



## Terralingua Annual Report, 2005

In 2005, Terralingua (TL)'s activities focused centrally on the further development of our work on the **Global Source Book on Biocultural Diversity** (GSB). Additional funding for this project was obtained in December 2004 from The Christensen Fund (TCF), which had already supported the project in 2003-4. The GSB is conceived as the very first global source of information on projects, programs, and initiatives that take an integrated biocultural approach to conserving nature and fostering the resilience of human communities. It is meant as a tool to help promote and develop the biocultural approach championed by TL, by building a community of practice among people involved in such projects, generating public awareness, and stimulating the development of bioculturally-oriented policies. The GSB aims to serve local communities, non-governmental organizations, governmental agencies, policy makers, researchers, schools, and the general public, as well as funding agencies and the media.

In addition, the new grant included funds to hold a workshop, titled **□ Gaps and Needs in Biocultural Diversity Research □**. The workshop brought together the collaborators in all the projects in which TL has been involved over the years: the GSB; the GIS (Global Information Systems) mappings of biocultural diversity, which show and analyze the overlaps in distribution of biodiversity and cultural diversity at global and regional scales; and Index of Biocultural Diversity (IBCD), a tool for jointly assessing and monitoring the state of biological and cultural diversity worldwide. The goal was to identify gaps and needs in the field of biocultural diversity and forge stronger links among the projects. One of the key outcomes of the workshop was the development of plans for an **Atlas of Biocultural Diversity** to bring together the results of these projects.

Other highlights in 2005 included:

- An invitation to TL to be a partner in the **2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership** (2010 BIP), coordinated by the United Nations Environment Programme's World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), in collaboration with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). This partnership aims to stimulate the development of indicators relevant to the CBD's 2010 Target for countering the global loss of biodiversity. Toward the end of 2005, we received a contract from UNEP-WCMC to develop templates for two such indicators: an **Index of Linguistic Diversity** (ILD) and a **Traditional Environmental Knowledge Vitality Index** (TEKVI).

- An invitation to Luisa Maffi and Ellen Woodley (the main collaborators on the GSB) to be co-lead authors of a section on **Biodiversity and Culture** in the Biodiversity chapter of the upcoming **GEO-4 Report** , UNEP's flagship report on the state of the global environment.
- The submission of a proposal to the **International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU)'s Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment (SCOPE)** for a Rapid Assessment Project on **Biodiversity and Culture** in collaboration with the **World Conservation Union (IUCN)'s Culture and Conservation Working Group (CCWG)** , aiming at an international workshop and book on this topic, in preparation for IUCN's World Conservation Congress in 2008.

These developments are described in greater detail below.

### **1. Global Source Book on Biocultural Diversity**

The specific goals of this phase of the GSB project were:

- Improved outreach and expansion of our network of collaborators and supporting institutions and organizations;
- Creation of a □virtual community of practice□ through the establishment of a discussion forum on TL's website;
- Completion of research and analysis for the GSB;
- Publication of the GSB and dissemination of results.

As in the previous phase of the GSB, the work was carried out collaboratively by Luisa Maffi and Ellen Woodley, in partnership with several dozen worldwide contributors to the GSB. In August 2005, the GSB team was augmented with the inclusion of Prof. Alan Hedley, Emeritus Professor of Sociology at the University of Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, as reviewer of work in progress and advisor on preparation of the final report and publication. Hedley had offered his volunteer services in support of TL, which he had identified as one of the leading organizations working on key sustainability issues of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

The following activities were carried out:

Outreach and Network Expansion :

- A new call for contributions to the GSB was disseminated widely through print and electronic media, and updated GSB survey materials in English, Spanish, French, and Russian were posted on TL's website.
- A call for contributions and description of the GSB was also included in an article on □Biocultural Diversity for Endogenous Development□ prepared for *Compas Magazine* (magazine of the Compas Network for Endogenous Development).

- The call for contributions was also disseminated to indigenous peoples' networks.
- The GSB progress report was repeatedly updated with new project information and posted on TL's website.
- Several new survey contributions were obtained through this dissemination, bringing the total of projects surveyed by the end of the year to 43 from all continents.
- Numerous requests for permission to cite the GSB were received, thanks to the accessibility of the GSB material on the web.
- Communications with previous and new contributors continued in order to address questions raised by survey responses, deepen the analysis, and inform contributors of progress and news.
- Virtual community of practice :
  - A GSB discussion forum was established on TL's website, with the aim to provide GSB contributors with a space to discuss issues directly relevant to the goals of their projects and of a biocultural approach to conservation. The forum was launched in the fall.
  - Taking advantage of the same software, other fora were created on TL's website, including a □Round Table□ open to all TL members and the general public and a forum for the leaders of all of TL's projects. These fora were to be launched in 2006.
- Plans were developed for a complete redesign of TL's website to prominently feature an interactive web version of the GSB.

