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I was in Kuala Lumpur from 5th February till 19th February, in two capacities: as member of the Indian NGO Kalpavriksh; and as co-chair of the IUCN WCPA-CEESP Theme group on Indigenous and Local Communities, Equity, and Protected Areas (TILCEPA). During this period, I took part in the following activities:

1. **Global Biodiversity Forum**, 6-8th February: I helped to coordinate, on behalf of and with other colleagues of TILCEPA, a workshop on Poverty, Livelihoods, and Biodiversity. This was part of the 19th Global Biodiversity Forum, organised as a pre-COP7 workshop by IUCN and other groups. This meeting helped prepare participants for the discussions coming up at the COP, and also put together some recommendations for the delegates at COP7. A brief message from the GBF, including from the Poverty workshop, was read out at the opening Plenary of COP7.
2. **NGO meetings and coordination**: On behalf of the Indian NGO Kalpavriksh (of which I am a founding member), I was able to participate in the key NGO events and processes at COP7. This included the pre-COP7 preparatory meeting of NGOs organised by MENGO (the Malaysian Environmental NGOs forum), and subsequently the daily morning NGO meetings during COP7. These meetings were enormously useful in preparing NGOs for the daily discussions at COP7, organising joint NGO statements, and generally orienting them to the complex issues being deliberated upon by official delegates.
3. **ECO**: I was a part of the editorial team producing the daily NGO newsletter *ECO*. There was considerable feedback from participants about how useful this newsletter was, and it was both my privilege and learning experience to be able to participate in its production.
4. **Protected Areas Programme of Work**: One of the key discussion topics at COP7 was on Protected Areas. Through both TILCEPA, and the NGO network, I closely followed the discussions, and made various inputs to the development of the Programme of Work (POW), which delegates decided upon by the end of COP7. In particular, I focused on the issues of protected areas and indigenous peoples and local communities, which has been one of my main areas of work in the last couple of decades. One of the activities I coordinated, on behalf of NGOs, was a joint NGO statement on the key issues relating to this topic, which I orally and in writing delivered to the COP7 Working Group. Previous to COP7, I contributed chapters or material to two books on protected areas, that the CBD Secretariat prepared for distribution to the delegates.
5. **Booklet and Side Event on Best Practices**: I helped to coordinate one part of the joint NGO booklet on "Protected Areas and Technology Transfer: Towards Better Practice". This was the part on protected areas, for which I drafted the introduction and conclusion, and made inputs to the case studies. In addition, I chaired a side event to release and discuss the contents of this booklet, organised by ELCI, Kalpavriksh, and other NGOs, during COP7.
6. **IUCN side event on communities and PAs**: I helped to organise a TILCEPA side event, on behalf of IUCN, on the topic "Governance, Equity, Livelihoods, and Protected Areas". This was held during lunch hour on 18th February, in one of the main COP7 rooms. TILCEPA policy briefs on a number of related subjects, and relevant NGO material such as the above-mentioned booklet, were distributed at this side event.
7. **Community Kampung**: On behalf of TILCEPA and NGOs, I was involved in the Community Kampung space. Sponsored by Equator Initiative and other organisations, this was a very dynamic, open space used by indigenous peoples and local community representatives, for a series of academic, cultural, and fun events.
8. **Other activities**: Several other activities that I took part in, included the following: (1) organising dialogues with representatives of indigenous, mobile, and local communities; (2) facilitating the participation of fisherfolk representatives and support organisations, who were at a COP for the first time ever, and needed help in making their main issues felt and heard by the official delegates; (3)

facilitating inputs by TILCEPA and NGOs into several other COP7 subjects, including Tourism, Article 8j, Marine and Coastal Biodiversity.

Overall, my participation at COP7 (and before that, at GBF), was of enormous learning importance for me. I hope that in return, I was able to contribute a little to the deliberations.

I would finally like to observe that, having participated in all the COPs till now, in my experience this was one of the best in terms of NGO coordination. The preparation of the NGO network prior to and during the COP helped to make this possible. I very much hope that such networking can continue into the future, not only just before COP and SBSTTA meetings, but also in the inter-sessional period.

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