



INTERNATIONAL INDIAN TREATY COUNCIL

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"Working for the Rights and Recognition of Indigenous Peoples Internationally"

INTERNATIONAL INDIAN TREATY COUNCIL **ANNUAL REPORT**

JANUARY 1, 1999 - DECEMBER 31, 1999

A. INTRODUCTION

During this 12 month grant period, IITC continued to work in close cooperation with grass-roots Indigenous communities, assisting them in presenting critical human rights and environmental justice concerns to national and international fora in order to build support and awareness, redress ongoing violations and assert the fundamental right of self-determination, in all aspects of their lives.

IITC's activities and advocacy for Indigenous Peoples' rights was carried out from the local to international levels. Many major accomplishments were achieved in these critical areas, and significant progress was made in carrying forward ongoing long-term programs and areas of work.

IITC's work on these issues continued to be based upon the principle of the sacredness of life and the indivisible relationship between human rights and the protection of the Natural World. IITC worked for full recognition by states and international bodies of the need to protect lands, waters, habitats and sacred sites in order to insure Indigenous Peoples' freedom of religion, health, racial equality, self-determination and cultural preservation.

In 1999, historic strides were made by IITC in advancing the participation, addressing the critical concerns and defending the rights of Indigenous Peoples through work in bodies such as the UN Commission on Human Rights, the Working Group on Indigenous Populations, the Global Youth Forum, the World Intellectual Property Organization, Commission on Sustainable Development, the UN's Development and Environmental Programs, the Indigenous and International subcommittees of the EPA's National Environmental Justice Advisory Council and the World Health Organization.

IITC was able to focus the discussions in these bodies to address the impacts of imposed development and environmental contamination in the clear context of human rights violations, rights to lands and resources, self-determination, environmental racism and cultural destruction.

IITC also continued to work skillfully and actively in close coordination with grassroots organizations, tribes, communities and networks, empowering and supporting them to more effectively access the international arena and its resources in defense of their cultures, homelands, waters and sacred sites. IITC provided a voice and representation for Peoples and communities involved in day - to- day struggles to protect their lives, health, ecosystems, medical plant knowledge, and ways of life. IITC assisted them in presenting these issues effectively to international fora in order to build national and international support and awareness and to change policies.

IITC also continued to disseminate information regarding international developments, standards and opportunities to address issues pertaining to biological diversity, biological ethics, environmental protection, the defense of land rights and sustainable development.

IITC worked consistently in support of community initiatives for land rights, treaty rights, cultural protection and freedom of religion. IITC also continued to build the participation of Indigenous Peoples in international standard setting fora impacting their lives and survival.

B. OBJECTIVES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

IITC focused on activities carried out the following five program objectives:

I. CRISIS INTERVENTION

SUMMARY: IITC provided ongoing support and assistance to grass roots communities facing crisis situations and critical threats. IITC served as on-site observers and international advocates, and submitted complaints, "urgent actions" and interventions to U.N. bodies, fora, agencies and Rapporteurs. Coordination and communications with communities and organizations contributed to their increased appreciation of the potential impacts of international pressure in conjunction with grassroots activism.

ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. During February and March, 1999 IITC worked intensively in close coordination and cooperation with the family members of Ingrid Washinawatok, Lahe'ena'e Gay Terence Frietas, as well as the Menominee Tribe of Wisconsin, Indigenous and non-Indigenous organizations, Indian Peoples in Columbia and North America, appropriate agency and governmental contacts and the United Nations in response the kidnappings of murders of the three activists who were in Columbia to support the U' wa Indian Peoples' struggle against oil development in their territories.

2. IITC continued to follow up on its formal complaint (filed in June 1996) to the U.N. Rapporteur for Religious Intolerance on behalf of traditional Dineh of Big Mountain, Arizona facing forced relocation and incursion by coalmines. IITC's complaint links the indigenous peoples' ability to practice their freedom of religion to

their ability to remain on and protect their traditional lands, and requested a formal U.N. investigation.

IITC coordinated, at the UN's request, the participation and presentations by over 40 Indigenous communities, tribes, local and national organizations and grass roots and spiritual societies, focusing primarily on the spiritual relationship between Indigenous Peoples and their traditional lands and sacred sites. Follow-up including assistance to communities and organizations in submitting updates and new cases, continued throughout the year. IITC responded in support of Mr. Amor's findings, which were presented at the UN Commission on Human Rights (March 1999), and has continued to disseminate the report, monitor the U.S. response to the findings, and apply its findings to ongoing situations in the US.

3. In August 1999, IITC initiated investigations and information collection in preparation for a complaint filing to the UN Special Rapporteur on Extra Judicial, Summary or Arbitrary Executions in response to requests by the Lakota community, tribal officials and family members in South Dakota regarding the large number of unsolved deaths of young male Lakota tribal members on and near the Pine Ridge reservation over the last two years.

4. Other complaints and urgent actions were submitted, monitored and/or updated by IITC, in conjunction with the impacted communities and Peoples to the Special Rapporteur on Internally Displaced Persons (Chiapas); the Special Rapporteur on Land Rights; the High Commissioner on Human Rights; the Rapporteur on Religious Intolerance (desecration of Medicine Lake in California by proposed geo-thermal development, Big Mountain relocation and mining-related desecration of burial grounds and ceremonial sites, and forced hair-cutting of Indian Prisoners in California); the International Labor Organization (relocation due to dam building and flooding of farmlands); the President of the year 2000 Commission on Sustainable Development (permits issued in Columbia for oil drilling adjacent to U' wa Indian communities); the Committee on Arbitrary Detentions (Leonard Peltier in the US, Adrian Esquino Lisco in El Salvador, the Zamoras in Mexico). Copies of UN filings and other inquiries were also sent to relevant national and state government officials and leaders.

