INTEGRATING TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE INTO NATIONAL POLICY AND PRACTICE IN GUYANA
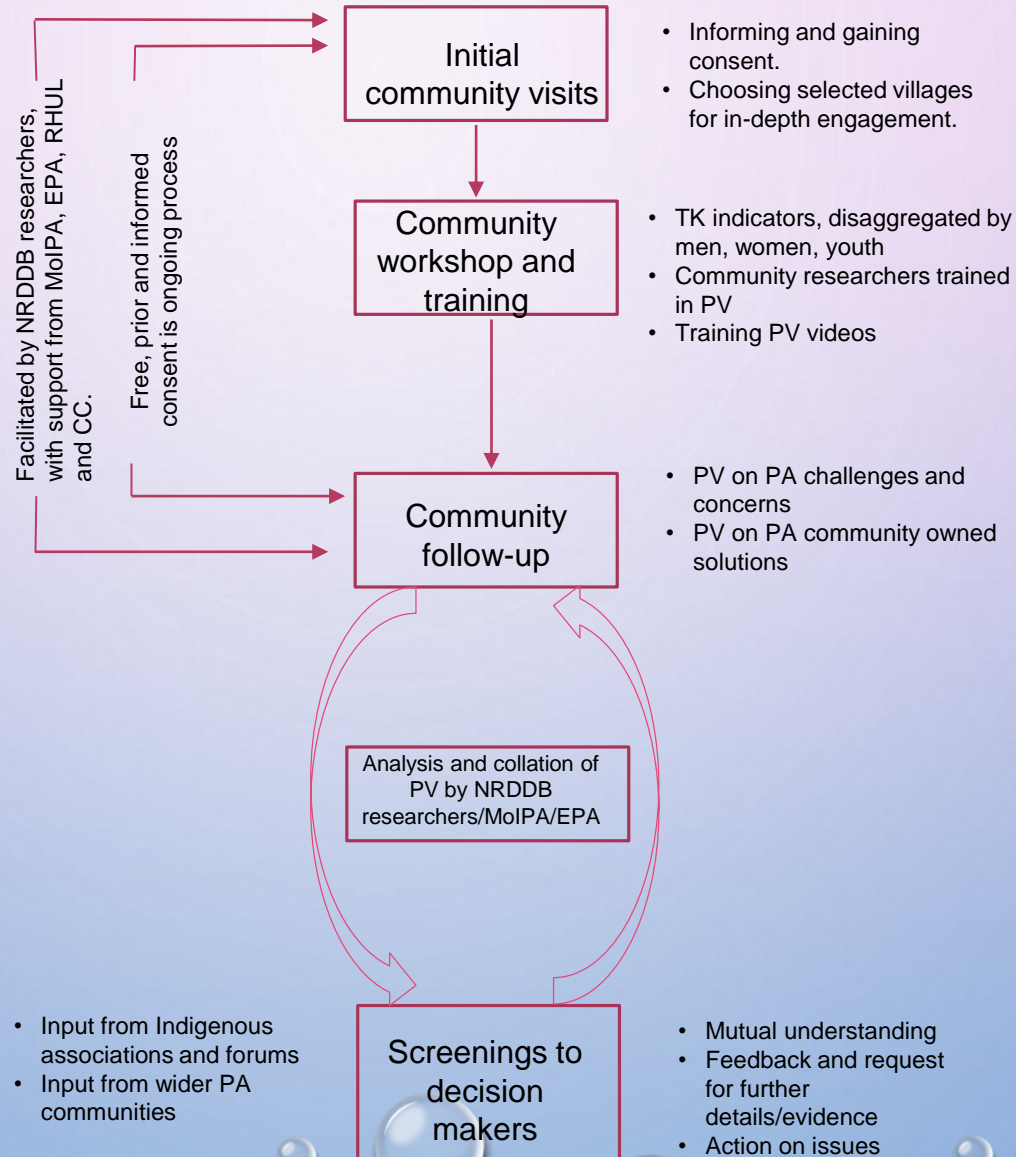
ORIGINS

- COBRA project (www.cobracollective.Org) (www.communityownedsolutions.Org)

- Promoted a bottom up approach of identifying and documenting community owned solutions

- Using community owned solutions to influence policy and channel REDD+ funding

- Peer to peer sharing of community owned solutions

- What could be done to add to this work?

AICHI TARGET 18

- 'By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, **are respected**, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and **fully integrated and reflected** in the implementation of the convention with the **full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities**, at all relevant levels'.

  - Increase recognition and respect of IP and TK

  - Increase integration of TK in policy and practice

  - Increase participation of knowledge holders

PROBLEM AND OBJECTIVES

- Little progress on the CBD achieving this target
    - Lack of information
    - Lack of capacity
    - Lack of resources

- Objectives
    - Evaluate the opportunities and barriers to TK integration focused on protected areas management
    - Create an evidence based approach for TK integration
    - Develop a national action plan

Methodology

Challenge	Starting out	Resources	Action	Evaluation
What challenges are the community facing in relation to TK? What challenges are the community facing in relation to the protected area?	Vision - what do you want to achieve in relation to the protected area and TK?	What is needed to achieve your vision?	Activities - How will you go about achieving the vision?	What difference will your actions make to your community? How are you going to know whether your vision has been achieved?

Analysis of data identified
- Which solutions could be implemented
- Which solutions required direct intervention from outside
- Which could be implemented with some level of partnership

Indicators of Community |Viability

Fishing | Timber harvesting | Medicinal plants
Gathering food/materials | Land rights and access
Water | Farming | Hunting

How do we meet our basic needs?

