDF has organised courses, seminars and workshops on contemporary issues in biocultural diversity and research methods in ethnoecology. Held in diverse countries including Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Peru, South Africa and Thailand, these training opportunities have been designed for community members, university students and postdoctoral colleagues.

For more information:

Biocultural Diversity Learning Network (BDLN), [www.globaldiversityfund.net](http://www.globaldiversityfund.net)

Global Diversity Foundation (GDF-UK), [www.globaldiversity.org.uk](http://www.globaldiversity.org.uk)

Global Diversity Fund (GDF-US), [www.globaldiversityfund.org](http://www.globaldiversityfund.org)



### **Kuru Family of Organisations (KFO)**

Kuru Family of Organisations (KFO) is an affiliated group of eight NGOs with the common goal of empowering the most vulnerable group of indigenous peoples in southern Africa, namely the San. The group helps San communities to gain control over their own destinies through 'a holistic process approach to development'. KFO's work currently reaches 40% of the San in Botswana and 70% of the San in South Africa. Recognising that the San are often integrated into other communities and have neighbours from other ethnic groups, KFO also works with other minority and marginalised groups such as the Hambukushu, Wayei and Herero.

KFO currently consists of the following NGOs:

ORGANISATION	LOCATION	FOCUS
LETLOA TRUST	Shakawe	Central support for all KFO offices
D'KAR TRUST	D'kar	Self help development programmes for D'kar and surrounding settlements
BOKAMOSO TRUST	D'kar	Early childhood learning
KOMKU TRUST	D'kar	Self help development programmes for Ghanzi district
GANTSI CRAFT	Ghanzi	Income generation for rural dwellers of Kalahari and Ghanzi districts through craft production.
SOUTH AFRICA SAN INSTITUTE (SASI)	Kimberley and Upington, SA	Self help development programmes for Kimberley area (including Schmidtsdrift) and Southern Kalahari region
SAN ARTS & CRAFTS	Ghanzi	Centralised wholesaler of crafts sourced by KFO
TOCADI	Shakawe	Self help development programmes for Ngami-land

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# Introduction

In March 2009, GDF and IPACC collaborated with the Kuru Family of Organisations (KFO) to offer a workshop on international multilateral instruments and plant resources to its members in southern Africa. Entitled “Plants, Livelihoods and Community Conservation in the Kalahari”, it addressed two primary gaps in community based natural resource management (CBNRM) in southern Africa. Firstly, while international and national instruments exist to protect and enforce indigenous rights, there is often a lack of knowledge of these instruments at the community level. Without knowing their rights and the tools available to them it is difficult for communities to protect their rights or the sustainable use of their resources. Secondly, conservation efforts in southern Africa have primarily focused on large game and wildlife resources, with very little attention to botanical resources. However, plant resources also play an important role – for example as wild foods, medicinal plants and craft materials - in the lives of indigenous and local communities throughout southern Africa.

The workshop was held from 4 – 8 March 2009 at the Dq̄e Qare Game Lodge in D’Kar, Ghanzi District, Botswana and brought together indigenous leaders from Namibia, Botswana, and South Africa, and consisted of the following components:

1. International and multilateral instruments relating to CBNRM
2. Knowledge and experience exchange on botanical resource use in southern Africa
3. Methods and tools for conservation and sustainable use of botanical resources
4. Building a network on plants, livelihoods and community conservation in southern Africa

The workshop provided an opportunity for representatives of indigenous peoples’ communities in southern Africa, particularly Namibia, Botswana, and South Africa, to share their experiences about the sustainable use and traditional knowledge of plant resources. Facilitators from IPACC and GDF held sessions on various international instruments and policy affecting indigenous peoples and their plant resources, including the Convention on Biological Diversity and related policy on traditional knowledge of biodiversity (Articles 8j and 10c), intellectual property rights (IPR), access and benefit sharing (ABS), and the Programme of Work on Protected Areas (PoWPA). Practical sessions introduced delegates to information technologies, research methods and participatory video techniques.

The workshop also allowed participants to discuss future collaboration on issues surrounding plant resources, which are important yet underdeveloped in southern Africa. Envisioned as a forum to continue the experience and knowledge exchange initiated by the workshop, GDF and IPACC proposed the creation of a network linking communities and organisations focused on the sustainable use and management of plant resources. The final part of the workshop was dedicated to exploring ideas and needs for a network.

The workshop was facilitated by Nigel Crawhall, IPACC Director of Secretariat, Joram Useb of the IPACC Secretariat, Gary Martin, GDF Director, and Erin Smith, GDF Interna-

tional Programme Coordinator. Three San elders – Xhara Qom and Xgaiga Qhomatca of D'kar, and Mrs Wilhelmina Mondzinger from Upington, South Africa – assisted with traditional knowledge training. Richard Wicksteed of OneTime Films facilitated participatory video sessions.

## Participants



Onkabetse Kerazemona  
TOCaDI, Botswana



Paulus Arnold  
N̄a Jaqna Conservancy,  
Namibia



Lieb Kamba  
IRDNC-West Caprivi, Botswana



Kotsi Mmaba  
Letloa Trust, Botswana



Gert Boois  
Aus Community Conservancy Trust,  
Namibia



Rudean Thomas  
Namanta !unisen Karas/ Aus Com-  
munity Conservancy Trust, Namibia



Oba Kamseb  
Omaheke San Trust, Namibia



Frans Eiseb  
Omaheke San Trust, Namibia



Satau Gakemotho  
Letloa Trust, Botswana



Annetta Bok  
IPACC - Gender



Elizabeth Aries,  
SASI, South Africa



Wilhemina Mondzinger  
SASI, South Africa



Joseph Bessa  
Kalahari Garden Project (GDF), Namibia



Abraham "Abes" Mothlaping  
Kalahari Garden Project, Namibia



Simon Stronach  
Kalahari Garden Project, Namibia



Moses Selebatso  
Conservation International/  
Cybertracker, Botswana



Horekhwe Laigwane (Pro)  
Conservation International/  
Cybertracker, Botswana



Kebogile Babotse  
Cybertracker-Zwishwa, Botswana



Freddy James  
Komku Trust, Botswana



Nathanael Nuulimba  
Letloa Trust, Botswana



Pierre du Plessis  
University of Cape Town



Jennifer Ruskey  
Komku Trust, Botswana



Iui Mossie  
Nyae Nyae Conservancy, Namibia



Nigel Crawhall  
IPACC



Joram / Useb  
IPACC



Gary Martin  
GDF



Erin Smith  
GDF



Richard Wicksteed  
OneTime Films



Xgaiga Qhomatca



Xhara Qom

## Workshop Schedule

	AM	PM	EVENING
TUESDAY MARCH 3	1)Intro to IPACC and GDF 2)Welcome/ Introductions	Case Studies: KGP, Land Livelihoods and Heritage Centre	Video: My Land is My Dignity
WEDNESDAY MARCH 4	Case Study: Cybertracker; Methods practical with Cybertracker/ bush walk with elders	IPR and ABS; Hoodia presentation	Game Drive/ Brainstorming; Video: The Great Dance
THURSDAY MARCH 5	CBD; focus on 8j and 10c	Case studies: ACCT and Southern Kalahari; Mid term evaluation	Game Drive; Brainstorming meeting
FRIDAY MARCH 6	Intro to participatory video, Methods practical -Plant trail; Case Studies: SASI	Logistics, Alliance building, UK institutions example	Video: Death of a Bushman, PV samples
SATURDAY MARCH 7	Case studies: TOCaDI, West Caprivi, Nꞁa Jaqna, Nyae Nyae	Planning of Network	Traditional dance

# Components

## Case Studies

Presentations by participants on their communities and projects relating to plant resources were one of the primary components of the workshop. As the majority of participants had never met or worked together, these presentations allowed them to share each other's work and issues they face around the sustainable use and management of natural resources.