### **Research and analysis :**

- A new set of questions with the following foci was sent to GSB contributors to learn more about their projects: indicators of loss of biological and cultural diversity; indicators of persistence and resilience of cultures; methods of transmission of languages and culturally-based knowledge, beliefs and practices; and connections to sustainable livelihoods.
- Further analysis was carried out on all returned surveys and questionnaires in terms of lessons from local projects on the benefits of an integrated biocultural approach to conservation. A conceptual framework and an outline of the overall analysis were prepared, along with synoptic tables summarizing information on the project according to several analytical criteria.
- An annotated table of contents was developed for the final technical report on the GSB.
- A major review of the field of biocultural diversity was prepared by Luisa Maffi for the *Annual Review of Anthropology* (Maffi, L. 2005. Linguistic, Cultural, and Biological Diversity. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 34: 599-617). This review was also intended to provide a theoretical framework for the GSB publication.

## **Publication and dissemination:**

- TL followed up on previous contacts with IUCN's CCWG, one of the working groups within IUCN's Commission on Environmental, Economic, and Social Policy, which has included the theme of culture and conservation and □ improved knowledge, policy and practice linking cultural and biological diversity □ in its 2005-2008 program of work. Possible joint publication of the GSB was discussed, as well as other related activities to promote the biocultural approach to conservation, in view of the 2008 WCC.
- CCWG adopted the GSB as one of the projects that will help illuminate the links between biological and cultural diversity and offer examples of successful biocultural diversity conservation initiatives. TL's call for contributions to the GSB was posted on the CCWG website. It was agreed that a draft of the GSB technical report will be circulated to CCWG and other IUCN members for feedback and that joint fundraising opportunities for GSB co-publication will be explored.

## **2. □ Gaps and Needs in Biocultural Diversity Research □ Workshop**

The workshop was held on April 21-22, 2005 at the University of Florida in Gainesville, bringing together the affiliates of the GSB, GIS, and IBCD projects: Dave Harmon (The George Wright Society), Jonathan Loh (Living Planet Index), Luisa Maffi (Terralingua), Jeff Wollock (Solidarity Foundation), Rick Stepp (University of Florida), Ellen Woodley (Liana Environmental Consulting), Stanford Zent (Instituto Venezolano de Investigaciones Científicas). A paper outlining a conceptual framework for the biocultural diversity field and the goals of the workshop was prepared by Luisa Maffi with input from participants, as a basis for discussion at the workshop. The workshop's goals were to:

- Review and strengthen the BCD framework;
- Establish connections among the projects;
- Identify next steps in terms of both collaboration among the projects, and plans for possible publications, a conference, and policy and applied work outcomes.

Outcomes of the meeting included plans to:

- Forge stronger links among the three projects both at the global level (e.g., between GIS and IBCD to explore global biocultural diversity trends over time) and at regional and local scales (e.g, through inputs from all projects into regional case studies, development of locally relevant cultural indicators, access by GSB contributors to GIS mappings, and so forth). This goal will be accomplished primarily through the development of an Atlas of Biocultural Diversity (see below), as well as through collaboration on the Biodiversity and Culture section of the GEO-4 report (see below).
- Organize an international conference to review the state of the art of biocultural diversity research and its prospects for application in conservation policy (see below).

- Further develop TL's work on indicators, with special reference to the needs of the CBD's 2010 Target for indicators of the state and trends of indigenous languages and the state and trends of traditional ecological knowledge (see below).

### **3. Atlas of Biocultural Diversity**

A pre-proposal was submitted to UNEP for the preparation and publication of an Atlas of Biocultural Diversity, to bring together the results of previous GIS research carried out by TL and more recent research conducted by the GIS laboratory at the University of Florida (directed by TL Board member Rick Stepp), as well as with contributions from the GSB and IBCD projects. The pre-proposal was reviewed positively by UNEP, and a revised proposal is to be submitted in early 2006. The pre-proposal was also circulated to the CBD and IUCN, with favorable reactions.

### **4. Biodiversity and Culture in the GEO-4 Report**

Luisa Maffi and Ellen Woodley were invited to be co-lead authors of a section on Biodiversity and Culture in the Biodiversity chapter of UNEP's flagship Global Environment Outlook (GEO) report (fourth edition, GEO-4, forthcoming 2008). Issues of biodiversity and culture are included for the first time in the GEO report. Maffi attended the GEO-4 design workshop in Nairobi , Kenya in June, and both Maffi and Woodley, as well as contributing authors Jonathan Loh and Rick Stepp, attended the Biodiversity chapter authors' meeting in Cambridge , UK in October. Participation in the GEO-4 process is to continue through 2006-7.