Self help

Planning for and implementing resource use

Leadership

What do we do easily that gives us significant benefits?

Ceremonial Celebrations | Rules for sustainable resource use
Food Preparation | Use of Traditional Medicines
Indigenous Language | Craft making
Amerindian Act

How do we maintain the past?

Community Viability

Materials for homes | Dress | Music

Use of domestic and farm equipment

How have we adapted to new challenges and influences?

Non-indigenous languages

Transportation medium such as engine and vehicles

Communication mediums such as radio and internet

How do we work with others?

Partnerships with NGOs | Partnership with NRDDB
Community to community partnerships | National and International Funds to support projects and activities | Government Programmes and Initiatives

What gives us choice and flexibility?

Jobs
Imported foods
Different health options | Different farming techniques
Cultivating diverse crops | Varieties of cassava

Identified the most important indicators for management
Which were considered community owned solutions

METHODOLOGY OF POLICY REVIEW

Integration level was assessed using a three level approach

(adapted from kettunen 2014, 2017):

- 1) <u>conceptual integration</u>; where documents underpinning sectoral policies (e.G. Strategies) explicitly or implicitly take TK/IP rights into account.

- 2) <u>operational integration</u>; where specific measures or instruments are identified and committed to address tk/ip rights related objectives within policy sectors.

- 3) <u>implementation integration</u>; where concrete measures achieve integration on the ground in actual policy- and decision-making situations.

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METHODOLOGY OF POLICY REVIEW

TRAFFIC LIGHT EVALUATION SYSTEM:

Explicit and comprehensive recognition of Traditional Knowledge (TK)	Explicit and comprehensive recognition of the rights of indigenous people	Some explicit integration but not comprehensive (e.g. some mentioning of TK	Some explicit integration (e.g. some mentioning of indigenous people's rights)	Implicit and indirect integration, generally focus on preventing negative impacts of a policy sector on TK	Implicit and indirect integration, generally focus on preventing negative impacts on the rights of indigenous people.	No recognition (direct / indirect) of TK	No recognition (direct / indirect) of the rights of indigenous people

DIVIDED INTO TWO ELEMENTS:

1) TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE (TK)

2) INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S RIGHTS (IP)

FINDINGS OF POLICY REVIEW (PRELIMINARY)

- INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S RIGHTS INTEGRATION RESULT:

Level of Integration	Policy Sectors									
	Agriculture	Climate change	Conservation / Protected area	Conservation / Biodiversity	Culture	Development / Land use	Extractive	Forestry	Human Rights / Indigenous people	Land rights
Conceptual										
Operational										
Implementation										

⬛	Explicit & comprehensive recognition of indigenous people's (IP) rights
⬜	Some explicit integration but not comprehensive (e.g. some mentioning of IP rights)
⬜	Implicit and indirect integration, generally focus on preventing negative impacts of a policy sector on IP
🟥	No recognition (direct / indirect) of IP rights
⬜	Data missing

FINDINGS OF POLICY REVIEW (PRELIMINARY)

Key Findings for level of TK integration

- 3 sectors showed a good level of integration (Dark to light green)
  - Conservation
    - Protected Area
    - Biodiversity
  - Culture
  - Human rights
- Sub-sector of Protected area (particularly the Management plans) and the Culture sector showed high level (dark green) of both Conceptual and Operational integration

- Worst 3 sectors of (red) no recognition of TK was Agriculture, Extractive (mining and petroleum) and Land rights

TK LITERATURE REVIEW METHODS

- Systematic search
  - 7 search terms based on 5 key 'elements'
  - Traditional knowledge, best practice, decision making and policy, participation, management
  - Literature containing key terms in abstract included in literature review
  - 768 pieces of academic and grey literature refined down to 150 'primary' articles
- Literature review
  - 'Primary' articles read in entirety
  - 48 case studies found reflecting good practice from around the world
  - Case studies assessed against 21 criteria based on Aichi target 18 and Articles 8j and 10c, and the nagoya protocol
  - Case study types encompass impact assessments, protected areas, resource management, and sustainable development, and indigenous and community-conserved areas (iccas)
- Analysis
  - Summary statistics and cluster analysis indicating key gaps and patterns
  - By level of economic development, region, case study type, and overall
  - Key lessons drawn from qualitative analysis (preliminary)

BARRIERS TO TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE INTEGRATION

- Communicative
  - Arise from different languages and styles of expression used by tk-holders
- Conceptual
  - Stem from an organization's difficulties in comprehending the values, practices, and context underlying TK
- Political
  - Result from unwillingness to acknowledge TK messages that may conflict with the agendas of government or industry

END RESULT

- Objective 1: Raise awareness nationally of the critical role of Indigenous peoples and their TK
  - Long-term Outcome: Guyanese respect and value the contributions of Indigenous Peoples in local conservation efforts

- Objective 2: Strengthen local laws, governance and mechanisms for preservation and integration of TK
  - Traditional knowledge in Guyana is preserved and protected through improved laws and increased inclusiveness of Indigenous peoples in decision-making.

- Objective 3: Empower Indigenous communities to document and address matters pertaining to the preservation and integration of TK
  - Indigenous communities are networking effectively to address common issues and concerns, and sharing best practices
  - Language, culture and practices of Indigenous peoples remain an important component of their way of life

NEXT STEPS

- Continued engagement with the other protected areas

- Continuing the FPIC process with communities and other stakeholders

- Full consultations with stakeholders for the development of the action plan

- Develop a training program for the full process of TK integration

- Peer to peer exchanges with other countries in the Guiana Shield

THANK YOU