Simultaneous presentations were held whenever possible in both Afrikaans and English for each case study. Interpreting was also provided for speakers of Setswana, Khoekhoegowab, Khwedam, Naro and Ju! 'hoansi. While this required greater time, such interpretation was necessary to allow for free discussion and meaningful exchange of information and ideas.



### *Kalahari Garden Project (KGP)*

GDF launched the Kalahari Garden Project in July 2007 to assist the San population in the Omaheke region of Namibia improve their food security and nutrition through the development of home gardens. The project also helps promote and preserve traditional environmental knowledge and contributes to building skills and opportunities to create a renewed sense of self-reliance within the community. The project has assisted the San with the development and maintenance of forty-two gardens spread throughout five villages. These gardens provide nutritious food all year round to a population of approximately 550 people. San households are actively involved in the building and maintaining of the gardens. Children are also involved, helping to sow seeds and learn about gardening.

Simon Stronach, Abraham Mothlaping and Joseph Bessa discussed current projects of the KGP, problems the project had encountered along the way, and future goals. The home garden has been successful in increasing food security for many households and the KGP hopes to now turn its focus to creating traditional food and medicinal plant gardens. The gardens would allow households to maintain traditional foods in their diet as well as help preserve the knowledge of how these plants are used.

### *Land, Livelihoods and Heritage Centre (LLHC)*

LLHC is a Letloa Trust programme that provides technical support on CBRNM, land, livelihoods and heritage work within KFO. LLHC also works to combat the loss of traditional knowledge, in particular knowledge historically held orally. Letloa Trust is the support or-

ganisation for the KFO and works with other members of the KFO to achieve its goals of community development work.

Satau Gakemoto presented LLHCs recent and current projects most of which focus on knowledge of natural resources and medicinal plants. Projects include the identification and inventory of medicinal plants, maps of this knowledge identifying locations and harvesting routes, and a study and cost analysis on medicinal plant commercialisation. The LLHC believes recognition and ownership of such traditional knowledge empowers the community while promoting traditional knowledge.

#### *Conservation International and Cybertracker*

Conservation International Southern Africa (CI) and Cybertracker are collaborating on the Western Kgalagadi Conservation Corridor Project (WKCC). The aim of the project is to establish a recognised conserved wildlife corridor between the Central Kalahari Game Reserve (CKGR) and Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park (KTP) in central Botswana. Through capacity building with local communities, the project hopes to maintain and restore access to natural resources in the area and promote their sustainable use.

Created by Louis Liebenberg, Cybertracker software attempts to bring indigenous knowledge and modern science together to collect accurate field data on flora and fauna for conservation. Easy to use, Cybertracker promotes indigenous tracking skills and provides an opportunity to develop an ecosystem-based management. In the WKCC project, CI is using Cybertracker to obtain detailed monitoring of the flora and fauna of the area, to better understand ecosystem interactions in the area, and to promote local capacity for CBNRM.

Moses Selebatso gave a brief presentation on the WKCC project and an introduction to the Cybertracker software. He went through an abbreviated orientation on how to input data into the software and discussed how it can be used alongside traditional tracking skills and knowledge.

IPACC is cooperating with CI on its regional training programme on adaptation and mitigation, and with the Cybertracker Foundation on a sub-regional programme on tracker assessment and advocacy for the national qualification standards of competence for traditional trackers as a means to recognising indigenous knowledge, skills and competence.

#### *Aus Conservation Community Trust (ACCT)*

Created in 2001, ACCT was created by the community to encourage local development and employment through sustainable natural resource use. Located in southern Namibia, Aus has a population of 700, the majority of whom are Nama. Known for its beauty, mines and endemic flora and fauna, the Trust was created by the community to ensure conservation of this important area. The main priorities of the Trust are 1) to ensure effective management of the area; 2) development for all citizens of Aus; 3) sustainable use of natural resources for income generation; 4) collaboration to promote conservation; and 5) community empowerment through cultural tourism and crafts. ACCT is currently sponsored by the European Union.

Rudean Thomas and Gert Boois presented current projects and issues the Trust is facing with plant resources. As there are many rare and endemic plants in the area, the government would like to move people out of the area to enhance conservation efforts. Foremost in ACCT's priorities is to appeal to the government to create a community-conserved area to encourage the conservation of these plants, managed by the community themselves. ACCT would like to continue to work on sustainable harvesting and marketing of the devil's claw (*Harpagophytum procumbens*) found within the area and to improve livelihoods of Trust members.

#### *South Africa San Institute (SASI)*

Established in 1996, SASI works with other like-minded organisations to promote San culture and identity in South Africa. Originally a human rights and advocacy organisation, SASI has broadened its work to include community empowerment and development in the following four areas: 1) leadership empowerment and capacity building; 2) socio-economic empowerment and livelihoods; 3) cultural preservation and development; and 4) civil and other human rights.

Part of KFO, SASI focuses its efforts on the southern Kalahari, specifically the !Xun, Khwe and #Khomani in the Northern Cape Province. Elizabeth Aries and Annetta Bok discussed SASI's current projects, which focus on the use of traditional knowledge for livelihoods and include:

- Traditional bush camp where elders are paired with young people to pass on traditional cultural and environmental knowledge
- Creation of vegetable and medicinal plant gardens, including the cultivation of the highly publicised *hoodia* (*Hoodia gordonii*)
- Cybertracker trained trackers and guides that work with the nearby national park
- Community health clinic with traditional healers practicing traditional medicine

#### *Trust for Okavango Cultural and Development Institute (TOCaDI)*

TOCaDI is a development organisation based in Shakawe on the Okavango River in the district of Ngamiland. TOCaDI's goal is to assist the San and other local communities to gain access to their land and natural resources. Through community based organisations (CBOs) it works on issues of access and sustainable resource management, HIV/AIDS awareness, gender issues, and minority rights. Currently it works with over twenty CBOs on activities encompassing community based natural resource management (CBNRM) and income generating activities, culture and identity including the documentation and dissemination of indigenous knowledge and education, such as skill enhancing courses for adults and native language classes for children.

