



Terralingua

Terralingua Annual Report, 2007

2007 was a very positive year for Terralingua (TL), with a major turning point represented by our receiving the funds from the **Al Roat bequest**. As we announced last year, Al Roat, a long-time supporter of TL, died in 2006, having nominated TL the beneficiary of his estate. Thanks to his extraordinary generosity, TL's financial condition consolidated significantly, enabling us to plan for the longer term. At the same time, we are well aware that fundraising has to be an ongoing effort, and we did well on that front too. Our **Indicators project** and **Sierra Tarahumara project** were granted renewed funding by The Christensen Fund, and we received a contract from the American Museum of Natural History for our role as co-organizers of the 2008 symposium "**Sustaining Cultural and Biological Diversity in a Rapidly Changing World**" at the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH). Details on these and other TL projects and activities follow.

Projects

Over the past several years, our projects have focused on three main areas: **mapping, monitoring, and maintaining biocultural diversity**. Our work has had a major role in giving shape to these key aspects of the field of biocultural diversity. In 2007, the following activities took place in these areas:

Mapping Biocultural Diversity: The Atlas Project

- Between 1998 and 2003, TL conducted pioneering projects to **map the overlap in the global geographic distribution of biodiversity and cultural diversity** (represented by the distribution of the world's languages) and to begin to analyze the patterns observed. This work was published prominently in collaboration with the **Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF)** and **UNESCO**. Since 2003, this line of work has been taken on by former TL Board member Rick Stepp at the GIS (Geographic Information Systems) lab at the **University of Florida**, where he has set up a full-fledged research program on mapping biocultural diversity. In 2007, in collaboration with Rick, we finalized plans for an *Atlas of Biocultural Diversity*, which is meant to bring together the results of this mapping research, along with relevant contributions from other TL projects (the Indicators project and Source Book project; see below).

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- The Atlas, to be produced as a high quality illustrated volume with abundant global and regional mappings and explanatory text, is meant as a valuable reference tool for researchers, educators and policymakers, while also serving to introduce the public to the field of biocultural diversity. The main goals in the development of the Atlas are to **1) conclusively demonstrate on a global scale the interrelationships between biological and cultural diversity**, and **2) explore the reasons why this relationship occurs and the factors involved in both change and persistence of biocultural diversity**. Especially at the regional level, the Atlas will identify patterns using a range of data from biodiversity inventories to socio-economic analyses, in order to address hypotheses regarding the patterns of biocultural diversity. In particular, the Atlas will explore the role of globalization, population growth, and land use/land cover change on the state of biocultural diversity. Data and analyses from Terralingua's indicators and "snapshots" from the biocultural projects surveyed in the Source Book will complement the mappings. The Atlas promises to become a flagship publication for TL.
- Work on this project is expected to begin in late 2008. Meanwhile, Rick set out to produce an initial set of **maps to be exhibited at the AMNH symposium and World Conservation Congress in 2008**.

Monitoring Biocultural Diversity: The Indicators Project

- This two-pronged project aims to develop two tools: an **Index of Linguistic Diversity (ILD)** to measure state and trends of the world's languages; and a **Vitality Index of Traditional Environmental Knowledge (VITEK)** to measure state and trends of TEK. The ILD is intended to provide data on the number of the world's languages and on the number of mother-tongue speakers for each language over time, in order to systematically show whether and where languages are thriving or threatened. In 2007, co-authors Dave Harmon and Jonathan Loh assembled a sample database of 1,500 of the world's languages, using data points from Ethnologue and other sources spanning the years from 1926 to 2005. ILD methodologies are under development, with preliminary results to be presented at the **AMNH symposium** in April 2008 and the **Convention on Biological Diversity** in May 2008, and a more fine-tuned version to be presented at the **World Conservation Congress** in October 2008. The VITEK is meant to provide a quantitative tool to assess the vitality of TEK and identify the factors responsible for its persistence or loss. The VITEK is meant to be a flexible tool, specific enough to be locally appropriate, and generalizable enough to allow for comparison among sites, so that over time information can be assembled on the global state and trends of TEK. Author Stanford Zent completed a 130 pp. **report on the concept and methodology** and made plans for an initial **pilot study** in Venezuela in 2008, to be followed by testing of the VITEK in a number of other locations.
- Both of these indicators are very relevant for current international policy processes, particularly the **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)'s 2010 Target** for the reduction of biodiversity loss. This process seeks to establish a set of indicators to monitor progress in achieving this target. One of the specific goals, in line with **Article 8j of the CBD**, concerns monitoring the state and trends of traditional knowledge of indigenous and local communities, as relevant to the conservation of biodiversity. The CBD has identified indicators of the state and trend of languages (as a proxy for state and trends of linguistically encoded knowledge), as well as direct indicators for traditional knowledge, as desirable for this purpose. We will be actively promoting our indicators work in this context.