5. At the Commission on Human Rights (March - April 1999), IITC presented interventions addressing a wide range of critical situations facing Indigenous Peoples upon the request of the Indigenous Peoples, Nations and organizations, including: the Ft. Mohave Tribe, Ward Valley California (opposing a nuclear waste dump); Gros Ventre Nation, Montana (a community-based fight against impacts of a toxic gold mine); Gwich' in Nation Alaska/Canada (cultural impacts of proposed oil exploration in the caribou calving grounds); Mole Lake Sokagon Chippewa tribe in Wisconsin (opposing a proposed Exxon zinc sulphite mine adjacent to the reservation); Big Mountain Dineh Nation (resisting coal mining, forced relocation and protecting religious freedom); Anishnabe Nation of Michigan USA and Ontario Canada (water contamination from radioactive and petrochemical wastes on Walpole Island and other wetlands in the Great Lakes); the Yoemem Tekia Foundation, Yaqui Peoples of Tucson Arizona and

Sonora Mexico (denial of water rights, cultural and religious freedom rights and pesticide contamination); Pikanii Nation, Blackfoot Confederacy (removal of children under boarding school policy, and violations of the Indian Child Welfare Act in the US and Canada); Indian Peoples in Chiapas, Guerrero, Oaxaca (military occupation, arbitrary detentions, forced relocations, abuse of women and children and massacres); Nahu Indian People (racial and electoral discrimination, Puebla Mexico); Defensoria Maya (discrimination and exclusion from the political process for Indigenous Peoples and continued impunity for Government-sponsored genocide in Guatemala); Menominee Nation, Wisconsin USA (death of human rights defender Ingrid Washinawatok in Columbia); the Native American Prisoners Rights Coalition (denials of religious freedom, impacts of the death penalty, USA); Leonard Peltier Defense Committee (arbitrary detention, USA); and the Indigenous Environmental Network (Climate change and persistent organic pollutants proliferation). The issue of Environmental Racism was addressed in both written and oral IITC interventions for the first time under the agenda item addressing the elimination of Racial Discrimination (agenda item # 6).

6. IITC facilitated the participation of a Yoemem Tekia representative to address the issue of continued cross-border sale of pesticides banned in the U.S. on Indigenous lands in Mexico during the Environmental Protection Agencies' August 1999 round-table on Border rights and environmental justice issues in National City, California, and in the Greenpeace/IEN POPS video.

7. IITC continued to address international human rights bodies as well as appropriate governmental agencies regarding prisoners rights issues, including the discriminatory and disproportionate impacts of the death penalty on Indigenous Peoples and other peoples of color in the U.S., denial of religious freedom rights, and arbitrary detentions of specific Indigenous prisoners, such as Leonard Peltier and traditional Tohono O'odham elder from Arizona, Mr. Chana Velasco, who continued to be held in jail in Nogales Mexico since March 1999, wrongfully accused of association with drug traffickers..

II. INTERNATIONAL POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND STANDARD SETTING

SUMMARY: Work continued towards building the direct and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples in the development of international standards and policies affecting them, as well as in the development of effective mechanisms and bodies for redress of grievances and international oversight in critical situations.

Towards this end, IITC continued to work throughout the year in a variety of local, regional, national and international forums towards the full adoption of the U.N. Draft Declaration for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as a means of insuring that Indigenous Peoples' rights, lands, eco-systems, traditional ways of life and self-determination are fully recognized and protected under international law.

IITC also prioritized ongoing consultations and strategy discussions with Indigenous Peoples on the Convention on Biological Diversity and worked to implement international standards addressing "biopiracy" and defending Indigenous traditional

knowledge, strengthen the role of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations, build effective participation in the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests and Commission on Sustainable Development, and the establishment of a Permanent Forum for Indigenous Peoples within the UN system.

ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. IITC continued to serve as one of two Indigenous NGO member organizations of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) and participate in the development of IUCN policies and positions impacting Indigenous Peoples in areas such as climate change, POPS, forestry, and bio-diversity; begin preparations for next IUCN World conference in Jordan, 2000
2. IITC participated in the third session of the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests to address impacts of national and international forest-related policies and practices on Indigenous forest-dwelling Peoples, May, 1999, Geneva Switzerland; planning has begun for participation in the next session (February, New York).
3. IITC continued to disseminate, as requested by Conference Steering Committee, the "Albuquerque Declaration" from the Indigenous delegates to the Native Peoples/Native Homelands Climate Change Workshop, sponsored by the US Global Change Research Program of NASA October 28 - November 1, 1998, to appropriate international bodies and fora (i.e. the 1999 UN Commission on Human Rights)
4. IITC participated in UNESCO's Expert International Conference on the Implementation of the Right to Self-Determination in Barcelona, Spain from 21 to 27 November, 1998, and continued to utilize and circulate the resulting declaration in appropriate international fora (ongoing)
5. IITC delegates from the U.S., Panama and Guatemala participated in U.N. Commission on Human Rights Fifth Inter-Sessional Open-Ended Working Group on the Draft Declaration for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples October , and the preparatory sessions of the Indigenous caucus, October 16 – October 30, 1999 Geneva, Switzerland. In 1999 over 150 Indigenous representatives from around the world met with states, and successfully maintained the current text and built support among states for its eventual adoption by the UN General Assembly. IITC representatives were selected to serve as co-president of the caucus and chair of the report committee. Land and resources was added to Self-determination as focus issues of discussion this year. IITC continued to disseminate the results to build awareness and activism among Indigenous Peoples and tribal governments as well as non Indigenous NGO's, in preparation for the 6th session of the Working Group in the fall of 2000.
6. IITC Co-facilitated and served as Rapporteur for the second meeting of the North American Indigenous Biodiversity contact group to discuss strategies and share information to build informed participation in the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity, and discuss results of discussions at COP IV in

Bratislava, Slovakia (May 1998), focusing on article 8(j) of the CBD addressing "in situ" conservation, "benefit sharing" and safeguarding indigenous traditional knowledge, as well as the creation of a formal mechanism for Indigenous participation in the CBD, i.e. the Intersessional Working Group for Indigenous Peoples on Article 8(j).

