



Terralingua

Terralingua Annual Report, 2008

In 2008, Terralingua worked as hard as ever on our ongoing projects, as well as on our participation in two major conferences related to biocultural diversity, our publications, and our outreach activities, as detailed below. Through these activities, we made a lot of progress in advancing the cause of biocultural diversity. In this sense, it was a very positive year. At the same time, it was also a year in which Terralingua began to feel the consequences of the global economic crisis. The non-profit sector has been suffering from a marked decrease in funding sources, and Terralingua was not exempt. Our challenges on this front are also detailed below. This report concludes with an update on Terralingua's organizational development in 2008, followed by our annual financial report.

Program Activities

Global Source Book on Biocultural Diversity: Co-authors Luisa Maffi and Ellen Woodley finalized the manuscript of our Global Source Book on Biocultural Diversity (300 pp.), the outcome of a 4-year Terralingua project supported by The Christensen Fund. In this project, we surveyed and analyzed 45 projects from all over the world that take an integrated approach to conserving biodiversity and sustaining cultural vitality. We explored various opportunities for publication, and the UK publishers Earthscan invited us to submit the manuscript in early 2009. We secured a sponsorship for this book by IUCN and a foreword by IUCN Senior Policy Advisor Mr. Gonzalo Oviedo. We also presented a pre-publication version of the Source Book at the World Conservation Congress in October 2008 (see below), and distributed CDs of the Source Book to the audience and throughout the congress. In addition, we began to look into various possibilities for disseminating the Source Book project results and creating an online discussion group on biocultural diversity conservation, in collaboration with WiserEarth, the online network of environment and social justice organizations. These activities will be pursued in 2009, in conjunction with the publication of the book.

Eco-cultural Health in the Sierra Tarahumara: Following up on the activities we had undertaken since 2006, we continued our on-the-ground collaboration with two indigenous Rarámuri communities in the Sierra Tarahumara of northern Mexico, with support from The Christensen Fund. The goal of the project is to assist the Rarámuri in recovering the health of their landscape, their public health, and their social and cultural well-being. On the request of the Rarámuri, initial projects included securing potable water access for one of the communities, and the creation of tree nurseries and home gardens for the purposes of revegetation and improved nutrition. The Rarámuri also invited us to explore with them their health and education needs, particularly the need for alternative educational curriculum focused on Rarámuri language and culture and eco-cultural health. Project coordinator David Rapport (ecosystem health) and team members Michael Nickels (revegetation, permaculture), Carla Paciotto (education), and Victoria

Lee (public health and sanitation) carried out a field trip to the Sierra Tarahumara in April 2008 to establish the tree nurseries and home gardens and to conduct health and education surveys. Community members continued to work on the potable water project, which involved laying down an 8-km pipeline from a mountain spring they had previously identified for this purpose. The community teams worked throughout the year as weather and farming activities allowed, and the project had neared completion by the end of the year, with water having reached every household, a large holding tank having been built, and the pipeline being buried for better protection. A new field trip was planned for August 2008, but our plans were halted by the sudden surge of drug-trafficking-related violence in the region, which posed serious risks for both our team and the communities we work with. In consultation with our Rarámuri counterparts, we decided to refocus the project primarily on the educational activities, which we aim to conduct at Terralingua's home base on Salt Spring Island, Canada, with visiting Rarámuri collaborators. With further foundation support for this project being uncertain (see Fundraising below), we began a fundraising campaign aiming to bring a group of Rarámuri to Canada to work with us on the alternative education curriculum. The campaign will be ongoing until we reach our goal.