Maintaining Biocultural Diversity: The Sierra Tarahumara Project

- Following up on several years of contact with the Rarámuri people of the Sierra Tarahumara of northern Mexico, in 2006 TL launched the project “Eco-cultural health in the Sierra Tarahumara”, to support the Rarámuri’s efforts to restore the health of their ecosystems, their livelihoods, and socio-cultural resilience. After identifying the specific location for the project in 2006, in February 2007 we held an intensive workshop with the Rarámuri in the settlement of Tuchéachi, during which the community identified the concrete projects that they believe critical to the restoration of eco-cultural health in their communities. These are: **potable water, revegetation, hygiene/sanitation, and education/capacity building, especially for women and children.**
- With our support, in June 2007 community members initiated the **potable water** project, which consists in bringing in piped water from a montane spring they had previously identified. Some of the homesteads in this area so far lacked potable running water, and had to resort to water from polluted streams and seeps, with obvious health consequences. Drought and soil erosion have also seriously diminished the quantity of water from these sources. The project is due for completion in 2008. As for the other activities, project coordinator David Rapport assembled an expert team composed by Michel Nickels (**revegetation**), Victoria Lee (**hygiene/sanitation**) and Carla Paciotto (**education/capacity building**). The team commenced on-the-ground activities in November 2007. The community in Tuchéachi is taking active leadership and responsibility for maintaining and sustaining these projects. Further fieldwork with the community is planned for April and June 2008.
- The longer-term goal of this project is the development of a **bilingual/bicultural curriculum** reflecting Rarámuri community hopes and aspirations for sustaining their eco-cultural health. Plans for this purpose will be made in 2008.

Maintaining Biocultural Diversity: The Source Book Project

- In addition to carrying out a biocultural field project of our own, we wanted to learn about other people’s experiences in integrating the conservation or restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems and the maintenance or revitalization of cultures and languages. In 2005-2006, we conducted an extensive survey to identify as many such projects as possible, and received information about 45 such projects from all continents. In 2007, co-authors Luisa Maffi and Ellen Woodley completed the manuscript of our ***Global Source Book on Biocultural Diversity: Worldwide Experiences in an Integrated Approach to Sustaining Cultures and Biodiversity*** (250 pp.), which presents and analyzes the 45 projects and looks at lessons learned from them. At the end of the year, the manuscript went out to a major publisher for review, and we expect publication in 2009.
- Throughout the year, we maintained regular communications with the Source Book contributors, in order to obtain input and feedback as the analysis of their projects took shape. In 2008, coinciding with the redesign and upgrading of our website, we plan to set up a **web-based interactive version of the Source Book**, and to launch an **electronic discussion forum** devoted to exchanges of ideas among practitioners of biocultural diversity conservation. The goal is to foster a community of practice among those interested in integrating the conservation of biodiversity with the maintenance and revitalization of cultural traditions and languages.

- We made plans for showcasing the Source Book at two major 2008 events: the **AMNH symposium** and the **World Conservation Congress** (see below).

Other Activities

In addition to our main projects, as always TL conducts a variety of other activities to disseminate and promote ideas about biocultural diversity and to create conditions for policy and action in favor of biocultural diversity. In 2007, these activities included the following:

Symposium “Sustaining Cultural and Biological Diversity in a Rapidly Changing World” (New York, 2-5 April, 2008)