7. IITC NY Office Coordinator continued as co-chair of the Commission on Sustainable Development Indigenous Caucus, participating in the CSD Intersessional, February 1999, New York, and successfully worked with governments to achieve the inclusion of the issue "safeguarding local cultures" as a sustainable tourism policy topic for the CSD-7 multi-stakeholder dialogue segment; also co-drafted NGO "southern caucus" statement on small island developing states for CSD-7; IITC's representative was also re-selected as a member of the CSD NGO caucus on sustainable agriculture and food systems, and conducted ongoing outreach activities to build participation of grass-roots representatives/ experts in CSD 2000.

8. IITC staff participated in the 7th U.N. Commission on Sustainable Development including co-facilitating and coordinating the NGO tourism caucus during the formal dialogue segment with NGO's, Governments trade unions, local authorities and industry; co-drafted NGO statement for the dialogue segment on Sustainable Tourism and the "high level segment" with government ministers; co-drafted the Indigenous Peoples section of the Human Rights Caucus statement; co-coordinated briefing by Indigenous Peoples and presented on "territorial rights, cultural integrity and intellectual property" for staff members of United Nations Development Program staff; and oriented and briefed new Indigenous delegates from the U.S.; April, 1999, New York City

9. IITC was invited by UN-CSD Major Groups Focal Point to assist in developing the structure and content for Indigenous Peoples Day for CSD-8 (April 2000); IITC's CSD representative drafted a letter and held a resulting meeting with the president of the 2000 CSD (the Environmental Minister of Columbia) who authorized oil development adjacent to the U' wa traditional land reserve, challenging this decision, and addressing it as a proposed focus point pertaining to impacts on ground water, agriculture, etc.

10. IITC Continued to work on the establishment of a Permanent Forum for Indigenous Peoples within the UN System, and attended the meeting in of the Intersessional Working Group to elaborate its implementation created by the 1998 Commission on Human Rights, (Geneva, February 1999), and is assisting in the coordination of an Indigenous strategy workshop prior to the next working group session in January, 2000, Copenhagen.

11. 3 IITC representatives participated in a workshop with Indigenous Peoples and the World Intellectual Property Organization, July 22 and 23, 1999 in Geneva, Switzerland focusing on developing standards on patenting and commercialization of medicinal plants and other biological resources of Indigenous Peoples, and IITC signed and assisted with dissemination of a declaration by Indigenous participants calling for a moratorium of on the patenting of life forms; two IITC representatives also attended the WIPO roundtable on " Intellectual Property and Traditional Knowledge" (Geneva, November

1– 2), co-drafted the Indigenous Peoples' Caucus Statement presented at the session; IITC has actively disseminated this statement since that time.

12. IITC delegates participated in the UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations (July 26 - 30, 1999) and the 50th Session of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities (August), in which IITC addressed the final report of the UN Study on Treaties, Agreements and Constructive Arrangements between Indigenous Populations and States, and addressed continuing Treaty violation in the US (IITC has been directly involved in this Study since its inception in 1989); human rights violations in Mexico; the issue of land rights, including the inclusion of mining and drilling issue as a focus point during next year's agenda; increasing the length of the WGIP session to two weeks to accommodate increased participation; as well as the development of a Permanent Forum for Indigenous Peoples within the UN system

13. IITC's UN Liaison co-organized and facilitated (with the NGO "Land is Life") a session for Indigenous Peoples attending the WGIP with the World Bank representative from the World Bank to address their policy changes regarding Indigenous Peoples i.e. the operative directive 4.20, July, Geneva. IITC is involved in consultations with the World Bank and Indigenous Peoples for their final review process for of 4.20, policy revision sessions coinciding with Indigenous presence at the NGO-GEF (Global Environmental Facility) World Bank Consultation in November 1999.

14. IITC attended the meeting with UN Development Program and Indigenous Peoples as a preliminary discussion session preceding the WGIP to re-establish an Indigenous Task Force within UNDP, July, Geneva, 1999.

15. At the WGIP in July, 1999 the UN Center for Human Rights in Geneva continued to disseminate IITC's briefing paper on Indigenous Peoples' perspectives on the collection of human genomes as a human rights issue. The IITC paper was submitted at the request of the Center in 1998 and is distributed formally in 6 languages at by the UN.

16. IITC representative continued to participate on the Executive Committee and in general meetings of the U.N. NGO Committee on the International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples monthly, New York, including planning for the UN's International Day Of Indigenous Peoples Commemoration on August 9 -10, 1999

17. IITC continued to serve as an Indigenous member of the International Subcommittee of the EPA's National Environmental Justice Advisory Council, attending 4 NEJAC meetings and participating in various conference calls during the year addressing on U.S. policy on Environmental Justice, human rights, Indigenous Peoples and border issues (IITC's new representative, Alberto Saldamando was confirmed in August 1998 for a additional 3 year term on NEJAC's International Subcommittee); IITC's representative achieved in November 1999 the adoption by the NEJAC International subcommittee of historic resolutions on the UN Draft Declaration for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and impacts of border and trade policies.

18. IITC's youth Coordinator and a high school-age youth mentee from South Dakota participated in the Steering Committee meetings of the UN's Global Youth Forum (IITC is the only Indigenous member of the Steering Committee), which is structured under and addresses issues at the UN Commission on Social Development, New York, February 1999

19. IITC's Executive Director participated as an invited plenary panelist and provided information to participating organizations and tribes in the US State Department Consultation with American Indian and Alaska Natives tribes focusing on discussion of the Organization of American States and UN Draft Declarations for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples July 13 - 14, Washington DC; also participated in and addressed a briefing session from tribal leaders at the Rayburn Senate building before the "consultation" hosted by the National Congress of American Indians.

20. IITC assisted with the preparation for 3 delegates (all former IITC mentees from the U.S. and Alaska) participating at the second Inter-governmental Negotiation Committee for an International Legally Binding Instrument for Implementing Action on Certain Persistent Organic Pollutants, (Geneva, September 1999)

21. IITC representatives from Guatemala and the U.S. participated as observers in the Indigenous caucus and Working Group sessions of the Organization of American States Inter- American Indigenous Institute for discussion of the OAS Draft Declaration for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; IITC has serious concerns with the process and content of the OAS Draft. Unlike the UN Draft Declaration, the current text limits the rights of Indigenous Peoples to the full control of their lands and resources and their inherent right to self-determination, and has been drafted with very little input from the Indigenous Peoples of the Americas (Washington DC, November).