Onkabetse Kerazemona discussed TOCaDI's current efforts and projects including medicinal plant harvesting and access and rights for resources used in basket weaving. Recognising not all traditional practices are sustainable, TOCaDI is currently working to find a solution to destructive harvesting practices used to fell trees to make canoes. Additionally, they would like to expand the use of nature trails run by some of the CBOs to be used for educational purposes, specifically the use of trails to teach community youth about traditional plant resources.

### *Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation -West Caprivi (IRDNC)*

The region of Caprivi is a thin panhandle protruding from the northeast corner of Namibia and surrounded by four countries – Angola, Botswana, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. Approximately 110,000 people of six recognised ethnic groups live in East and West Caprivi. Subsistence agriculturalists, the Caprivi population is highly dependent on natural resources including plants. Due to its unique location, IRDNC works extensively on trans-boundary conservation and development programmes, including CBNRM.

Leib Kamba discussed the work of the Kyaramacan Peoples Association (KPA) in the Caprivi and Kavango Districts of Namibia. KPA, which is supported by IRDNC, represents 5000 people living in Bwabwata National Park, 80% of who are San people. Located within the West Caprivi National Park of Namibia, the CBO was started in 2006 by the local community to help protect its rights to use and manage their natural resources. The Association focuses its work in three areas: institutional support, community-based natural resource management, and enterprise. It collaborates closely with the national park in all areas. Current work includes palm management, devil's claw harvesting, and traditional trackers for game patrol and national park guides. The Association works closely with TOCaDI and their various projects in the area.

IPACC and Cybertracker Conservation are working with KPA and IRDNC to pilot a programme on assessment of traditional trackers in the West Caprivi, and a sub-regional advocacy programme to get southern African governments to adopt national qualification frameworks based on traditional knowledge of tracking and trailing.

### *Nyae NyaeNꞑa Jaqna Conservancy*

Nꞑa Jaqna is the largest conservancy in Namibia, with almost 1 million hectares and 6000 residents. Nꞑa Jaqna is in West Tsumkwe District, governed by the !Kung San traditional authority and a community trust. It was established in 2003, after seven years of negotiations with the government, to enable local communities to sustainably manage their natural resources, maintain their cultural heritage, and promote conservation of the area's flora and fauna. The area, which neighbours the Nyae Nyae Conservancy, is rich in natural resources, with plenty of large game and traditionally used plants.

Paulus Arnold presented the Conservancy's current project. Their largest projects focus on trophy hunting and the harvesting of devil's claw and other plant resources. Currently there are 800 San harvesters who gathered 51,000 kg of devil's claw in 2008. In hopes of maintaining the sustainability of devil's claw in the area, harvesting only takes place every 3-4 years. As the Conservancy is very new they are still heavily dependent on donor funding and hope continued work on CBNRM will help them become more self-sufficient and avoid alternative land use schemes proposed by the government.

### *Nyae Nyae Conservancy*

Created in 1998, Nyae Nyae Conservancy is the "homeland" of the Ju!'hoansi, sometimes referred to as !Kung (a neighbouring language). The Conservancy covers about 9000 square

kilometres and stretches east of Tsumkwe to the Botswana border and from the Kavango border to the Hereroland border. Created to give the Ju|'hoansi rights to their traditional land and resources, it is one of the oldest and well-established conservancies in Namibia.

|Ui Mossie presented Nyae Nyae's current projects, which focus largely on devil's claw harvesting and trophy hunting. As they border the N= a Jaqna Conservancy much of their natural resources and programmes are very similar. All harvesters have been training in sustainable harvesting methods yet they struggle with poaching by outsiders, who harvest illegally and destructively on their land.

## Multilateral Instruments

Since 1992, international instruments have played a crucial role in conservation and CBNRM policy and practice around the world. Knowledge of the instruments and how they work can empower indigenous peoples to use the tools to negotiate their rights to their traditional land and resources.

As a convention at the United Nations level is a *binding treaty*, it is international law and constrains the behaviour of any particular State. In a Convention, the State agrees to certain positive actions with its citizens (e.g. include them in planning, protect their rights and interests, educate them) while also promising not to do negative actions (e.g. violate peoples' rights, remove people from territories without consultation, damage peoples' culture, traditions and traditional knowledge systems).

States must report on implementation of their Convention obligations and may receive funds from the United Nations to fulfil their obligations. As such, it is possible for indigenous peoples and local communities to monitor these reports and to submit independent reports if the States are not fulfilling their treaty obligations. While it is not always easy to make a State observe a treaty obligation, the conventions are a foundation for advocacy with checking mechanisms in place. These mechanisms are important for indigenous peoples who want to use international law to advocate for their land and natural resource rights.

Focusing on those relating to the environment, sustainable development, human rights, and State obligations, Nigel Crawhall discussed the following three Rio Conventions:

- UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC)
- UN Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD)
- UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)



Intergenerational knowledge transmission



Participatory video training



Plant walk and Cybertracker demonstration

### *UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC)*

The FCCC focuses on climate change, in particular the unbalanced responsibility of industrial countries for the pollution that has led to climate change. The convention is meant to put pressure on countries of the North to reduce their Green House Gas (GHG) emissions and to protect the global environment. It is a negotiating forum for studying climate change, its causes and impacts, and to look for solutions in reducing global warming while also protecting humanity and biodiversity against the negative impacts of climate change. To achieve these goals the FCCC has two main strategies: mitigation and adaptation.

**Mitigation** refers to the reduction of Green-House Gas (GHG) emissions, particularly of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), the primary culprit in climate change, in part through storage in vegetation, oceans or the ground. The FCCC proposes countries that protect forests, increase forest growth, and protect land from degradation are helping the environment through such carbon storing actions. Under its mitigation efforts, the UNFCCC is negotiating a series of agreements to invest in forest conservation for this purpose. The primary programme planned under FCCC is the Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD).

According to REDD, industrial countries will be able to buy carbon credits by investing in the conservation and protection of tropical forests in Africa, Asia and Latin America. There is concern by some indigenous peoples that REDD financing will lead to more forced removals and the denial of land tenure by forest communities. However, as it is governed by UN human rights standards and instruments REDD should not harm indigenous and local communities. Instead REDD should, in theory, strengthen the role of communities in forest stewardship and governance. What really happens will depend on how well communities are able to defend their rights and work with their governments to have successful avoided deforestation projects.

**Adaptation** refers to the adjusting of natural resource use, management and governance to cope with climate change. African indigenous peoples are often used to having too much or too little rain in different years and so have traditional rules, beliefs and customs in place to manage the use of their natural resources. As climate change continues, the UN expects adaptation to play an ever-increasing role in reducing peoples' vulnerability to changes in their natural resources. Traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) held by indigenous and local communities and traditional ways of interacting and managing the environment has an important role to play in adaptation and mitigation.

