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News

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CENTRE FOR INDIGENOUS CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT ALTERNATIVES

Welcome to CICADA's inaugural newsletter! The purpose of the newsletter is to communicate the activities and developments of CICADA researchers and Indigenous partner organizations. To that end, we welcome submissions from all researchers and partners. News items and images can be sent to us at: cicada.news@mcgill.ca

The past year has been eventful. Last summer, from June 18-20, we held a meeting in Montreal of CICADA leadership, including our Research Council of Regional Representatives, our thematic axis co-leaders, and the directors of team research programs and projects participating in CICADA.

An important decision taken at our leaders' meeting was to organize a series of regional conferences of CICADA Indigenous and research partners during 2018 and 2019, leading on to a global conference, tentatively forecast for late 2020. In discussions with the Indigenous Peoples' and Local Community Conserved Areas and Territories (ICCA) Consortium, in which CICADA is an institutional member, we decided that our com-



CICADA leadership meeting - Montreal, June 2018

plementary missions of engaged research, in the case of CICADA, and policy action, in the case of the ICCA Consortium, could be mutually reinforcing by holding joint regional conferences. Our two organizations already have substantial intersecting memberships in some world areas.

A new CICADA region was introduced: the circumpolar region encompasses all areas within the Arctic Circle, such as the northern area of Canada, Russia and Europe. Two new axes were also presented and approved: Cultural Heritage in Conservation and Territorial Identity, and Indigenous Rights, Indigenous Law and Interlegalities.

We also organized the first of these joint regional conferences, for Indigenous, researcher and civil society organizational partners focusing on Latin America, in Fusagasugá, Colombia, October 21-26, 2018 (detailed on p. 4-5). The second regional conference, for members living/working in Africa, was held in Bishoftu, Ethiopia, November 6-11, 2018 (detailed on p. 2)

We are moving presently to a third regional conference in Montreal, May 1-4, for CICADA members from Canada, the USA, Australia and New Zealand ('settler state' contexts), again jointly with the ICCA Consortium, but paired with a larger conference immediately fol-

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African regional meeting in Ethiopia

CICADA and ICCA Consortium join forces for regional meeting in Bishoftu

Last November, CICADA researchers and partners gathered with members of the ICCA Consortium in Bishoftu, Ethiopia, to discuss issues of concern to the African context. Participants came from throughout Africa and beyond, and the themes discussed broadly paralleled those addressed at the Latin American regional meeting one month previous in Colombia (detailed on p. 4-5). These included topics of knowledge co-production, Indigenous rights and inter-legalities, conservation territories and protected areas, collective life projects and alternatives to development, and strategies for dealing with conflict—internal and external—stemming from resource extractive and other ‘development’ activities on Indigenous territories. Thanks to the active participation of members of the Institutional Canopy of Conservation (I-CAN) in East Africa project (directed by CICADA co-investigator John Galaty), as well as CICADA members

from elsewhere in Africa, and the ICCA Consortium’s continent-wide membership, a robust network was brought into our discussions. Through a combination of case presentations and discussions, we addressed the process of co-creating action-oriented knowledge, rights-based approaches to conservation, natural resources and land management, and rights and reconciliation. Videos of the presentations are available at the CICADA website (cicada.world), under the ‘Events’ tab. ●



Robert Chimambo, of Zambia Climate Change Network, presents on territorial governance in Zambia, as CICADA director Colin Scott looks on

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lowing: the first North American Dialogue on Biocultural Diversity, held May 5-8, 2019. This conference is co-sponsored with the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, the Center for Biodiversity and Conservation at the American Museum of

Natural History, the Assembly of First Nations, the Quebec Centre for Biodiversity Science, Parks Canada and the Québec Ministère des Relations Internationales et Francophonie. CICADA obtained a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) Connection Grant to supplement our co-sponsorship of these events. Through this pair of conferences, we intend to wed our agenda of engaged research to policy inputs on domestic and international levels of prime importance to our Indigenous partners. Our next newsletter will offer accounts of the conferences, and videos of the presentations will be made available on the CICADA website. ●

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Park threatens partners in Panama

Ngäbe and Buglé partners in Panama threatened with creation of new national park on their territory