22. IITC continued to serve as one of two Indigenous NGO member organizations of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) and participate in the development of IUCN policies and positions

23. IITC continued to participate as the Indigenous Peoples representative organization in the Oslo Coalition on Freedom of Religion (follow up to IITC's participation in the August 1998 Oslo Conference on Freedom of Religion or Belief) with a variety of human rights, faith and belief based organizations, ecumenical bodies, human rights agencies and UN experts, and to form alliances with other organizations and ecumenical bodies (i.e. Pastors for Peace, Inter- Religious Foundation for Community Organization, Tandem Project, etc.) to further implementation of the Universal Declaration on Elimination of all forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination based on Religion or Belief as applied to Indigenous Peoples rights, protection of sacred sites, issues of environmental racism, religious freedom right for Indigenous prisoners etc.

24. IITC worked with the Yoemem Tekia Foundation, the Alianza Sin Fronteras and traditional Tohono O'odham representatives in Arizona to support and plan negotiations with the US Justice and State Departments in order to facilitate Yaqui and other Indian

"border" Nations' cultural and ceremonial leaders in crossing the US/ Mexico border for religious and cultural purposes. IITC also facilitated the participation of a Yoemem Tekia representative to address the issue of cross-border use of pesticides banned in the U.S. on Indigenous communities in Mexico during the EPA's August 1999 round-table on Border rights and environmental justice issues in National City, California.

25. IITC co- organized (with Yoemem Tekia Foundation) and facilitated an historic meeting with Yaqui and Tohono O'odham cultural and ceremonial leaders December 6th and 7th 1999 on the Yaqui Reservation in Tucson Arizona, with officials from the U.S. State and Justice Departments, as well as Mexican government officials, to address immigration policies and practices on freedom of religion and culture for " border tribes" i.e. Indigenous Peoples whose traditional lands and Peoples are now divided by the international border. Participants were gratified by the frank dialogue and progress made towards generating concrete resolutions to long standing problems

III. TRAINING, NETWORKING, AND CAPACITY- BUILDING

SUMMARY: IITC continued to network with traditional communities, tribes, youth groups, schools, Indigenous NGO's and activist organizations to address issues of mutual concern such as human rights, protection of sacred sites and lands, biological diversity, self-determination, Treaties, " bio-piracy", toxic and nuclear contamination, sustainable development, impacts of globalization and international trade agreements.

IITC was called upon to train, mentor, organize participation, inform, assist in strategy development, advocate for and represent key Indigenous Environmental Justice Networks and groups such as the Indigenous Environment Network, the Southwest Network for Economic and Environmental Justice, Rethinking Tourism Project, IITC Environmental Task Force, North American Indigenous Peoples Bio-diversity Project, the Committee on Indigenous Health and the Gwich' in Steering Committee.

IITC's Mentorship Leadership Development Program continued as an "Indian to Indian" training program in international diplomacy for new community representatives. In addition to ongoing presentations, education, training and outreach to organizations and communities, six mentees representing communities and organization completed their training in 1999 through participation in international fora on human rights, standard setting, biological diversity, environment and sustainable development. In addition five new mentors were trained from among IITC's interns, staff, Board members and field representatives and youth representatives. Ongoing programs to continue " training the trainers" are also under development.

This year, IITC mentees have gone on to play key leadership roles in international standard setting and information dissemination work, including coordination of international advocacy and community outreach addressing the Elimination of Persistent Organic Pollutants, impacts of Trade Globalization, Forests Protection, Sustainable Development, Biological Diversity and Protection of Traditional Plant Knowledge, and Climate Change.

IITC's Bay Area Urban Indian Youth Mentorship Program, initiated in 1997 to serve the San Francisco Bay Area which has the largest urban Indian population in the U.S. continued to train youth, based in IITC's San Francisco Office. More than 20 high school and college-age youth have been mentored through the program to date. Hundreds more have been reached through presentations made at schools, youth groups and organizations by participants as part of their training.

ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. IITC mentees who completed training in the general Mentorship program in 1999 were Tom Goldtooth (Dakota/Dineh, Minnesota Indigenous Environmental Network, who also designed an alternate, Mr. Roy Taylor of the North America Indigenous Peoples' Biological Diversity Project; Faith Gemmill (Athabascan, youth representative, Gwich' in Steering Committee, Alaska); Kekula Bray Crawford (Native Hawaiian, Sovereign Nation of Hawaii); Jackie Warledo (Seminole, Oklahoma Regional IEN); and Doris Bill and Estebancio Castro (Kuna Youth Movement Panama). In addition, new staff members Carol Kalafatic (New York) and Lisa Garrett (San Francisco) completed in-house internship training programs.

In 1999 these mentees began to participate “ solo” ,with continued IITC advisory input, in International bodies such as the Treaty Making bodies on the Elimination of Persistent Organic Pollution, Climate Change and Roundtables with Indigenous Peoples of UNESCO, the World Health Organization, the Commission on Sustainable Development, the World Intellectual Property Organization, and the Intersessional Working Group on the Draft Declaration for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

2. Youth mentee Lisa Garrett who worked as a summer intern in the Bay Area Urban Indian Mentorship Program in 1997 was hired part-time as the Bay Area Youth Mentorship project coordinator in May 1998, and moved to full time in March 1999 based in IITC' s San Francisco Office. Through ongoing on-the-job training, Lisa developed the capacity to effectively organize and supervise the training of new mentees, write grants and meet with funders, make organizational contacts and participate directly in program planning, including plans for an International Indigenous Youth Forum (planned for Panama, spring 2000) to be co-hosted by the Kuna Youth Movement and IITC.