Least Developed Countries (LDCs) are required by the UNFCCC to develop National Adaptation Programmes of Action (NAPAs), which should help link ecosystems based adaptation with local community knowledge and national policy making. IPACC's concern is to ensure that indigenous peoples are able to participate in the NAPA development and help apply traditional knowledge to national policy making and adaptation planning and implementation.

Member States of the FCCC have agreed to fund developing countries to 1) improve their understanding and assessments of impacts, vulnerability and adaptation to climate change; 2) make informed decisions on practical adaptation actions and measures to respond to climate change. As many indigenous and local communities are already taking steps to sustainably manage their resources, these funds can help to continue and increase their efforts.

#### *UN Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD)*

Particularly important to participants of the workshop, the UNCCD deals with the global fight against land degradation and the spread of deserts and related phenomena such as silting of water systems and loss of topsoil. The Convention was especially designed for Africa where land degradation is most serious. The Convention recognises there are both human and climatic causes for land degradation.

As with climate change, indigenous and local peoples can be deeply involved in the monitoring and analysis of desertification. All signatories to the CCD have to develop a National Action Plan (NAP) to combat drought and desertification. Traditional knowledge is a recognised aspect of the CCD and indigenous and local peoples should be regularly in contact with their Environment ministries about their role in fighting desertification.

Article 16 of the CCD requires States to exchange information on local and traditional knowledge, including protecting the knowledge and ensuring equitable benefits agreeable to the local communities. Article 17 requires states to promote technical and scientific cooperation in combating desertification in such a manner that it protects, integrates, enhances and validates traditional and local knowledge, practices and equitable benefits.

#### *UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)*

While all of the Rio conventions are important, the CBD provides the greatest opportunities for indigenous peoples in Africa. And the CBD Conference of Parties is emerging as a major forum for indigenous peoples to protect their rights and contribute to the good governance of the world's natural resources. After an introduction to the CBD in general, discussion focused on the articles most pertinent for indigenous peoples, 8j and 10c.

Article 8j requires governments to pass legislation protecting indigenous and local lifestyles relevant to conservation and sustainable use of natural resources. It focuses on the government recognising the importance of traditional knowledge systems and ensuring their protection, promotion, maintenance and the equitable sharing of benefits arising from such knowledge. Article 10c supports Article 8j, as it requires governments to promote traditional culture which helps protect biodiversity.

In addition to these articles, the session also focused on two further agreements adopted after the initial Rio convention – the 1998 Malawi Principles for the Ecosystem Approach and the 2004 Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity. Both documents are important for indigenous and local communities in Africa, reinforcing many ideas and issues raised in the CBD.

Where previously the UN took a more species approach, the Malawi Principles, adopted in 1998, advocate for an ecosystem wide approach. This approach recommends the decentralisation of management to the lowest appropriate levels, recognising indigenous territories and local control, governance and knowledge systems. The Addis Principles and Guidelines, adopted in 2004, take this even further, advocating state recognition that use and knowledge of resources lead to sustainable management, particularly by local people. These principles marked a significant step away from centralised control of conservation and a move towards more community empowerment.

### **Intellectual Property Rights and Access and Benefit Sharing**

The CBD has envisaged a global legal regime that would protect the intellectual property rights of indigenous peoples, local communities and States in the South. The aim was to create a more equitable system of access and benefit sharing in relation to genetic resources. Mathambo Ngakaeaja of the Hoodia San Trust presented the San experience of ABS and IPR issues relating to *hoodia* (*Hoodia gordonii*) in southern Africa.

*Hoodia*, a succulent plant endemic to southern Africa, has been used traditionally for food and medicine by San and Nama communities, most notably to curb thirst and hunger. From this traditional use, it came into world focus in 1997 as a promising new drug to help curb obesity. The subsequent story and very public case for benefit sharing provide an excellent case study for the importance and utilisation of multilateral and national instruments on natural resources. The South African Council for Scientific and Industrial Research patented the active compound in *hoodia* without securing an intellectual property right agreement with the holders of the traditional knowledge. An out of court settlement provided the San of southern Africa, through the Working Group of Indigenous Minorities in Southern Africa (WIMSA), with a 6% royalty for any commercial use of *hoodia* by pharmaceutical companies. This was later extended to include a contribution by the commercial farmers of *hoodia*. As Ngakaeaja reported, without the international instruments, like the CBD, in place it would not have been possible for the San communities to win the case for benefit sharing. In the end, it is heralded as one of the most successful best practice and ABS cases to date, empowering San communities.

Despite initial success, the presentation also made it clear that there are often many difficulties with such cases. The ABS negotiating process is often non-linear and protracted and therefore very complicated. As a result, San actions were often reactionary rather than proactive. Additionally, the patent regime is based in a western system with western principles, which can often be disempowering for indigenous and local communities. In the end, it is a complicated and often intimidating battle to begin but necessary if indigenous and local peoples are to gain fair access and benefits to their natural resources and knowledge.

Similarly the *hoodia* case demonstrated the unpredictability of access and benefit sharing. With the recent withdrawal of Unilever from *hoodia* product development, the San communities involved in the agreement have yet to see any income some six years down the road.

While Ngakaeaja stressed this should not deter community members from seeking ABS agreements, it is important to enter the process fully informed. ABS success is dependent on the compliance of all parties to the conventions and other instruments such as the CBD as well as the ability of NGOs and CBOs to interact with and hold accountable national and state leaders on these issues.

Erin Smith of GDF pointed out that it is this type of unpredictability that could make the natural product market a more sustainable long-term option for communities. While all ABS cases are important and should be pursued and are often tempting with their promises of large payouts, there is no guarantee communities will ever see any monetary benefit from their knowledge. The benefits of the natural product market appear to be financially less, but given their consistency and sustainability and continued growth, they often present a better option for harvesters/farmers and communities to have a more sustainable long-term livelihood strategy.

In addition, she continued, pharmaceutical companies often latch onto one traditional use for a plant; the one they feel will be most profitable and focus all their attention and resources there. For example, outside southern Africa, *hoodia* is known solely for its appetite suppressing abilities and devil's claw as an effective treatment for arthritis. However, in reality medicinal plants have multiple uses, often many far more common than those that grab the initial attention of the pharmaceutical or natural product industry. By publicising more of a plant's traditional uses, communities could increase the market and therefore sustainability of many of their traditional medicines within the natural product industry.

Ngakaeaja's presentation provided an excellent case study to reinforce the important role of international instruments and their relevance at a local level. It effectively demonstrated the role of international instruments in community development and conservation of natural resources, sparking a productive and interesting discussion. Participants already participating in the collection and sale of medicinal plants, expressed interest in learning more about the natural product industry and its opportunities, particularly ways to empower the communities themselves to interact with the market to ensure optimal profits. Other participants, whose communities are not currently active in large scale harvesting of plants, also expressed interest at learning more about creating sustainable harvesting programmes.

