

ICCA

Territories and Areas Conserved
by Indigenous Peoples and
Local Communities

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ICCA Guide



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The term **ICCAs – Territories of Life** have been consolidated over the past two decades as a **global concept** that recognizes and values territories managed by Indigenous Peoples and traditional communities. These territories are shaped by their diverse **cultures, beliefs, traditions, and knowledge systems**, all expressed through a shared purpose: **to care for nature and life**.

Such territories contribute directly to **addressing climate change** by safeguarding environmental, social, cultural, spiritual, and economic values. They also foster **learning and innovation** in maintaining ecological interactions and the environmental functions and services essential for the planet's future.

At the international level, the **ICCA Consortium** works to support and strengthen these initiatives, promoting the **formal recognition of self-governed territories** managed by Indigenous peoples and local communities.

Mupan: ICCAs Focal Point in Brazil

Since 2015, Mupan – Women in Action in the Pantanal has served as the ICCA focal point in Brazil, promoting the empowerment of women, Indigenous Peoples, and traditional communities in the conservation of nature and the strengthening of territorial governance.

Through this role, Mupan has helped share knowledge, strengthen local leadership, and facilitate the **recognition of territories of life**, in partnership with the **ICCA Consortium**.

The **International ICCA Registry** is one of the key mechanisms established to recognize and value conservation practices led by Indigenous Peoples and local communities. This process follows structured steps defined by the Consortium and results in the inclusion of the territory in the **global database of recognized ICCAs – Territories of Life**.

Since 2017, the partnership between **Mupan and Wetlands International Brazil** has expanded this agenda nationwide. A major milestone was the registration of Brazil's **first ICCA – the Kalunga Historical Site and Cultural Heritage** in Goiás, an area of great historical, cultural, and environmental significance.

ICCA Brazil Guide – A Tool for Community-Based Governance and Conservation

Launched in 2022, the ICCA Brazil Guide was developed to support traditional communities, local leaders, institutions, and partner organizations in the process of recognising and registering their territories, following the ICCA Consortium's international guidelines.

The guide is a **practical tool for territorial governance and community-based conservation**, providing a step-by-step roadmap for self-recognition and international registration. It includes information on:

- **What Territories of Life (ICCAs) are;**
- **The role of the ICCA Consortium;**
- **The International ICCA Registry and its stages;**
- **The benefits of becoming a recognised ICCA;**
- **Steps for self-recognition and registration;**
- **The peer-review process;**
- **The timeline and criteria for registration.**

Recognizing an ICCA also means acknowledging the essential role of Indigenous Peoples and traditional communities in conserving nature.

*More than a title, registration represents a **mechanism for territorial protection**, a **tool for cultural recognition**, and a **pathway to strengthen local livelihoods**.*



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