3. The Youth program coordinator participated in and made presentations to organizations, schools and programs throughout the year to address the concerns, role and participation of Indigenous youth in human rights and environmental justice work. These included presentations to the California Council on Indian Education "Sovereignty through Leadership" Conference (Oakland, February 1999); Potrero Hill Neighborhood House's “ Experiment in Diversity Program” (October, San Francisco); the Woman's Institute for Leadership Development for Human Rights Workshops on Leadership Development and Youth, and serving on the WILD Youth Advisory Board, (ongoing); UC Berkeley Education Department class on Race and Ethnicity inside Schools

(November); and the W.K. Kellogg Foundation's Leadership Forum "Leading Change in the New Millennium" as the only Indigenous youth delegate (November, Washington D.C.).

4. Presentations were made by the IITC Youth Coordinator as well as other IITC staff members to Bay Area high schools, colleges and educational programs such as Upward Bound at UC Berkeley, the San Francisco Unified School District Education Program, the University of San Francisco School of Law's Center for Community and Legal Education, the Bay Area Indian Charter Schools, UC Berkeley, San Francisco State, Laney College Men of Color Conference, and San Jose State University's International Relations Student Club; on a monthly to bi-monthly basis throughout the year.

5. During the grant period, 7 high school and college age mentees were trained through the youth component of the Bay Area Mentorship Program (22 have participated to date). Training and hands-on experience for youth mentees include skills-building in research and community organizing on issues such as the social, cultural and environmental impacts of the California Gold Rush; networking and partnership-building through conferences, gatherings, and electronic communications; orientation to international human rights and standard-setting developments impacting Indigenous Peoples and their relevancy to issues of local concern; and input into the UN process through the Global Youth Forum.

6. An urban-rural exchange component was added in May 1999 to include reservation youth as mentees and sponsor urban youth at gatherings and events on reservations. Youth mentees have direct input in evaluation and development of training programs, and continue to serve on the Program's Youth and Community Advisory Council, as mentors and IITC youth representatives. In the summer of 1999, a high school age youth from Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota worked in the S.F. Office in conjunction with this new component.

7. Mentees, interns community and/or youth trainees participated with IITC's delegations to the U.N. CHR's Fourth Inter-Sessional Open-Ended Working Group on the Draft Declaration For the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (November - December, 1998, Geneva); the UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations (Geneva, July 1999), the UN Subcommission for the Prevention of Discrimination and the Protection of Minorities (Geneva, August), the Commission on Human Rights (Geneva, March/April 1999), the Commission on Sustainable Development (April 1999); the Indigenous Environmental Network Conference (New Mexico, June 1999); the 25th Anniversary IITC Conference (June, 1999); the UN Global Youth Forum Steering Committee (New York, February 1999); and the Indigenous caucus and Working Group sessions of the Organization of American States Inter- American Indigenous Institute for discussion of the OAS Draft Declaration for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (Washington D.C., November)

8. In December 1998 IITC's nominee to the UN's Indigenous Fellowship Program, representative of the Kuna Indian Youth Movement from Panama, Estebancio Castro, completed his six-month training program in Geneva, and began to represent IITC and his organization, the Kuna Youth Movement, at a variety of International Fora. In

September 1999, IITC submitted a new nomination for the fellowship program of a Gwich' in representative by request of Arctic Village Alaska.

9. IITC staff and other experienced representatives also provided ongoing on site training and orientation to many new Indigenous delegates representing community organizations attending international fora, enabling them to present their issues and utilize the complex UN system as effectively as possible.

10. IITC continued dissemination of The "Heart of the Peoples Declaration" adopted at the North American Indigenous Peoples Summit on Biological Diversity and Biological Ethics, held in conjunction with the 8th annual protecting Mother Earth Conference in Montana, August 4 -7, 1997 (co-coordinated by IITC)

11. Through participation on the National Council of the Indigenous Environmental Network, IITC disseminated information, contributed to building joint strategies and presented issues at international fora addressing issues such as banned pesticide use and export in Mexico, Central and South America; nuclear dumping and testing; impacts of mining and oil drilling; "biopiracy" and the commercialization of Indigenous peoples traditional plant knowledge and genetic material; military and commercial toxic waste dumping; the tie between indigenous peoples freedom of religion and protection of lands from contamination; impacts of climate change on traditional subsistence practices; impacts of trade policies and globalization; and various community-based struggles against land appropriation for resource exploitation.

12. IITC staff served as consultants and advisory council members for the North American Indigenous Peoples' Bio-diversity Project, the Gold Greed and Genocide Project responding to the commemorations of the 150th anniversary of the California Gold Rush, and the South West Network for Economic and Environmental Justice, participating in conference calls and meetings as required

13. IITC staff and representatives were speakers and presenters in a variety of community and organizational conferences and events at the invitation of Indigenous Peoples and other supportive organizations. Overall, an estimated 8000 participants were reached directly by IITC's presentations at various gatherings and conferences, including:

The Southwest Network for Economic and Environmental Justice (SNEEJ) Native Sovereignty Working Group Conferences, (Tucson AZ, October 1998 and Albuquerque October 1999); " Gold, Greed and Genocide, Unmasking the myth of the 49's" , Conference (San Francisco and Oakland, January 1999, IITC a co-sponsor); the " Voice of Mother Earth" Conference, National Museum of the American Indian, (New York, March 1999); Federal Bar Association 24th Annual Indian Law Conference, panel presentation on " Potential impacts of International Law " (Albuquerque, April, 1999); the Peoples' Gold Summit on the impacts of gold mining, workshops on legal and international strategies, (N. California, June, 1999); Women' s Institute for Leadership Development workshops (San Francisco Bay Area, ongoing); IEN Protecting Mother Earth Conference, (June, Mt. Taylor, New Mexico); Planning meeting with Indigenous