Poaching was raised many times within this session and throughout the workshop as a pressing concern for communities. While harvesting of plant resources is becoming a more sustainable and lucrative livelihood strategy, there are currently insufficient laws protecting plant resources within southern Africa or empowering the communities to be able to protect these resources from outside poaching. Police and wildlife officials take animal poaching or even stock theft much more seriously than plant poaching and destruction of valuable or rare plant species. All participants expressed frustration at the current lack of resources to deal with this issue.

The success of sustainable livelihoods will be difficult to achieve without equal attention to the laws and rights that govern the resources so many communities depend upon.

## Participatory Video

Participatory video (PV) is an increasingly popular technique for indigenous and local communities to tell their own stories. PV introduces filming techniques to community members to enable them to design and create their own films. While the length and scope of this workshop dictated that PV could only be covered in short sessions, they provided a valuable introduction to the benefits of PV for advocacy and informational purposes.

Richard Wicksteed of OneTime Films from South Africa led the PV sessions. Richard, a journalist before turning to documentary filmmaking full time, has worked with the San and other indigenous communities throughout southern Africa for many years. His films include *My Land is My Dignity*, *Iindawo Zikathixo/In God's Places*, *Death of a Bushman*, and *Bushman's Secret* (with Rehad Desai).

Richard and selected workshop participants filmed all events throughout the workshop as well as conducted interviews with participants. In addition to a video record of the proceedings, footage has been edited into a YouTube-style video accessible to the public via the Internet.

Funding for the Participatory Video training and production of the YouTube video was provided by the UN Development Program's Small Grant Projects (UNDP SGP). The final version is available on IPACC's YouTube channel and main website ([www.ipacc.org.za](http://www.ipacc.org.za)), and the GDF-US website ([www.globaldiversityfund.org](http://www.globaldiversityfund.org)).

In addition, films were shown on various evenings relating to the workshop topics of community based natural resource management and land rights. These videos exposed participants to other communities working on similar issues in southern Africa and around the world as well as demonstrated the ways video can be used as a tool in community based natural resources management and the importance of traditional knowledge. These films included the following:

### *My Land is My Dignity*

*My Land is My Dignity* follows the legal battle between the San and the Botswana government concerning the Central Kalahari Game Reserve (CKGR). Told solely from the point of view of the CKGR San, the film tells the story of their fight for the right to live, hunt, and have development on their ancestral land.

### *The Great Dance*

*The Great Dance*, directed by Craig and Damon Foster, is a film about the unique relationship between the San hunters and the harsh landscape of the Kalahari Desert. It centres on three hunters and the great "endurance hunt" of the San.

### *Insightshare: People's Video volume 1*

Insight, one of the pioneers of Participatory Video (PV) over the last 15 years, uses video to communicate real stories and actions of local people. They enable women, men, children and elders to acquire skills to film and author their perspectives on digital video, which can be archived and shared locally, or streamed on the internet according to their needs. This DVD shows community-authored films from Kazakhstan, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Kalimantan (Borneo), Uganda, Sierra Leone, South

Africa, Peru and Mexico. They address subjects ranging from climate change to knowledge transfer, community conservation initiatives and human rights.

#### *Death of a Bushmen*

Directed by Richard Wicksteed, *Death of a Bushman* tells the story of Optel Rooi, shot in the back by police. Yet up to now there have been no arrests. Optel was one of the few remaining traditionalists in this diminishing South African San community. Members of a community wracked by displacement, poverty and alcoholism, tell of their experience of marginalisation and racism against a backdrop of allegations of police brutality.

### **Institution Strengthening and Alliance Building**

Once participants were introduced to international instruments and policy beneficial to their work with plant resources, Nigel Crawhall led a session on alliance building with national and international institutions. Alliance building is an important step in indigenous communities successfully gaining access to use and manage their land and natural resources. Crawhall discussed the varying levels of alliances, from local, regional, national and international and the benefits of such alliances. He then focused on how indigenous and local communities can become involved in the CBD discussions and decisions.

#### *National representatives of CBD*

As the CBD is an international policy instrument and engaging with it can at first be intimidating and overwhelming from the ground level, Crawhall explained to the participants the importance of beginning to work and building alliances at their national level through their country's representatives for the CBD.

Annetta Bok, a member of the #Khomani San in the southern Kalahari, spoke to participants of her experiences building alliances with the CBD Focal Point in South Africa for her community and IPACC. These alliances led to her attending many international meetings on various aspects of the CBD pertaining to indigenous and gender rights. By participating in international meetings of the CBD, Bok had managed to meet the South African Focal Point on the CBD, and later was able to hold meetings in Pretoria to discuss CBD implementation in the Kalahari. Bok has worked with IPACC to strengthen a South African working group of indigenous peoples affected by Protected Areas.

The workshop itself was an exercise in alliance building at a national and regional level, bringing together for the first time many communities working with CBNRM and plant resources. In addition, there are many institutions at the international level working on CBNRM and livelihood issues. Erin Smith of GDF discussed a few UK based institutions that might be of interest to participants and valuable for future alliances on work with plant resources.

#### *Global Strategy for Plant Conservation (GSPC)*

While not an institution in itself, the GSPC initiative of the CBD is a valuable tool for any communities working with plant resources. Most of the participants are working on issues addressed by the GSPC and its 16 target goals, such as sustainable harvesting of

medicinal plants and other resources. Therefore, it was important for them to be aware of the GSPC and its strategy.

#### *Botanical Gardens Conservation International (BGCI)*

BGCI is a global network of botanical gardens working on plant conservation and related issues. It is closely linked and involved in the GSPC. As such it is a good institution for providing information and alliance building possibilities for those working with plant resources. As many participants also stressed the desire for more technical expertise in certain horticultural areas, BGCI is a good source of possible experts to conduct such training.

#### *GardenAfrica*

GardenAfrica is a UK based charity that provides and supports productive organic training gardens in schools, hospitals and clinics, growing nutritious food and medicinal plants in southern Africa. As many participants are already working on or expressed a desire to create community garden projects, GardenAfrica would be an excellent organisation to collaborate with.

#### *Kew Gardens - Africulture*

Part of the programmes at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew in the UK, Africulture is a Darwin Initiative funded project to promote sustainable management of botanical resources for food, medicine, crafting and other economically beneficial activities. Currently based in the area near Grahamstown, South Africa, it has the possibility of expanding in the future to other areas. Participants could also gain from experiences learned from this project.

## **Practicals**

### *Plant trail*

As one of the practical sessions, Gary Martin showed workshop participants how to create a plant trail, an excellent tool for understanding plant knowledge within a community and distinguishing any patterns and differences in knowledge. Plant trails have often been used in research focusing on knowledge distribution, comparing for example the plant knowledge of elders and youngsters within a community. Such methods are useful not only within the community to help elicit and understand traditional knowledge, but also play a role in regional networks for the exchange of knowledge. For example a trail could be used to 1) highlight the connection between use and knowledge; 2) show differences in knowledge between communities within the network and encourage exchange; 3) elicit information from knowledge holders which could then be made into booklets to help preserve and disseminate the knowledge; and 4) gather data that could be entered into community exchange databases complete with photos of plants, uses, and possibly even video profiles of plants (with skills gained in participatory video training).