Congreso Ngäbe, Buglé and campesino. Distrito Urracá, August 2018

In January of this year, Panama's environmental ministry, MiAmbiente, announced the projected creation of a second national park in the territories of our Ngäbe and Buglé partners of the Region Norte de Santa Fe (Distrito Urracá), which is just outside of the Comarca Ngäbe-Buglé. The region is already home to the Santa Fe National Park, established without any community consultation in 2002. Those residing within that park's boundaries have faced eviction, and those few who have remained face severe restrictions placed on their livelihoods. Slated to be called the Parque Nacional Hector Gallegos, this new park will envelop dozens of Indigenous communities, representing over six thousand people and their lands.

The announced project will now be entering a consultation phase. The proposed park would criminalize the forest agriculture and harvesting that has been the basis of life for the Indigenous inhabitants in the region for



Sign announcing the construction of a new road through Distrito Urracá, referring to the project as "The Conquest of the Atlantic"



Congreso Ngäbe, Buglé and campesino. Distrito Urracá, August 2018

millennia. The establishment of the park comes on the heels of the completion of a new road through their territory. Its construction project was referred to, without irony, as *La Conquista del Atlántico*—The Conquest of the Atlantic. Land grabbing has already begun in earnest in the area, which the new road only facilitates. The local Ngäbe, Buglé and campesino Congress and its representatives have announced their unequivocal and categorical refusal of the new park, and call for the support of CICADA members and their allies in assuring the respect of their rights. ●



A resident in the Resguardo Cañamomo Lomapieta surveys an active volcano in the distance

Latin American regional

Following a visit to the Resguardo Cañamomo Lomapieta, CICADA holds joint conference with ICCA Consortium near Bogotá

In October of last year, CICADA teamed up with the ICCA Consortium to hold our Latin American regional meeting in the town of Fusagasugá, located 80 km southwest of Bogotá. We first paid a two-day visit to the Resguardo Cañamomo Lomapieta, a CICADA partner, where local residents received our delegation with an abundance of warmth and unrivalled hospitality, welcoming us into their homes for the duration of our stay in the community.

The Resguardo is an Indigenous reservation established by the Spanish Crown in 1627. It covers some 4826 hectares and is the homeland of the Embera Chamí Indigenous people. The Resguardo and its authorities comprise one of the oldest colonial reserves in the country. To this day, they struggle to retain what is left of their ancestral land base, which has faced erosion from numerous threats, including the steady arrival of various companies and individuals interested in extracting gold

and other resources. The Resguardo has thus far resisted the entrance of multinational companies into the territory, in part through legal appeals to the country's judicial system, and in part through the passage of its own laws declaring the Resguardo to be off-limits to large-scale mining, and requiring free, prior and informed consent for any projects affecting its lands. The community shared its stories of resistance and resilience with us, and kindly welcomed our CICADA/ICCA delegation to partake in several cultural and spiritual ceremonies, including climbing to the peak of one of the Resguardo's sacred mountains (from where the photos above and left were taken).

Following this community visit, we travelled to Fusagasugá, another site of resistance, arriving the day after an historic popular consultation had taken place in this urban centre, which resulted in a definitive "no" vote in response to proposed large-scale mining and fracking in the area. We gathered in Fusagasugá for five days of meetings, held from



CICADA director Colin Scott (left) with Héctor Jaime Vinasco, anthropologist and former Chief Governor of the Resguardo Indígena Cañamomo Lomapieta, in the Resguardo

meeting held in Colombia

October 22-26, in conjunction with the ICCA Consortium. In addition to presentations and discussions of CICADA Indigenous and research partners' projects covering the spectrum of CICADA themes, we engaged in a series of highly stimulating roundtable discussions involving

ICCA Consortium members. As with our African regional meeting that followed in November, our discussions focused on topics of knowledge co-production, Indigenous rights and inter-legality, conservation territories and protected areas, collective life projects and alterna-

tives to development, and strategies for dealing with conflict—both internal and external—stemming from resource extractive and other 'development' activities on Indigenous territories. Time was reserved for a series of combined caucus meetings of the Indigenous members of both CICADA and the ICCA Consortium, from which emerged a thirty-article Declaration of shared positions. It is signed by 45 individual and organizational delegates, and calls for respect of Indigenous rights, territories, knowledges and lifeways. Videos of the conference presentations, along with the final Declaration, are available at the CICADA website (cicada.world), under the 'Events' tab. ●