organizations in Guatemala to initiate coordinate for July 2000 IITC Conference in Guatemala (July, Guatemala City); Commemoration, workshops and training presentation for the Day of Indigenous Peoples, UN in New York, August 9-10; Indigenous caucus sessions at UN fora (throughout the year); monthly meetings of the Bay Area Indian Agency Representatives (BAIAR), including hosting the January, 1999 meeting); Council of Indigenous Organizations and Nations of the Continent (CONIC) strategy and planning meeting hosted by Tonantzin Land Institute, (Los Angeles, October); “ First Nations in the New World Order: Indigenous Organizing for the New Millennium” Conference, (UCLA, October); Consultation for faith- based groups working on prison justice issues, sponsored by Inter- religious Foundation for Community Organization/Pastors for Peace (Berkeley, CA, October); World Council of Churches conference on “ Discrimination and Racism” in preparation for the Year 2000 World Conference on Racial Discrimination (Brazil, November); Legal Strategies to Challenge Gold Mines workshop with Project Underground (San Francisco, November); the International Indigenous Caucus planning meetings and on-site activities addressing impacts on Globalization on Indigenous Peoples world-wide during the World Trade Organization (WTO) Third Ministerial Meeting parallel NGO and Indigenous events, including co-coordination of outreach and media, panel presentations on “ North- South Dialogue on Trade and Sustainable Development” , and co-drafting and distribution of the “ Indigenous People’ s Seattle Declaration” document, (Seattle, November – December, and ongoing); and the “ Chiapas Coalition Festival of Resistance ”, panel presenter on WTO’ s impacts on Indigenous Peoples in Mexico and elsewhere (New York, December).

14. IITC continued to disseminate information on the Draft Declaration for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to tribes and grass roots communities, and worked to educate and gain support from non-Indigenous organizations, ecumenical bodies and NGO's.

15. Organizing and sponsoring of annual community sunrise gatherings in honor of the Day of Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples of the Western Hemisphere (Oct. 12) and "Unthanksgiving Day" Nov. 24, on Alcatraz Island, San Francisco Bay, regularly attended by over 5000 participants in total.

16. Continued to discuss and developed strategies with IITC affiliates, Indigenous communities and NGO's regarding response to the final report of the UN Study on Treaties, Agreements and Constructive Arrangements presented in the WGIP in Geneva, in July 1999; dissemination of the report and strategy discussions regarding analysis and implementation of recommendations began immediately.

17. IITC Staff facilitated and presented at 2 workshops at the IEN Conference in Mt. Taylor, New Mexico, and presented workshops on "Bio-diversity and the impacts of Globalization and Breaking the borders of Colonialism", and conducted specific outreach on the UN Commission on Sustainable Development to build participation; IITC staff, Board members and two youth mentees attended, June 10 - 13, 1999.

18. From June 23-26, 1999 over 800 hundreds of Indigenous representatives of IITC affiliates from throughout Lakota Nation Territory and the U.S., as well as Canada, Alaska, Mexico, Guatemala, Panama, Ecuador, Brazil, Aotearoa (New Zealand), Hawaii and Australia attended the 25th Anniversary International Indian Treaty Council Conference at the Rosebud Tribes' Educational, Cultural and Spiritual Center at Mato Paha (Bear Butte), in South Dakota .

The Conference focused on information sharing as well as building and strengthening strategies for confronting critical issues facing Indigenous Peoples and lands. During the conference Indigenous speakers from many regions made plenary presentations on Treaty rights, Freedom of Religion and Protection of Sacred Sites, International work of Indigenous Peoples, and Environmental Protection and Biological Diversity.

Conference participants met in Commissions to develop resolutions and action plans on critical issues facing Indigenous Peoples, including Treaties and land demarcation; political prisoners, including Leonard Peltier; rights of children; environmental protection; cultural rights and safeguarding of traditional knowledge; border issues and the impacts of immigration laws; international developments including the UN Draft Declaration for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; protection of sacred sites; sustainable development and Indian to Indian trade; youth organizing; and Traditional government and de-colonization. Resolutions from the Commissions were presented for discussion and approval by consensus at a General Assembly on the final day of the conference.

19. IITC's Executive Director and Guatemala office staff participated in an historic event coordinated by Defensoria Maya (IITC Office coordinator organization) at the presidential palace attended by more than 600 delegates to present two books reflecting the work of traditional Mayan spokespersons, elders and activists to transcribe for the first time the traditional Mayan legal and judicial systems, Guatemala City, July 14, 1999

20. IITC (CITI) in Guatemala coordinated a planning meeting to begin coordination for the year 2000 International Indian Treaty Conference scheduled for July 8 - 11, 1999 in Guatemala, attended by several key Indian organizations and networks in Guatemala and the IITC Executive Director, July 16, 1999

21. IITC representative invited to participate in the traditional Native Healing Advisory Council to work for the recognition and certification of traditional Native and Tribal Healers to treat patients within the federally-operated Native Medical Center system, Anchorage Alaska, beginning July 1999 and ongoing.

IV. CREATING MECHANISMS FOR ACCESS TO DECISION MAKING

SUMMARY: IITC continued to work, in coordination and conjunction with other Indigenous organizations and the UN system, to create new opportunities, including formal structures, for the direct, effective and informed participation of Indigenous Peoples at international fora and bodies including: the UN Environmental Program (UNEP), Global Environment Facility (GEF), the World Bank, the Permanent Forum for

Indigenous Peoples, the Commission on Sustainable Development, the Intergovernmental Panel on Forestry, the World Conservation Congress (IUCN), the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity and workshops on Article 8(j), the Intersessional Working Group on the Draft Declaration for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the International Bioethics Committee of UNESCO, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the United Nations Global Youth Forum, the World Trade Organization (WTO), the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), various U.N. Expert Seminars, roundtables, international forums and bodies as well as in national and international-level consultations with governments.