After the presentation, plant experts in the group lead the selection of useful plants along a loop trail near the headquarters of the Dq̄e Qare Game Lodge. The selected plants were labelled with a number, giving a total of 14 species to visit. Participants then walked the trail in pairs, noting the names and uses given by their partners. Upon return to the meet-

ing hall, a summary session was held in which the information on selected plants was recorded and analysed as a group exercise to identify common patterns and differences in the naming and use of plants across the regions represented in the seminar.



### *Cybertracker and plant walk*

Cybertracker is a software program that attempts to blend traditional knowledge with modern science for field data collection. Operated on any smart phone or handheld computer, Cybertracker was designed to be easy to use even for non-literate communities. At the workshop, Moses Selebatso, of Conservation International in Botswana, gave a presentation on Cybertracker and its use in CI's Western Kgalagadi Conservation Corridor Project (WKCC). In this project, traditional San trackers trained in Cybertracker collect information, such as location, migration, and population numbers on the fauna and flora within the Corridor. With the use of easily recognisable images, trackers are able to use their traditional knowledge to contribute to data collection for conservation. According to Selebatso, the majority of population data is currently gathered by aerial surveys over short periods. These surveys often miss species and details that can only be obtained at the ground level, such as small animals, nocturnal species, and plants. Cybertracker hopes to fill in these gaps in data with highly detailed on the ground data collection.

Following the PowerPoint presentation, two Cybertracker trained San trackers, Kebogile Babotse and Karoha Horekwe Langwane, accompanied workshop participants on a trail walk to demonstrate the use of Cybertracker. Xhaiga Qhomatca and Xhara Qom, elders from the nearby community in D'kar, also accompanied the two-hour bush walk, talking about local medicinal and edible plants.

The afternoon proved highly effective in not only demonstrating the use of Cybertracker but also as another opportunity to exchange information on the use of plants. Both elders are renowned in their community for their immense knowledge of local plants. They expressed their concern that too often culture in development work is interpreted solely as folkloric practices, such as dancing, and too little attention is given to the intergenerational transmission of expert knowledge. As a result, they were enthusiastic to participate in the workshop and for the opportunity to take part in such knowledge transmission.

### **African and International Policy Context**

In the last two decades, the norms and standards in multilateral conventions have come to reflect that indigenous and local peoples are important knowledge-holders and rights-holders in relation to the sustainable use and conservation of biological diversity on the planet. Indigenous and local peoples typically rely on natural resources and have historical systems of governance to conserve biodiversity and regulate its use within their territories.

The erosion of indigenous governance and changes in global economic systems is placing both cultural diversity and biological diversity at ever-greater risk.

The issue of the rights of indigenous peoples remains sensitive in some parts of Africa. Naturally, all Africans see themselves as indigenous to the continent and generally also to their current national state. Over the past few decades, the international system has taken measures to articulate and uphold the civil and human rights of indigenous peoples, including the 'first peoples' of Africa. In Africa, the concept of indigenous or autochthonous peoples is applied to those peoples whose economic livelihoods and heritage are distinct from the national majorities. 'Indigenous' in the modern African legal language is increasingly applied to people who live or have lived by hunting and gathering of wild foods, and those who live by transhumant or mobile pastoralism. There are other examples of communities claiming their indigenous status due to living in arid, sub-humid or marine economies, again, in situations of non-dominance.

Indigenous and local peoples' rights, including the right of 'self-determination' (the right to be consulted in relation to their own destiny and future well-being), are addressed in numerous international instruments, including the United Nations Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the UN Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, and most importantly in the landmark UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples adopted with massive support by the UN General Assembly in September 2007. In Africa, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), which is the treaty body of the African Charter, adopted the report of its working group on indigenous communities in November 2003, calling on African governments to address the current discrimination, rights violations and marginalisation of indigenous peoples.

Globally, including in southern Africa, indigenous and local peoples are challenged by land loss, forced removals, assimilation policies or discrimination. Currently, most San languages and ethnic identities are not recognised by southern African States. Only Namibia is actively using a few of the languages in the school system and all of the indigenous peoples face situations of land insecurity and increasing levels of poverty. It is a challenge for indigenous peoples to understand their rights and engage effectively with their governments to find solutions to the problems of poverty, exclusion and deteriorating natural resource governance.

In Africa, indigenous peoples (according to the 2003 ACHPR report), are peoples that by definition rely on natural resources and engage in subsistence economic practices, such as hunting and gathering and transhumant pastoralism. As a result, failure to recognise traditional rights of tenure and natural resource use has a detrimental effect on not only the cultural heritage of indigenous and local communities but also on their livelihoods security.

# Outcomes

## Plant Resource Network

Plant resources play an important role in the livelihoods of indigenous and local communities in southern Africa, which was attested to by the presentations given during the workshop. However, most community representatives felt they are short of technical skills, traditional knowledge has not been well integrated into livelihoods, and that they are not getting clear support from their national governments to conserve and sustain wild medicinal and food plants. Beyond the local needs, there is a need for more sharing and interaction about wild plants and livelihoods at a national and regional level; sharing between different communities, between communities and NGOs, and between communities and government departments responsible for CBNRM, CBD and conservation.

The workshop proved an important and valuable first step in bringing together various communities and organisations working on community conservation and plant resources. However, for CBNRM projects that incorporate plant resources to be successful and sustainable in southern Africa such collaboration needs to be consistent and deal with specific technical and training issues. It was proposed by the workshop organisers that a regional network be created to continue and encourage the links, exchange, and collaboration begun at the workshop. While organisers initiated the idea of a network, workshop participants were actively involved in its development. Ideas were discussed and proposed throughout the workshop. On the final day, participants brainstormed and elaborated a plan for such a network.

As funding would be necessary to establish such a network, the workshop also provided an opportunity for collaborative proposal writing for funding. Gary Martin and Erin Smith of GDF offered to take on the actual proposal writing, beginning with a UK government Darwin Initiative Stage 1 proposal. To allow for all participants to have an input in the network planning and proposal writing, participants were grouped together by general regions to discuss their needs and ideas, which they then presented to the entire group. Participants were asked to discuss the following questions:

1. What are your needs and what do you want to get out of the network?
2. What will you contribute to the network?
3. What will you take back to the community from the workshop and what are the next steps you will take to introduce your community to the idea of the network?

Such questions and discussions also encouraged dialogue between participants about what their communities are working on and areas where they felt they needed assistance. In eliciting this information, it was possible to see how grant proposals could be directed to help satisfy these needs and areas where a network could help fill gaps and encourage knowledge and expertise exchanges between the members.