### **5. Conference on Biodiversity and Culture**

Luisa Maffi and Ken MacDonald (co-chair of CCWG) submitted a pre-proposal to ICSU's SCOPE for a Rapid Assessment Project on Biodiversity and Culture, as a collaboration between TL and CCWG, with the purpose of holding a workshop and editing a book on this topic, in preparation for the 2008 WCC. The pre-proposal was reviewed positively by SCOPE's Executive Committee, with a request for some modifications and resubmission in early 2005.

### **6. Participation in 2010 Biodiversity Indicators Partnership**

In the fall, TL was invited by UNEP-WCMC to be a partner in the 2010 BIP and to develop templates for two indicators (the ILD and the TEKVI) under a contract with WCMC. TL was also to be included in a collective 2010 BIP funding proposal for all 2010 Target indicators, to be submitted to the Global Environment Facility (GEF) in March 2006. The first 2010 BIP meeting was held in Cambridge , UK in December, with Luisa Maffi and Jonathan Loh in attendance. Draft indicator templates for the ILD and TEKVI were in preparation at the end of the year, for submission to WCMC in January 2006. Also to be submitted in January 2006 was a pre-proposal to TCF for co-funding of this new work on indicators. In December, TL obtained additional funding from WCMC to cover Maffi's travel to the 4 th meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Inter-Sessional Working Group on Article 8(j) and Related Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity, to be held in Granada , Spain , in January 2006. The development of the CBD's 2010 Indicators was one of the items on this meeting's agenda.

## **7. Other Activities**

Other activities conducted during 2005 that fostered TL's goals included:

- An invitation to TL's Luisa Maffi and David Rapport by the Chinese Academy of Science to visit northern China (Liaoning Province, Inner Mongolia, Beijing), to meet with researchers interested in the ecological and cultural revitalization of the Mongolian grasslands and to visit field sites. The two-week visit in June led to a new invitation to return to China in 2006 to develop joint educational and field projects.
- In September, Maffi and Rapport began exploring collaboration with the University of Northern British Columbia (Prince George) on joint eco-cultural projects, with a focus on the impact of the massive mountain pine beetle infestation on the livelihoods of the region's First Nations and other stakeholders. A follow-up workshop was expected to take place in Prince George in the spring of 2006.
- Maffi and Rapport were invited to the Festival of Science in Genoa ( Italy ) in November 2005, as speakers on the panel □The extinction of linguistic diversity□, along with Daniel Nettle. The panel was a success and attracted significant media attention, leading to invitation to the Festival's next (2006) edition. A proposal for a panel on eco-cultural issues was submitted to the Festival organizers in December, with funding sought from Italian and European sources.
- TL submitted a pre-proposal to TCF for the development of an eco-cultural health project in partnership with the Rarámuri people of the Sierra Tarahumara of northern Mexico , following a meeting held with the Rarámuri in 2004. Canada 's International Development Research Centre, that had supported the 2004 meeting along with TCF, had expressed willingness to provide funding for a project organizing meeting if other funding were to be obtained. The pre-proposal was reviewed positively by TCF and a full proposal was invited, for submission in early 2006.

## **8. Organizational Development**

Following decisions made by the TL Board in December 2004, a Board Task Force on institutional matters was constituted in early 2005, to formulate recommendations on important issues of conflict of interest, compensation of officers, and election of Board members. The Task Force submitted its recommendations to the Board at a meeting in October. The Board approved the recommendations and then passed resolutions on these matters at its Annual Meeting in December.

At the Annual Meeting, Board elections were also carried out to fill the offices of Secretary and Treasurer and to fill two Director-at-large positions. Following the elections, the composition of TL's Board for 2006-8 is as follows (dates in parentheses indicate year of end of term in office):

Luisa Maffi, President (2006)

E. Annamalai , Vice-President (2008)

Alan Hedley, Secretary & Treasurer (2008)

Anvita Abbi, Director (2006)

Susan Fassberg, Director (2008)

Rauna Kuokkanen, Director (2007)

David J. Rapport, Director (2008)

John Richard Stepp, Director (2007)

Sheri Tatsch, Director (2008)

Jeffrey L. Wollock, Director (2007)

The Board outlined plans for a review and revision of TL's governance structure and by-laws, to be carried out by a governance committee in 2006. It also set goals for stepping up TL's fundraising and outreach activities, to be carried out by Board committees to be established in 2006.

### **Terralingua Financial Report, 2005**

#### Revenue

Contributions, gifts & grants	1,527
Interest	43
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>\$1,570</b>

#### **Expenses**

Salaries & benefits	30,000
Professional fees; consultants	16,550
Website development & maintenance	1,551
Utilities	2,179
Equipment	363
Supplies	422
Printing, publications, postage & shipping	1,177
Travel	11,272
Insurance	1,553
Bank & payroll fees	113
Miscellaneous	21
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>\$65,201</b>

**Change in net assets, 2005** □ \$63,631

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Net assets as of 1 January 2005 101,325

Change in net assets, 2005 □ 63,631

**Net assets as of 31 December 2005** \$37,694