Global Indicators of the Status and Trends of Linguistic Diversity and Traditional Knowledge: In 2006-2008, we carried out another project funded by The Christensen Fund, to develop an Index of Linguistic Diversity (ILD), authored by David Harmon and Jonathan Loh, and a Vitality Index of Traditional Environmental Knowledge (VITEK), authored by Dr. Stanford Zent. These two indicators are meant to be used for the assessment and monitoring of the status and trends of linguistic diversity and traditional environmental knowledge (TEK)—two vital components of biocultural diversity—at global, regional, and local scales. A 103-page technical report on the VITEK was prepared by Dr. Zent and sent out for external review. We received two very positive reviews and by the end of the year we were awaiting a third one. Meanwhile, Dr. Zent began piloting the field application of the VITEK with several indigenous and rural communities in Venezuela, with completion expected by the summer of 2009. A number of other researchers expressed an interest in piloting the VITEK elsewhere, and Dr. Zent provided them with “quick reference” guidelines for this purpose. After testing of the VITEK and publication of the results in peer-reviewed journals, we plan to promote wide use of this indicator in research, community, and policy contexts. Harmon and Loh continued the development of the database and methodology for the ILD, with the technical report expected to be ready in the spring of 2009. The ILD will show trends in the number of mother-tongue speakers of an initial sample of 1500 languages from all continents, spanning back over at least 50 years. Future plans for the ILD include expansion of the database, hosting the database as an interactive tool on Terralingua's website, and options for promoting the ILD as a research, community, and policy tool. We successfully presented both indicators, along with Terralingua Board member Dr. Margaret Florey's Linguistic Vitality Test, at the World Conservation Congress (see below). The session attracted press attention, and an article on it was published in the congress magazine *Terraviva*. Due to the uncertainties about further foundation support for the project (see Fundraising below), we started exploring other funding options and possible partnerships to continue carrying out this project, including a fundraising campaign among our members.

“Sustaining Cultural and Biological Diversity” Symposium: On April 2-5, 2008, the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH) in New York, USA, hosted the international symposium “Sustaining Cultural and Biological Diversity in a Rapidly Changing World: Lessons for Global Policy”, co-organized by AMNH, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature/Commission on Environmental, Economic, and Social Policy/Theme on Culture and Conservation (IUCN/CEESP/TCC),

and Terralingua. The symposium saw the participation of over 350 people from 22 countries and all continents, including social and natural scientists, conservationists, Indigenous researchers and activists, funders, and members of NGOs and international organizations. We were involved in the overall symposium organization; organized or co-organized and participated in 5 sessions/events related to Terralingua's work; contributed to two of the symposium background papers (see Publications) and reviewed all other background papers; participated in a working group to prepare a draft resolution on cultural and biological diversity for submission at the World Conservation Congress (WCC) in October 2008 (see below); liaised with participants, funders, and media. Terralingua Director Dr. Luisa Maffi delivered one of symposium's opening speeches. Results from the symposium were meant to feed directly into the "Biocultural Diversity Journey" to be held at the WCC and into the WCC policy-making process. A post-symposium volume is to be published by Earthscan (see Publications). For a full report on the symposium, see *Langscape 2.1.* on our website.

World Conservation Congress: The fourth quadriennial World Conservation Congress (WCC), the largest international gathering of conservationists, organized by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), was held in Barcelona, Spain on October 5-14, 2008, with over 6,600 leaders from government, the public sector, non-governmental organizations, business, UN agencies and social organizations in attendance. For the first time in the history of the WCC, an entire set of events during the Congress Forum (the NGO "showcase" part of the WCC) was devoted to biocultural diversity and Indigenous Peoples, under the banner "Biocultural Diversity and Indigenous Peoples Journey". In that context, Terralingua organized or co-organized four events (the workshops "The World's Cultural Diversity: New Measurements Show What's Happening and Why It's Important to Conservationists" and "Integrating and Sustaining Cultural and Biological Diversity: The Difficult Questions"; the knowledge café "Diverse Planet, Healthy Planet: Biological and Cultural Diversity as Cornerstones of Eco-cultural Health—Implications for Assessment, Policy, and Implementation"; and the pre-publication launch of our Global Source Book on Biocultural Diversity). In addition, we had a Terralingua exhibit at the Biocultural Diversity booth in the Congress exhibition area. Further, we co-sponsored three draft resolutions for the approval of the IUCN Members' Assembly: "Integrating Culture and Cultural Diversity into IUCN's Policy and Programme"; "Implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples"; and "Recognition and Conservation of Sacred Natural Sites in Protected Areas". All three resolutions were passed by the Assembly, and following the WCC we began to engage with IUCN in the process of prioritization of resolutions for implementation. For a full report on the WCC, see *Langscape 2.3.* on our website.