Participants of the CICADA Latin American regional meeting in Fusagasugá, Colombia

Nahua partners in Mexico threatened by Canadian mining project

CICADA's Nahua partners in the Sierra Norte de Puebla in Mexico have recently learned that the EIA (environmental impact assessment) of Vancouver-based Almaden Minerals' Ixtaca project has been accepted for review by SEMARNAT, Mexico's environmental regulator. The EIA judges the possible impacts of the mine to be manageable and within the norms of Mexican water and environmental laws. It also argues that there are no Indigenous peoples in the area, thus obviating the legal requirement for community consultation and consent.

A recent joint-study produced by Alejandro Marreros Lobato (CESDER) and CICADA co-investigator Pierre Beaucage (Université de Montréal), however, has found that over 40% of the municipality's 25,000 residents self-identify as Mexicanero or Nahua, with close to a quarter (6210) recorded as native Nahuatl-speakers. Partner organizations from the Sierra Norte de Puebla are currently discussing strategies and welcome support from CICADA community partners and researchers to respond to this difficult situation.

Visual methodologies workshops held in Durban, South Africa

CICADA co-investigator Claudia Mitchell and Senior Research Associate Steven Schnoor collaborate on leading photo-voice and community video-making workshops

This past November, CICADA co-investigator Prof. Claudia Mitchell (James McGill Professor in the Department of Integrated Studies in Education, and Director of the Institute for Human Development and Well-Being) and CICADA Senior Research Associate Steven Schnoor, teamed up in Durban, South Africa, to lead visual methodologies training workshops for representatives of CICADA partner organizations from Kenya and Botswana. College teachers from various parts of Ethiopia also partook in some workshops. Mitchell, who has published widely on and worked extensively with participatory visual methods, began the week by leading a two-day workshop on photo-voice, in which participants learned how to use the methodology as a tool for community



Workshop participant Jeniffer Simpano prepares her photographs for exhibition

development, communication and grassroots policy advocacy.

Mitchell's photo-voice workshops, which were led in conjunction with Agricultural Training Through Stronger Vocational Education (ATTSVE) and the Participatory Cultures Lab at McGill University, encouraged participants to consider the power of the image in influencing social change.

Participants first discussed which issues are currently most pressing to their communities, then produced photographic essays on a chosen theme. The final step involved printing and exhibiting their work on the walls of the workshop room. Lively

and spirited discussion and debate ensued throughout the process, but especially during the participants' presentation of their work. Participants were enthusiastic that they were returning home with the knowledge needed to replicate the process in their own communities.



Photo-voice participant Fred Matei presents his photo essay



CICADA co-investigator Claudia Mitchell leads photo-voice workshop in Durban

Schnoor, who leads video-making workshops with CICADA partner organizations in support of their initiatives of conservation, development and the defense of rights and territory, then led a multi-day workshop on videography.