Significant developments took place this year as a direct result of IITC's efforts for the full participation of Indigenous Peoples in policy discussions addressing their concerns, for example in the work of the WHO, the CSD and UNDP and work on the UN Draft Declaration for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. As a follow up to CSD work in 1999, IITC arranged meetings with Indigenous representatives for the UN Development Program to address the long-term development of UNDP policies addressing Indigenous Peoples' concerns, April - June, 1999.
2. During the third UN Intergovernmental Panel on Forestry Session, May 1999, IITC called for a study on the impacts of forest conservation policies on forest-dwelling Indigenous Peoples and for mechanisms to be implemented to insure their increased direct participation in the development of such policies on the national and international levels; IITC has conducted intensive outreach to impacted forest communities and Peoples in preparation for IFF 5 (January 1999) and will provide credential for Indigenous delegations from the U.S. (IEN and Seventh Generation Fund), Canada (Sushwap Nation Chiefs); IITC representatives from the US and Panama (Kuna Nation) will provide orientation, briefing and mentorship for the new delegates
3. IITC continued to disseminate information about the Inter-sessional Working Group on the Draft Declaration and non-governmental organization (NGO) application procedures for full grassroots participation; and continue to work for insuring Indigenous Participation at all levels and bodies in which the Draft Declaration will be addressed, and through media and at gatherings and conferences.
4. An IITC representative was re-selected to serve as one of two Indigenous representatives on the CSD NGO Steering Committee (second one-year term, May 1999 - May 2000), with a focus on coordinating outreach to build participation in the year 2000 CSD Session by Indigenous Peoples (focus on sustainable agriculture, forests and land management).

5. IITC representative continued to serve as one of 7 members of the Management Committee of the CSD NGO Steering Committee, representing Indigenous Peoples of South America
6. IITC representatives participated in two formal consultations sponsored by Canada and Costa Rica for the development of a Steering Committee and protocol for the Inter-governmental Forum on Forestry for consideration of an international Convention on Forests, October 1998 and February 1999 San Jose, Costa Rica, and focused interventions on the need and suggested mechanisms for assuring greater direct participation by forest-dwelling Indigenous Peoples
7. IITC's Executive Director participated as a workshop facilitator and presenter on how to work with governments and effectively impact the UN system during the activities for the Day of Indigenous Peoples activities August 9 - 10, UN in New York
8. IITC's UN Liaison Antonio Gonzales attended an interagency meeting on the Health of Indigenous Peoples coordinated by the World Health Organization to discuss mechanisms for coordination and cooperation among Indigenous Peoples, WHO and other agencies toward the development of comprehensive plan of action to improve the Health of Indigenous Peoples during the International Decade for the World's Indigenous Peoples and beyond, Geneva September 21, 1999.

Mr. Gonzales, as a founding member of the Committee on Indigenous Health formed during the 1996 WGIP, was invited to participate as one of three North American Indigenous members of the WHO Steering Committee to work towards developing a global framework for WHO programs (to be presented to WHO General Assembly in May 2000), and the planning of a global conference on Indigenous Peoples Health (tentatively scheduled for November 2000), which will include impacts of development and environmental contamination (mining, toxics, nuclear, POPS, etc.) as well as bio-piracy, on the health of Indigenous Peoples.

IITC arranged for the participation of Ms. Jackie Warledo of the Indigenous Environmental Network and the International Network for the Elimination of POPs, along with 40 other Indigenous experts and traditional practitioners to the Indigenous Consultation on the Health of Indigenous Peoples with WHO (Geneva, November). Ms Warledo and Mr. Gonzales addressed the POPs and other development- related health issues, facilitated a workshop on environment contamination and health issues during the roundtable, participated in sessions of the Indigenous caucus, and assisted in drafting a declaration on Indigenous Peoples Health issues which will be used as a basis for future work. Mr. Gonzales also developed a North American and Pacific Health task force and distributed questionnaires developed by WHO to more than 40 communities, tribes, organizations and health provider agencies.

9. During the WGIP (July, Geneva) IITC representatives attended a consultation with the UN Development Program focused on how to improve their relationship with Indigenous Peoples. As a result, IITC's NY Office Coordinator Ms. Carol Kalafatic was asked by

UNDP to assist in the coordination of the next UNDP' s Roundtable discussion and briefing with Indigenous Peoples to improve UNDP' s response to Indigenous concerns in their programs and polices; Ms. Kalafatic was a speaker on the panel pertaining to the impacts of international standards and developments, and arranged for the participation other Indigenous speakers including IITC Board member representatives from Guatemala and Canada.

V. COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

SUMMARY: At the September 1998 Meeting of the IITC Board of Directors, strong concern was expressed that IITC's objectives regarding the implementation of a web site and the reactivating of its popular quarterly newsletter Treaty Council News had not been met during 1998. Towards this end the Board of Directors approved the Executive Director's proposal to amend the General IITC Workplan to include a 5th Objective "Communications and Information- Dissemination" in order to focus activities, target fund-raising efforts and improve planning regarding Treaty Council News and the IITC's World Wide Web Page, emphasize the importance of accountability to constituents as well as the strategic programmatic impact of communications in IITC's work.

As a result, in 1999 major accomplishments were made, although much work still has to be done to enable full implementation of this objective.

ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. The first issue of Treaty Council News in three years was published in June 1999, and one more issue is planned for publication in November 1999.
2. IITC's Web site (www.treatycouncil.org) was re-implemented in August 1999 and will maintain links to other Indigenous and non-indigenous organizations, environmental and human rights groups as well as United Nations information sites, once construction is completed.
3. A component for the youth mentorship program in computer communications and networking was implemented in the summer of 1999.
4. IITC positions, statements and reports were widely distributed through newspapers and newsletters reaching both Indigenous communities and the general public, including the newsletter of the Indigenous Environmental Network, the Rethinking Tourism Newsletter, the UN Chronicle, Indian Country Today, Mother Jones and a variety of other publications
5. IITC submitted an article upon request by the UN Chronicle titled "Can Intellectual Property Be Theft?" addressing the issue of "bio-piracy", patenting of life forms from the perspective of Indigenous Peoples; the article appeared and was distributed internationally in the Chronicle's Volume 1, 1999 issue.

6. IITC staff participated in "National Native America Calling" Pacifica Radio Network, KPOO, WBAI "Circle of Red Nations" and various other radio programs in U.S. and Canada on biological diversity, religious freedom and human rights, the Draft Declaration, Impacts of the WTO and Globalization, Bioethics and Indigenous women's participation in the U.N. system

7. IITC circulated interventions, urgent action bulletins and position statements on a variety of critical issues through increased electronic networking with a growing number of servers, affiliated web sites and email networks.

