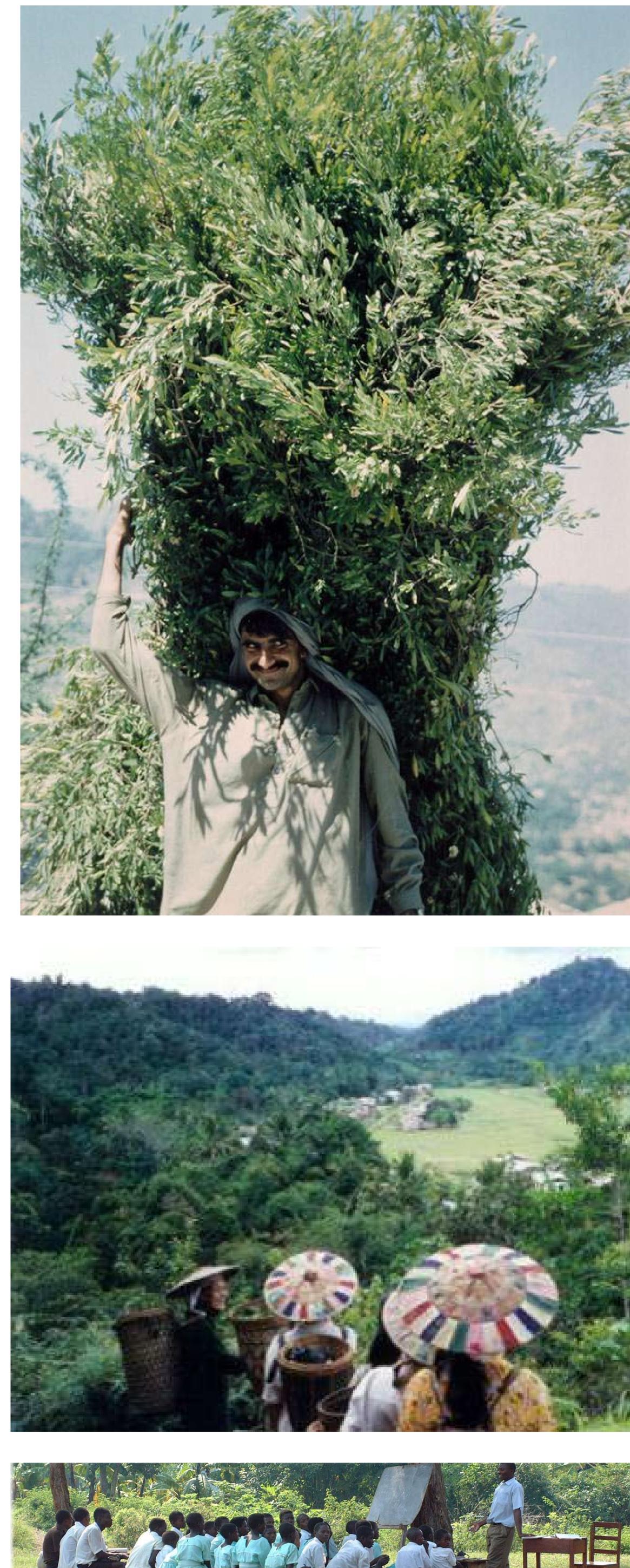
APPROPRIATE SUPPORT FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSERVED TERRITORIES AND COMMUNITY CONSERVED AREAS (ICCAS)



INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND COMMUNITY CONSERVED AREAS AND TERRITORIES -- ICCAS



Throughout the world, indigenous peoples and local communities relate to biological diversity, use it for their livelihoods and perceive it as essential in their lives. Biodiversity intertwines with their knowledge, practices and spiritual and material values and is closely related to their common rights over land and natural resources and culture. Despite the enormous global importance of state-property and private property, communal ownership and control and community-based decisions and action still encompass a vital proportion of the land and water bodies significant for global biological and cultural diversity.

ICCAs include cases of continuation, revival or modification of traditional practices, some of which are of ancient origin, as well as new initiatives, such as restoration and innovative uses of resources taken up by indigenous peoples and local communities in the face of new threats or opportunities

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Three features are important to identify an ICCA:

A well defined people or community possesses a close and profound relation with an equally well defined site (territory, area, habitat) and/ or species - a relation embedded in local culture, sense of identity and/or dependence for livelihood and well being.

The people or community is the major player in decision-making and implementation regarding the management of the site and/or species, implying that a local institution has - de facto and/or de jure - the capacity to develop and enforce decisions. Other stakeholders may collaborate as partners, especially when the land is owned by the state, but the local decisions and management efforts are predominant.

The people's or community's management decisions and efforts lead to the conservation of habitats, species, genetic diversity, ecological functions/benefits and associated cultural values, even when the conscious objective of management is not conservation alone or per se (e.g., objectives may be livelihood, security, religious piety, safeguarding cultural and spiritual places, etc.).