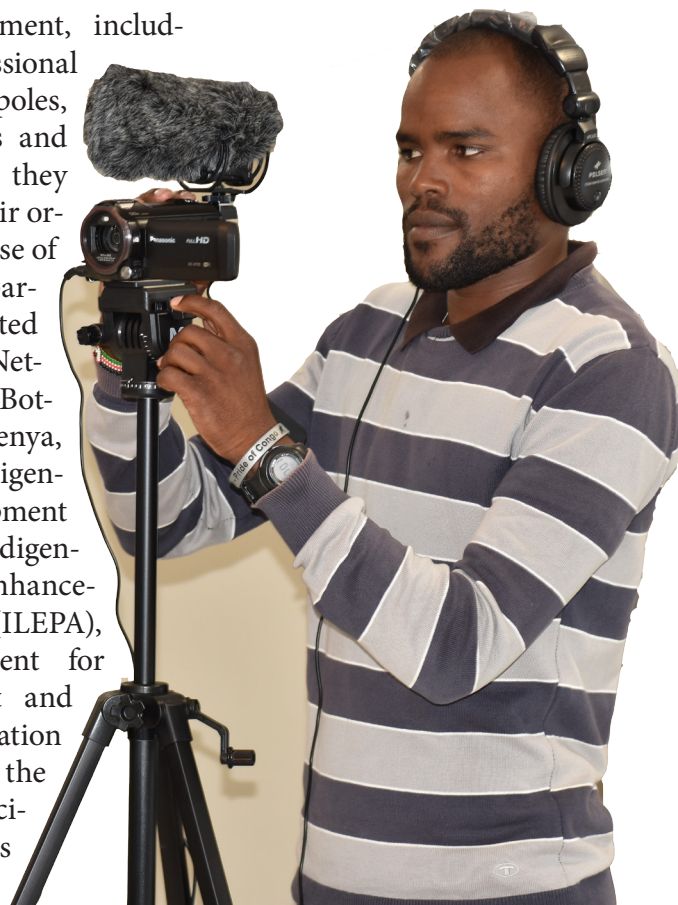
“This was a great opportunity learning new and modern methodologies of social research. We dearly thank CICADA for believing in us! We will share the knowledge to the rest of the world and we will practice what we learned.”

Community video workshop participant
Simon Maison Tong’oyo

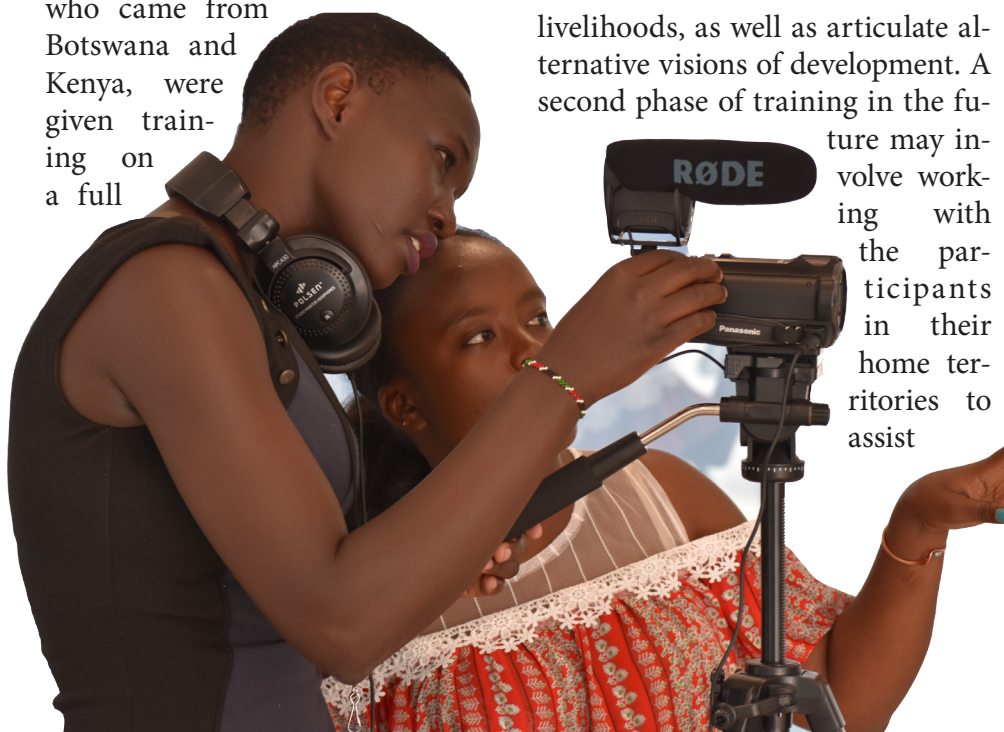
The seven workshop participants, who came from Botswana and Kenya, were given training on a full

set of video equipment, including cameras, professional microphones, boom poles, video lights, tripods and monopods, which they then took back to their organizations at the close of the workshops. The participants represented the San Youth Network (SYN) from Botswana, and from Kenya, the Chepkitale Indigenous People Development Project (CIPDP), Indigenous Livelihoods Enhancement Partners (ILEPA), Indigenous Movement for Peace Advancement and Conflict Transformation (IMPACT), and the South Rift Association of Land Owners (SORALO).