Publications and Media

Our publications in 2008 included:

- Luisa Maffi's article "Talking diversity", published in *World Conservation: The Magazine of the World Conservation Union*, January 2008.
- Multiple contributions to two background papers for the AMNH symposium: "How Do Biodiversity and Culture Intersect?" (lead author: Jules Pretty) and "Measuring and Monitoring State and Trends in Biodiversity and Culture" (lead authors: Dave Harmon & Jonathan Loh).
- Revised versions of the two above papers, as well as a new paper on biocultural diversity and eco-cultural health by David Rapport and Luisa Maffi, to appear in a post-symposium edited volume to be published by Earthscan (Jules Pretty and Sarah Pilgrim, eds.).

- Articles “Cultural Vitality” (Luisa Maffi) and “How Are We Doing?” (David Rapport), published in the special October 2008 “Indigenous Intelligence” issue of *Resurgence Magazine*, which was distributed free at the WCC.

In addition, we were invited by Earthscan to submit the manuscript of our Global Source Book on Biocultural Diversity for publication.

Our media presence included:

- Interviews with Luisa Maffi and David Rapport on biocultural diversity and eco-cultural health, conducted by journalist Mark Sommer of the radio program series “World of Possibilities” during the AMNH symposium. The interviews are available on Mainstream Media Project website www.aworldofpossibilities.com/action/info235.html.
- Interview with Luisa Maffi on Terralingua and biocultural diversity, conducted by journalist/author Terry Glavin. The article “In Defence of Difference” was published in *Seed*, October 7 2008, at http://www.seedmagazine.com/news/2008/10/in_defense_of_difference_1.php.
- Interview with Luisa Maffi on biocultural and linguistic diversity, conducted by Frank Aragona of Agroinnovations. The interview is available at http://agroinnovations.com/component/option,com_mojo/Itemid,182/p,37/lang,en/.
- Interview with Luisa Maffi on biocultural diversity and sacred sites, conducted by filmmaker Toby McLeod of the Sacred Lands Project during the WCC, for an upcoming television series on sacred sites.

Outreach

In 2008, we completely overhauled our website and worked to make it more streamlined, appealing, and informative, and to begin to turn it into a full-fledged educational tool on biocultural diversity. We also launched Volume 2 of our handsomely redesigned electronic newsletter *Langscape*, which is sent out to all of Terralingua’s members.

In anticipation of the activities we expect to conduct in 2009 on biocultural diversity education (see Fundraising below), we worked to establish several strategic partnerships with other relevant organizations (such as WiserEarth, the International Society of Ethnobiology, and World of Possibilities). These will be further pursued in 2009.

In late October-early November 2008, we were hosted at the Chinese Institute of Applied Ecology (Shenyang) and Inner Mongolia University (Hohhot) for lectures on biocultural diversity and eco-cultural health and meetings with Chinese researchers, academics, and students. This visit led to exploring prospects for collaborative research on the ecological and cultural restoration of the Inner Mongolian grasslands.

Fundraising

The effects of the global economic crisis on the non-profit sectors translated into diminishing funding for Terralingua in 2008. We received two small contracts (from the United Nations Environment

Program and the American Museum of Natural History), as well as the remainder of the Al Roat bequest that we had been given in 2007. We were also invited to submit a grant proposal to The Christensen Fund (TCF) for biocultural diversity education for 2009. On the other hand we were not, at least for the time being, able to secure further support for our Biocultural Indicators and Sierra Tarahumara projects, or new funding for the development of our planned Atlas of Biocultural Diversity. A fundraising event we held in the fall brought in a small amount of funding for the continuation of the Sierra Tarahumara project. Overall, however, individual donations were also significantly down from previous years.