- Following initial contacts in 2006, in 2007 we finalized our partnership with the **American Museum of Natural History (AMNH)** in New York and the **International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)’s Commission on Environmental, Economic, and Social Policy’s Theme on Culture and Conservation** to jointly organize the **symposium “Sustaining Cultural and Biological Diversity in a Rapidly Changing World”**, to be held in the context of AMNH’s prestigious Spring Symposia series. The idea of the symposium was to provide an opportunity to assess the current “state of the art” of our knowledge about the links and synergies between linguistic, cultural and biological diversity; and to explore integrative approaches to sustaining and supporting this biocultural diversity at different scales, from the local to the global, and through a variety of means, from action on the ground to policy at the international level.
- Preparations for the symposium proceeded intensively throughout the year. TL Director Luisa Maffi was involved as a Steering Committee member in shaping the program’s content and identifying speakers and other participants—an international cast of including **social and natural scientists, conservationists, indigenous researchers and activists, funders, and members of NGOs and international organizations**. The symposium will be introduced by Luisa Maffi, and the program includes several plenary sessions, panels, and other events organized by TL and featuring TL collaborators and Board members. (See <http://symposia.cbc.amnh.org/biocultural/index.html> for further information about the symposium.)
- At the symposium, TL will also be closely involved in the preparation of **policy recommendations and resolutions on biocultural diversity** to be submitted to the **World Conservation Congress** (see below). These policy statements will request that IUCN fully integrate considerations of cultural diversity and cultural values in its program of work and develop policy and technical guidance to implement these principles.

World Conservation Congress (Barcelona, 5-14 October 2008)

- The **4th World Conservation Congress (WCC)**, IUCN’s flagship gathering of the world’s conservationists, is themed “**A Diverse and Sustainable World**”. In this context, in 2007 TL worked with AMNH, IUCN, and The Christensen Fund in preparation for a major **promotion of biocultural diversity** at the WCC, where over 5,000 participants, including representatives of all governments, major NGOs, and international organizations are expected to gather.

- A “**block**” of **biocultural events** was approved by WCC organizers, including a session reporting on results from the AMNH symposium, a session on TL’s biocultural indicators, a session on eco-cultural health, an ubuntu table for the Source Book, and an exhibition of Rick Stepp’s maps.
- The **draft recommendations and resolutions on biocultural diversity** to be developed at the AMNH symposium will be submitted to the WCC assembly for approval.

Festival of Science (Genova, 25 October - 6 November 2007)

- Following up on our participation in the Festival in 2005, we were invited to contribute again. Our proposal for the session “**Unity in diversity: (Re)discovering organic thinking for a sustainable future**” was accepted, and the session was set for 27 October 2007.
- Luisa Maffi introduced and moderated the session, and the invited participants presented concepts and case studies (from Mexico, Australia, and Italy), with a focus on maintaining and recovering eco-cultural health in cultural landscapes.

Collaboration with United Nations Environment Programme

- We established a **Memorandum of Understanding with UNEP** for the preparation of a **background paper on biocultural diversity**, to inform this organization on a topic of growing policy relevance. The paper is to be prepared in early 2008.

Activities in Japan

- In the course of a **3-month period in Japan (March-May 2007)**, during which she was affiliated with the **Transdisciplinary Initiative on Global Sustainability, Integrative System for Sustainability Science, University of Tokyo**, TL Director Luisa Maffi co-taught with David Rapport a **graduate course on eco-cultural health** to Japanese students in the **School of Landscape Ecology at University of Tokyo** and gave a joint **campus-wide talk** with a focus on the **eco-cultural health in the Sierra Tarahumara** project.
- She also visited the **UN University – Institute of Advanced Studies field station in Kanazawa**, where she learned about the **satoyama** (Japan’s traditional cultural landscape), and the **Research Institute on Humanity and Nature in Kyoto**, where she gave a **lecture on biocultural diversity** and met with the Institute’s researchers.

Publications and Media

In 2007, several of our writings on biocultural diversity went to press, most notably:

- “**Culture**” section (by Luisa Maffi and Ellen Woodley) in **Chapter 5, Biodiversity, Global Environment Outlook: Environment for Development (GEO-4)**, pp. 182-185. Nairobi: UNEP. GEO-4 is the **United Nations Environment Programme’s** flagship report. The **political impact** of this topic (included for the first time in this periodic report on the state of the global environment, which goes to all of the world’s governments) is reflected prominently in the **definition of biodiversity** given on p. 160 of the report: “**Biodiversity also incorporates**

human cultural diversity, which can be affected by the same drivers as biodiversity, and which has impacts on the diversity of genes, other species, and ecosystems.”