Needs repeatedly raised by workshop participants included:

- *Natural resource rights and protection*

Participants came from varying situations in regards to access to their traditional land and resources. Some have successfully regained their traditional lands and

have access to all natural resources on the land. Others are still struggling to maintain use of their traditional land and resources. Protection of plant resources on community land and rights to access these plant resources were important to all participants.

Protection against poachers is the most immediate concern for most of the participants. Many requested knowledge of methods and ways to petition for laws to ensure and enforce sustainable plant resource harvesting and conservation. Those who are aware of conservation issues work to promote sustainable harvesting of their plant resources. However, outsiders coming onto their land often plunder these resources unsustainably. At the moment, they have little authority or means to enforce harvesting laws and protect their resources from such poachers. Such illegal harvesting affects not only the conservation of the resources themselves, but also the sustainability of community livelihoods.

- *Increased and improved interaction with government agencies*

Participants expressed the need to understand national policies and procedures surrounding CBNRM, such as who is responsible for it at a national and regional level, and the best way to approach these officials. Additionally, they would like to understand ways to gain assistance at this level with resource access, land tenure and indigenous rights in general. Some communities are already in relationship with their government in regards to land tenure and natural resources, such as Nyae Nyae Conservancy. Often these relationships extend little beyond shared ownership and profits. However, the communities would like to “share responsibilities, not just profits” with their government and understand their rights in relation to these issues and how to begin such negotiations.

- *Recognition of traditional knowledge and skills*

Many would like to work and encourage official recognition of traditional knowledge and skills of community experts. Cybertracker is beginning to play a role in such recognition, allowing highly skilled traditional trackers to gain recognition and employment within research fields. However, only a handful of communities have had access to this training and there is need and interest in expanding such trainings. Many also feel there is a need for more recognition of traditional knowledge and practices in general and focusing on tracking skills alone is not enough.

- *Multilateral agreements and policy training*

For many participants, the workshop was their first introduction to many concepts and instruments, such as the CBD, which can help them in their negotiation and petition for natural resource rights and the effective management of these resources. Participants requested more trainings and workshops focused on international instruments and policy, particularly where they are supportive of local initiatives.

- *Financial assistance and training*

Many stated that while they have many ideas and projects they would like to begin within their communities, without financial assistance they are unable to implement them. Furthermore along with any financial assistance there is a need for training and discussion on how to maintain project sustainability and continuity of projects

once funding ends, which in part could include training on bookkeeping and accounting practices.

- *Additional technical assistance and workshops*

In addition to financial training, all participants expressed the need for additional training in many areas such as ethnoecological methods, horticulture, permaculture techniques, water management and collection, ecology and natural sciences, and general management and administrative skills. Trainings and assistance could also cover data collection and management, such as resource mapping, creating a database, methods for data gathering and ways to disseminate data if desired. While some of these trainings could be offered by outside experts, participants also encouraged the sharing of experiences and trainings offered by other participants and possible future network members.

From the discussion of needs, participants decided they would like a network of plant resources to encompass the following activities:

- *Roving Technicians*

The network would help facilitate technicians or trainers to travel from the various member community/organisations. They would provide trainings in horticulture, water management, sustainable harvesting techniques, accounting and bookkeeping, value adding and product marketing. The network would bring in national and international trainers when necessary but would also encourage the exchange of skills from within the network.

- *Collaborative application for funds*

When appropriate the network could apply for funds to support the projects for its members relating to CBNRM of plant resources and livelihoods generation.

- *Organisation of workshops and exchanges*

In addition to roving technicians, the network would be responsible for organising additional workshops and exchanges between its members. Topics would include multilateral instruments and policy, national legislation affecting CBNRM, ABS and IPR issues and laws, and workshops on administrative and management skills.

- *Knowledge exchange*

The network would serve as the source for knowledge and experience exchange between community members. This exchange could take place through workshops, publications, shared databases and other instruments.

- *Community mapping and participatory video*

The network would be responsible for organising local and regional workshops and trainings in community mapping techniques and participatory video skills.

Through all of these elements the network would promote and protect traditional knowledge and rights to plant resources, including access and benefit sharing and intellectual property rights. It would serve to empower indigenous and local communities to protect their botanical resources and liaise with national and regional governmental and institutional officials to improve and or maintain these rights. The network will raise awareness of the importance of increased focus on CBNRM of plant resources within the communities themselves and at the national and regional level.

# Appendix

## Darwin Initiative Project

If successful, the UK Darwin Initiative proposal submitted after this workshop will be an important step in supporting plant based CBNRM work in the region. Through the project, those involved intend to assist Botswana and Namibia implement priorities that relate to biodiversity conservation. In particular, to work closely with community-based managers of botanical resources, which as discussed earlier, have been underrepresented in southern African conservation and resources management efforts.

The project, entitled 'Plant diversity, livelihoods and community conservation: the northern Kalahari ecosystem', will focus on Ngamiland Province in Botswana and the Caprivi, Kavango and Otjozondjupa regions of Namibia. These regions contain the most highly ranked biodiversity priority areas in the region and offer special opportunities to engage in trans-boundary conservation. There are intensive efforts in this area to work with community-based organisations, producer groups (such as basket-makers) and social entrepreneurs engaged in subsistence and commercial biodiversity use. As such, it is an excellent starting point for network building and supportive efforts in plant based CBNRM.

Project elements include the following:

- Academic, governmental and non-governmental partners will collaborate to enhance the capacity of local people involved in CBNRM projects. Project activities will include community-to-community exchanges, intergenerational transfer of knowledge and skills (such as tracking), policy seminars with governmental agencies, financial support for exemplary projects, multi-media dissemination of results and deployment of UK and host country expertise.
- As part of building human capital in the region, the project will also include three scholarships to members of indigenous and local communities to study for MSc degrees in the United Kingdom. The Anthropology Department of the University of Kent - through its Centre for Biocultural Diversity (CBCD) and Durrell Institute for Conservation and Ecology (DICE) could provide training for eligible MSc students and will contribute to courses on community-based resource management, valuation of benefits from biodiversity, community conservation, nature tourism and marketing of medicinal plants.
- In addition, colleagues from the Eden Project, Botanical Gardens Conservation International, GardenAfrica and the Centre for Economic Botany, Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew could provide guidance on establishing native vegetation gardens, developing new biodiversity products, authentication of herbal remedies and implementation of the Global Strategy on Plant Conservation.

The project will collaborate with and draw on expertise from various international and national NGOs and institutions. We hope to collaborate with various governmental agencies and institutions responsible for implementation of the CBD, particularly the Botswana Ministry of Environment, Wildlife and Tourism (MEWT) and the Namibian Ministry of Environment and Tourism (MET), both of which are primarily responsible for biodiversity conservation and management.

For biodiversity based products, we plan to draw on expertise of regional NGOs specialising in this area, such as Veld Products Research and Development (VPRD), Thusano lefatsheng in Botswana, and CRIAA-SADC in Namibia. Kuru Family of Organisations and Pabalelo Trusts could also be involved throughout the project and propose specific beneficiaries of the project. We would like to establish a close relationship with the Land, Livelihoods and Heritage Resource Centre (LLHRC) of Letloa Trust and with TOCaDI.