8. IITC provided advisory assistance, arranged for the participation of Indigenous presenters from Alaska, Guatemala and Mexico, assisted with opportunities for presentations and distribution, and provided general organizational support for the development and filming of the IEN/Greenpeace award-winning documentary on the impacts of Persistent Organic Pollutants on Indigenous Peoples, homelands communities (public showings began in October, 1999)

C. INTERNAL ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

1. The IITC fiscal management team and cash flow management plan, formally adopted for the first time November, 1997, has continued to be extremely successful in addressing IITC's fiscal planning and fiscal management needs, with excellent results for the organization. IITC's overall fiscal situation continued to improve in 1999. Basic expenses were able to be met with no new debts accumulated.

Prior debts have to a large extent been retired. Two full, unqualified fiscal CPA audits for fiscal years 1997 and 1998 were completed in accordance with the most rigorous auditing standards, enabling IITC application for participation in the combined Federal workplace campaign (which was accepted for campaigns in 1999 and 2000). An annual audit for each subsequent fiscal year is planned.

However, the projected general organizational annual budget has still never been met in its entirety. The search for new funding sources is ongoing, while priority will also be placed on maintaining and strengthening IITC's ongoing relationships with its current funders. Achieving an adequate level of financial support has continued to be a primary focus and challenge, and remains an essential concern for insuring the sustainability of the critical and unique work carried out by the IITC. Strategies to address this ongoing concern, including the inclusion of a development coordinator position in the year 2000 budget, will be a priority for organizational development in the coming year.

2. The increasing range, scope and rapid developments pertaining to IITC's Environmental Protection, Biological Diversity and Sustainable Development work, which necessitates coordination with grassroots communities, organizations and a number of United Nations bodies, was a key focus of discussion at the September 1998 Board meeting. The need for increased coordination in this vital and complex area of IITC's program work was identified and underscored. At that time, an IITC

Environmental Task Force made up of staff, field representatives and 2 Board members was initiated to assist in planning, implementation and coordination of IITC's complex and many-faceted work in the areas of Environmental Justice, Protection of Biological Diversity and Sustainable Development, in accordance with the workplans approved by the Board.

Ms. Carol Kalafatic, IITC's New York Office Coordinator and Liaison to the UN Commission on Sustainable Development, was selected to chair this task force and initiate conference calls to begin coordination, in conjunction with the IITC Executive Director. Meetings for the task force took place during the IITC Conference in June, 1999, and a conference call of the task force took place in July, with a written report on recommendations for follow-up coordination presented to the IITC Board and staff. Manny Pino, well-known Indian anti-nuclear activist from Acoma Pueblo, New Mexico was added as a task force member and member of IITC's Advisory Council during the June, Treaty Conference.

3. The revision of the organizational by-laws and articles of incorporation (and filing for the change of name to "International Indian Treaty Council" on our 501c3 determination letter) has been underway since 1992. The new by-laws and articles were formally approved by the IITC Board of Directors in June 1999, a major accomplishment for the organization after many years of discussion and revisions by the Executive Committee and Board of Directors in consultation with legal staff and consultants. The required paperwork has been filed with the Federal and state of California governments.

D. PROGRAMMATIC SHORTFALLS AND CHALLENGES

1. Due to financial constraints the target of 4 issues of Treaty Council News was not met. One issue was actually printed and distributed in 1999. The planned addition of a Communications specialist staff member in 2000 will insure that this important objective will finally begin to be met, by insuring that adequate staff time would be dedicated to this vital area (which will also include the web page).

2. For the General Mentorship Project, training for the first 5 selected mentees was completed, but no new mentees were formally accepted for the two-year training program, as there has continues to be a shortage of new funding for the intensive two-year mentorship program, which involves international travel and is therefore costly. This does not affect the Bay Area Urban Youth Program participants, who have continued to mentored in the program based in the San Francisco Office. It also does not also affect implementation of the other objectives of the mentorship program, which include community outreach and education as well as training and orientation for new delegates on site at UN fora.

Four new mentee candidates have been identified, 5 new IITC Mentors have been prepared and trained (including three former mentees and a former intern, now a staff member) and additional funding is currently being sought to continue this aspect of the program.

3. The computer system and equipment currently used by IITC's San Francisco, New York and Alaska offices are woefully insufficient and out of date. As a result, programmatic areas such as urgent action human rights response, training of youth mentees in computer networking skills, as well as international and administrative communications potential are impacted. Fundraising to address this critical matter through the purchase of new equipment was not successful in 1999 (one new computer was purchased for the Alaska office but no new equipment was purchased for the New York, San Francisco or Guatemala offices). Several proposals are pending and planned for submission in 2000 to address this urgent need.

E. THE EVALUATION PROCESS

Evaluation was ongoing throughout the year, with completion and dissemination of required travel reports (which include a section for evaluation and recommendations for follow up) from staff, field representatives, Board members, youth representatives and mentees for each representation and/or training experience. The 1999 workplans, approved by the IITC Board of Directors, provided the guideline for evaluation of the program work and accomplishments as per designated program objectives, and projected activities and timelines.

Staff members conducted regular evaluations based on a review of stated program and project objectives and timelines, together with the Executive Director. The IITC Board of Directors is responsible for overall evaluation of IITC' s program work, based on the Executive Director, staff, office coordinators and travel/representation reports, as well as at annual Board meetings. An in depth discussion of 1999 program (as well as the first quarter of 2000) is planned at the next full IITC Board meeting in early May, 2000.

According to IITC policy, the resolutions adopted during the General Assembly at the 25th Anniversary Treaty Conference by delegates from throughout North, Central South America and the Pacific (over 800 delegates), will provide the basis for IITC's positions on issues and program strategies in the next year. They have been integrated into the workplan for 2000, and will be taken into account accordingly in IITC' s program planning and evaluation processes as mentioned above.