Workshop participants received training on how these tools may be used to bear witness to rights violations encountered in defense of their lands and livelihoods, as well as articulate alternative visions of development. A second phase of training in the future may involve working with the participants in their home territories to assist



Community video workshop participant Ramson Karmushu



Community video workshop participants Phoebe Chemos and Linda Laissa Kaunga learn camera operation

with producing documentary videos that advance the needs of their organizations and communities.

Workshop participant Simon Maison Tong’oyo, who works with CICADA partner organization ILEPA in Kenya, was very grateful for the experience, saying the week proved to be “a great opportunity learning new and modern methodologies of social research. We dearly thank CICADA for believing in us! We will share the knowledge to the rest of the world and we will practice what we learned.” We look forward to continuing to work with all participants in the months and years ahead, to assist them in bringing their newfound skills to the next level, to be able to produce videos of service to their community organizations. ●

CICADA welcomes new postdoc

Viviane Weitzner brings a wealth of experience as SSHRC-funded postdoctoral researcher

CICADA welcomes Viviane Weitzner as a 2018-2020 SSHRC-funded postdoctoral researcher with the Centre. She has been working on issues at the crossroads of Indigenous and Afro-Descendant rights and extractives in the Americas for over 15 years, supporting engaged collaborative research with peoples' organizations both with the not-for-profit world, as well as with academia.

As former senior researcher, governance and natural resources, with The North-South Institute based in Ottawa, she led a decade-long research programme examining Indigenous perspectives to free, prior and informed consent and decision-making in the face of extractives in the Americas, with components in Guyana, Suriname, Peru, Colombia and Canada. Since 2013, she has worked as a policy advisor (consultant) on business and human rights with the UK-based Forest Peoples Programme.

Viviane's academic research is rooted in the anthropology of legal pluralities, and is grounded in ethnography of an innovative and unlikely alliance between Indigenous and Afro-Descendant Peoples in Colombia and their struggle to defend their gold-rich ancestral territories, self-regulate mining activities, and uphold their rights and way of life in the lethal context of armed conflict. Her PhD thesis, entitled *Raw Law/Raw Economy: Ancestral Peoples, Mining, Law and Violence in Colombia* (February 2018), draws

on over eight years of collaborative research with the Embera Chamí Indigenous People of the Resguardo Indígena Cañamomo Lomapieta (Riosucio and Supía, Caldas) and with Black Communities represented by the Palenke Alto Cauca in the years just prior to and during the negotiation of the peace accords between the Santos government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia.

Her PhD work was undertaken at the *Centro de Investigaciones y Estudios Superiores en Antropología Social* (CIESAS) in Mexico City, with funding by Mexico's Conacyt, Canada's SSHRC and Norway's University of Life Sciences. Her doctoral research was highlighted in the "Extracting Justice?" Project led by the University of Life Sciences in Norway, which led to the publication of articles in a 2017 special edition of *Third World Quarterly* on Participation in Extractive Governance.

At McGill, Viviane is co-leading the development of CICADA's new Indigenous Rights, Indigenous Law and Interlegality research axis. She continues to undertake collaborative research with the Palenke and the Resguardo, and is documenting how they are strengthening their autonomous land stewards known as the *Guardia Indígena* and the *Guardia Cimarrona*, and the encounters and "coordination" of this process with state agencies.

In addition, Viviane is a mem-



Postdoctoral researcher Viviane Weitzner (centre), with members of the *Guardia Cimarrona*, the autonomous, unarmed "Black Guard" of northern Cauca

ber of the Steering Committee for the University of London-led project "The Juridification of Resource Conflicts: Legal Cultures, Moralities and Environmental Politics in Central America and Mexico." In 2018 she received a Young Scholar Award from the International Commission on Legal Pluralism for best article, forthcoming in the *Journal of Legal Pluralism and Unofficial Law*. Viviane has a Master's degree in Natural Resources Management from the Natural Resources Institute at the University of Manitoba, and a B.A. from McGill University in English literature. ●