Other writings published or prepared in 2007 include:

- Maffi, L. 2007. **Bio-cultural diversity for endogenous development: Lessons from research, policy, and on-the-ground experiences.** In *Endogenous Development and Bio-Cultural Diversity: The interplay of worldviews, globalisation and locality*, ed. by B. Haverkort and S. Rist. Pp. 56-66. Leusden, The Netherlands: COMPAS.
- Maffi, L. 2007. **Biocultural diversity and sustainability.** In *Sage Handbook on Environment and Society*, ed. by J. Pretty, A. Ball, T. Benton, J. Guivant, D. Lee, D. Orr, M. Pfeffer and H. Ward. Pp. 267-277. London: Sage Publications.
- Maffi, L. forthcoming. **Talking diversity.** In *World Conservation: The magazine of the World Conservation Union*, January 2008.
- Maffi, L. and E. Woodley submitted. **Global Source Book on Biocultural Diversity: Worldwide Experiences in an Integrated Approach to Sustaining Cultures and Biodiversity.** Under review.

In addition, we started exploring options for **re-publishing Luisa Maffi’s 2001 edited volume *On Biocultural Diversity*** and for the **compilation of an anthology textbook on biocultural diversity.**

Luisa Maffi was **interviewed on language endangerment** for the following media outlets:

- *Geographical Magazine* (UK), article “Modern Languages” by Charles Furniss (April 2007 issue, pp. 53-61).
- **Radio Sole24Ore** (Italy), program on language endangerment, October 10, 2007.

Organizational Development

In 2007, Luisa Maffi assumed the new role of **Director of TL**, after completing her maximum term as President of the TL Board and stepping off the Board at the end of 2006. Sheri Tatsch (University of California at Davis) took on the newly established position of **Chair of the Board**. The Board assumed its new title of “**Board of Governors**” (changed from the original “Board of Directors”), to stress its governance function as distinct from the executive function of the Director.

Because of vacancies on the Board having arisen in 2006, in early 2007 three new Board members were elected: Kathryn Carter (CarterMore Financial Group/LPL, USA), Margaret Florey (Monash University, Australia) and Eugene Hunn (University of Washington, USA), with one vacancy remaining to be filled. Carter resigned later in 2007 for personal reasons, bringing up the vacancies to two. The final **composition of the Board in 2007** was therefore 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 (2007-2009)
 Eugene Hunn, Director (2007-2009)
 Rauna Kuokkanen, Director (2005-7)
 J. Rick Stepp, Director (2005-7)

At the **year-end elections**, Rauna Kuokkanen was re-elected for another term (2008-2010), while Rick Stepp chose not to run for another term, also for personal reasons. For 2008, vacancies on the Board thus amount to three.

Board Committees were reorganized as follows:

Executive Committee (*ex officio* Governors of the Corporation)

Chair	Sheri Tatsch
Vice-Chair	E. Annamalai
Sec/Treasurer	Alan Hedley

Fund Raising Committee

Sooz Fassberg (Chair)
 Sheri Tatsch
 Alan Hedley

Public Outreach and Web Site Committee

Sooz Fassberg (Chair)
 Sheri Tatsch
 Alan Hedley

Membership Committee

Alan Hedley (Chair)
 E. Annamalai

Indigenous Peoples Committee

Rauna Kuokkaen (Chair)
 Sheri Tatsch
 E. Annamalai

Education Committee

Rick Stepp (Chair)
 Rauna Kuokkanen
 E. Annamalai
 Eugene Hunn
 Margaret Florey

Research Committee

Eugene Hunn (Chair)
 Margaret Florey
 Alan Hedley

Collectively, the Board began work on the development of a **long-term vision and strategic plan for TL**, and started discussion on the roles of the **Advisory Panel** and **Indigenous Advisory panel**.

Terralingua Financial Report, 2007

Revenue	
Contributions, gifts, grants & contracts	\$813,939.56
Interest	\$769.81
Total revenue	\$814,709.37
Expenses	
Salaries & benefits	\$91,935.86
Professional fees; consultants	\$109,282.52
Utilities	\$3,323.32
Supplies	\$299.71
Equipment	\$810.18
Printing, postage & shipping	\$764.58
Research materials, dues & subscriptions	\$2,230.87
Travel	\$18,584.46
Insurance	\$1,440
Bank & payroll fees	\$1,368.43
Education and Outreach	\$1,889.96
Board of Directors	\$942.01
Depreciation	\$1,026.89
Field Materials	\$17,951.92
Total expenses	\$251,850.71
Change in net assets, 2007	\$562,858.66
Net assets as of 1 January 2007	\$161,205.80
Change in net assets, 2007	\$562,858.66
Net assets as of 31 December 2007	\$724,064.46