As the financial report included below shows, this means our 2008 income was not sufficient to cover our expenses for both projects and general operations. In spite of prudent financial management, we started using our reserves: that is, the unrestricted funds coming from the Roat bequest and the undesignated donations of our other members and supporters. A careful review of possible alternative funding sources suggested that the prospects for foundation grants related to biocultural diversity remain very limited. Most foundations and other funding agencies are not yet “on board” with the integrative idea of biocultural diversity, and thus our objectives and projects still “fall through the cracks” of the agencies’ funding guidelines. Nevertheless, in the later part of the year we geared up for an extended fundraising campaign, directed to both foundations and our membership. We developed a database of funding sources and began drafting letters of inquiry to foundations. We also launched a members’ donation drive that will continue through 2009, with the aim to gather funding for our specific projects as well as to support general operations. The long-term future of Terralingua and our ability to continue to pursue our mission of sustaining biocultural diversity depend crucially on our ability to generate a steady stream of income to match our expenses, without cutting significantly into our reserves. This will be our main challenge for the foreseeable future.

Organizational Development

Early in the year, we were able to hire two outstanding part-time helpers: Tania Aguila (administrative assistant, membership secretary) and Ortixia Dilts (web developer/manager, newsletter editor). Administrative help was crucial for overhauling and upgrading our accounting and budgeting system; updating our membership database and stepping up member relations through an ongoing membership drive and contact with existing members; and developing an updated database of funding sources and initial fundraising efforts with foundations and our membership. The hiring of an in-house designer/editor allowed us to revamp our website and re-launch our newsletter (see Outreach above).

Board composition at the beginning of 2008 was as follows:

Officers

Sheri Tatsch, Chair (2007-9)
E. Annamalai, Vice-Chair (2007-8)
Alan Hedley, Secretary & Treasurer (2006-8)

Governors-at-Large

Susan Fassberg, Director (2006-8)
Margaret Florey, Director (2007-9)
Eugene Hunn, Director (2007-9)
Rauna Kuokkanen, Director (2008-10)

In August 2008, Terralingua received the resignation of then Chair of the Board Sheri Tatsch. In October, Alan Hedley indicated his intention not to run for another term on the Board at the end of her term, and Rauna Kuokkanen her intention to step down at the end of the year. Annamalai ended his 1-year term as Vice-Chair and was elected to a 3-year term as Governor-at-Large (2009-11). Susan

Fassberg was elected to the position of Vice-Chair for 2009. The Board decided to postpone the filling of other vacancies, contingent to discussions planned for a face-to-face Board meeting to be held in January 2009.

Terralingua Financial Report, 2008

Revenue

Contributions, gifts, grants & contracts	\$156,916
Interest	\$11,545
Total Revenue	\$168,461

Expenses

Consultants (project and other)	\$96,881
Salaries & benefits	\$94,826
Administrative Services	\$19,041
Legal	\$6,846
Accounting	\$5,021
Rent & Utilities	\$3,879
Office	\$5,453
Business Meals	\$99
Licenses and Fees	\$353
Advertisement & Promotion	\$327
Travel (project and other)	\$22,830
Insurance	\$1,440
Bank & payroll fees	\$549
Education and Outreach	\$6,119
Board of Directors	\$3,254
Depreciation	\$1,504
Field Materials	\$1,031
Total expenses	\$269,453

Change in net assets, 2008 **\$(100,992)**

Net assets as of 1 January 2008 \$724,064

Change in net assets, 2008 **\$(100,992)**

Accounts Payable & Accrued Liability \$4,107

Net assets as of 31 December 2008 \$627,179