Additional partners in the region could include the University of Botswana (including HOORC), IRDNC, and the University of Namibia, National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI) and IPACC.

While the workshop focused on the development of a region wide network for plant resources, this Darwin Initiative project will focus network-building activities within northern Namibia and Botswana. Additional funding will be sought from other sources, such as SwedBio, to support the creation of the broader regional network.

## **Follow up workshop: Biotrade, livelihoods, and conservation**

*IPACC and GDF hope to run a follow up workshop for the plant resources network in November 2009. The next meeting will go into more detail about the relationship between livelihoods and policies, introducing the network members to key NGO and government resources that could help them evolve their plant conservation and related livelihood initiatives.*

As became even more evident during the workshop, medicinal and nutritional plants play an important role in the livelihoods of indigenous and local communities in southern Africa. Some, such as Nyae Nyae Conservancy and N=̄a Jaqna Conservancy, depend greatly on the harvesting of devil's claw (*Harpagophytum procumbens*) and have been active in efforts to increase sustainable harvesting strategies. Other communities are interested in beginning or expanding their harvesting of such botanical resources. Such livelihood strategies are supported by the CBD in Article 10c that encourages the sustainable harvesting and use of natural resources, particularly in line with traditional uses, and in partnership with government and private sector.

Since the success of the hoodia case, there is a tendency to focus on the pharmaceutical industry's interest in traditional knowledge of medicinal plants and the large monetary benefits to be gained. However, as was discussed in the workshop, dealings with this industry can be complicated, drawn out, and unpredictable. Communities heavily dependent on the success of one strategy are in danger of losing important livelihoods when the interest of this industry wavers, as it has with *hoodia*. The key to sustainable livelihoods from natural resources is to diversify.

A key part of such diversification, the natural product industry - including herbal, nutritional, and cosmetic products - is a major player worldwide in the trade of traditional medicinal and nutritional plants. Organic, natural, and fair trade product sales are growing globally at a rate of US\$1-5 billion a year ([www.organicmonitor.com](http://www.organicmonitor.com)). According to Phyto-Trade Africa, products from southern Africa will be worth at least US\$250 million per year by 2015 ([www.phytotradeafrica.com](http://www.phytotradeafrica.com)). Marketing of medicinal plants to this industry can provide communities with a more sustainable livelihood strategy.

As there was great interest in the workshop to learn more about such opportunities, GDF and IPACC in collaboration with local partners, are offering a follow-up workshop on "Biotrade, livelihoods, and conservation" in Namibia in November 2009. The workshop will help communities to learn more about the natural product industry, particularly in Europe and the United States, how to understand and approach the market for medicinal plants, and the implications for the conservation of traditional knowledge and natural resources. It will continue the networking and knowledge exchange begun in the D'kar workshop and experienced communities will share their experiences with participants on implementing a sustainable harvesting programme of botanical resources in their communities.

The workshop will address topics and questions such as:

- a) How biotrade development (particularly of medicinal and nutritional botanical resources) can improve quality standards and create sustainable livelihoods at the community level;

- b) How better CBNRM and training of wildlife conservation officials can help fight poaching and destruction of biodiversity;
- c) How communities can focus on intergenerational transmission of traditional ecological knowledge to create employment, upgrade CBNRM and conservation, and bridge between oral knowledge and scientific monitoring of biodiversity (including ecosystem resilience building, rehabilitation, reforestation);
- d) Equitable approaches to access and benefit sharing in the natural product industry versus the pharmaceutical industry

For more information on this workshop please visit [www.globaldiversityfund.org](http://www.globaldiversityfund.org) or [www.ipacc.org.za](http://www.ipacc.org.za).

## Abbreviations

ABS - access and benefit sharing

ACCT - Aus Conservation Community Trust

ACHPR - African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights

BGCI - Botanic Gardens Conservation International

CBCD - Centre for Biocultural Diversity (University of Kent)

CBD - UN Convention on Biological Diversity

CBNRM - community based natural resource management

CBO - community based organisation

CCD - UN Convention to Combat Desertification

CI - Conservation International

DICE - Durrell Institute for Conservation and Ecology

FCCC - UN Framework Convention on Climate Change

GDF - Global Diversity Fund, Global Diversity Foundation

GHG - Green-House Gas

GSPC - Global Strategy for Plant Conservation

IPACC - Indigenous Peoples of Africa Coordinating Committee

IPR - intellectual property rights

IRDNC - Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation

KFO - Kuru Family of Organisations

KGP - Kalahari Garden Project

KPA - Kyaramacan Peoples Association

KTP - Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park

LDC - least developed countries

LLHC - Land, Livelihoods, Heritage Centre

MET - Namibian Ministry of Environment and Tourism

MEWT - Botswana Ministry of Environment, Wildlife and Tourism

NAP – National Action Plan to Combat Desertification

NAPA - National Adaptation Programmes of Action

PoWPA - Programme for Work on Protected Areas

PV - participatory video

REDD - Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation

SASI - South African San Institute

TEK - traditional ecological knowledge

TOCaDI - Trust for Okavango Cultural and Development Institute

WIMSA - Working Group of Indigenous Minorities in Southern Africa

WKCC - Western Kgalagadi Conservation Corridor Project

## For more information

Indigenous Peoples of Africa Coordinating Committee (IPACC)

[www.ipacc.org.za](http://www.ipacc.org.za)

GDF

[www.globaldiversity.org.uk](http://www.globaldiversity.org.uk) (GDF-UK)

[www.globaldiversityfund.org](http://www.globaldiversityfund.org) (GDF-US)

Kuru Family of Organisations

[www.kuru.co.bw](http://www.kuru.co.bw)

Cybertracker

[www.cybertracker.org](http://www.cybertracker.org)

Conservation International – Southern Africa

[www.conservation-southernafrica.org](http://www.conservation-southernafrica.org)

Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation (IRDNC)

[www.irdnc.org.na](http://www.irdnc.org.na)

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC)

[www.unfccc.int](http://www.unfccc.int)

United National Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD)

[www.unccd.int](http://www.unccd.int)

Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

[www.cbd.int](http://www.cbd.int)

CBD - Article 8j

[www.cbd.int/traditional](http://www.cbd.int/traditional)

CBD - Malawi Principles

[www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/cop/cop-04/information/cop-04-inf-09-en.pdf](http://www.cbd.int/doc/meetings/cop/cop-04/information/cop-04-inf-09-en.pdf)

CBD - Addis Ababa Guidelines

[www.cbd.int/doc/publications/addis-gdl-en.pdf](http://www.cbd.int/doc/publications/addis-gdl-en.pdf)

Global Strategy for Plant Conservation

[www.cbd.int/gspc/](http://www.cbd.int/gspc/)

Botanic Gardens Conservation International

[www.bgci.org](http://www.bgci.org)