



t e r r a l i n g u a
Partnerships for Linguistic and Biological Diversity

www.terralingua.org

September 2002; #24

Language

Terralingua Update - Summer/Autumn 2002

Terralingua News

Dear Members,

leaves are falling in Washington, D.C., although as I write I am about to stretch the warm season a little while longer. I am getting ready to fly to Honolulu for meetings with colleagues at the University of Hawai'i that will hopefully lead to collaborations with Terralingua on projects of common interest.

This is only one of the many activities that have kept us busy since my summer report. Things in Washington have been hectic in more ways than one, what with getting our office fully up and running, fine-tuning our organizational and administrative structure, pursuing our program activities and developing our next fundraising campaign! In all this, the help of our new staff member, Francine Madden, has been invaluable. As you will remember from my previous report, Francine was hired last summer as Program Associate. She has performed so well, taking on a myriad tasks with extraordinary commitment, imagination and responsibility that I have recently appointed her Executive Director. I am delighted with this development. I feel that Terralingua has already gained and will continue to gain tremendously from Francine's activities, and look forward to the benefits of the greater rôle she has taken in the organization. A greeting message from Francine follows this report, as a way to start her own conversation with you, our members. I anticipate that she will also be in regular contact with you. In turn, you can reach her at <fmadden@terralingua.org> or +1.202.518 2040 for general inquiries and information about our activities.

Program work related to our Global Biocultural Diversity Assessment (G.B.C.D.A.), with initial funding from the Ford Foundation, has also progressed since my report in the previous *Language*.

We are proud to announce that our educational booklet *Sharing a World of Difference: the earth's linguistic, cultural, and biological diversity* (by Tove Skutnabb-Kangas, Luisa Maffi and Dave Harmon) and the companion wall map *The World's Biocultural Diversity: people, languages, and ecosystems*, that cross-maps biological and linguistic diversity worldwide, were previewed in late August/early September at the U.N. World Summit on Sustainable Development (W.S.S.D.) in Johannesburg, South Africa. They were produced with additional support from, and are being published and distributed by, U.N.E.S.C.O. The order form for free copies of the booklet-map set has been posted on our Web site. You can download it and send it to U.N.E.S.C.O. Copies

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Support Terralingua

Terralingua membership is free because we believe that information about biocultural diversity should be available to everyone. However, your financial support will help us continue to work towards our goal of protecting and perpetuating global biocultural diversity. Member donations are the bedrock of Terralingua's financial base, helping to cover our basic operating expenses. We recommend a minimum contribution of US\$25.-/year (US\$35.-/year for organizations); more is, of course, most welcome! A donation of US\$100.-or more will make you a Donor Member. Terralingua is a registered charity in the U.S.A., so donations are tax deductible. Please visit our Web site (www.terralingua.org) for secure on-line donations, or send a check/cheque or (international) money order to our Treasurer, Mr. David Harmon (address at the end of the newsletter). We thank all those who have already helped fund Terralingua this year.

should become available later in December or early January.

The preview garnered considerable attention at the Summit, especially in conjunction with Tove Skutnabb-Kangas's participation in a high-level panel on education for sustainable development organized by U.N.E.S.C.O. and the South African government. Tove represented Terralingua at the Summit, along with our Advisory Panel member Margaret Florey. While Tove was mostly involved in the Summit's educational activities, Margaret continued her involvement on our behalf in a caucus on community forestry that she had joined as our representative at the W.S.S.D.'s PrepCom 4 in Bali (see her report in the previous *Langscape*). Margaret and Tove were extremely active and successful in promoting Terralingua concerns in official as well as parallel W.S.S.D. events and through intensive networking. You will find their reports further below.

G.I.S. (Geographic Information Systems) consultant Aimee Goodwin and our Board member Anthea Fallen-Bailey have gone through quality control of the G.I.S. database of the world's ecoregions and ethnolinguistic groups on which the U.N.E.S.C.O. map is based. We are now gearing up to expand the database and to perform a series of analyses of global correlations between biological and linguistic-cultural diversity. We plan on a global cross-mapping of ethnolinguistic groups and parks and protected areas for presentation at the World Parks Congress next year in Durban, South Africa. We are also getting ready to select a few specific areas to begin more detailed data collection and analysis on a regional basis. Pilot studies at the sub-global level will allow us to develop new analytical tools to probe the correlations observed at the global level.

revision of their draft framework for an Index of Biocultural Diversity (I.B.C.D.), whose aim is measuring trends in biocultural diversity. The I.B.C.D. is modeled after indices used in the environmental field to gauge current conditions and trends. The draft framework document, consisting of about 60 pages of text and over 300 of tables and figures, is about to be submitted to an extensive process of external review, with the goal of refining theory and methodology and then beginning to implement its use. Several international organizations and initiatives have already expressed an interest in the I.B.C.D. idea.

Incidentally, our Dave Harmon had also been hard at work finishing his book *In Light of Our Differences: how diversity in nature and culture makes us human*. I'm delighted to inform you that the book is now available from the Smithsonian Institution Press. You'll find the full order information further down in this issue, and as a Terralingua member you'll be able to avail yourself of a discount.

Back to program-related work, the report *Safeguarding the Uniqueness of the Colorado Plateau: An Ecoregional Assessment of Biocultural Diversity*, produced in collaboration between Northern Arizona University's Center for Sustainable Environments (C.S.E.), the Grand Canyon Wildlands Council and Terralingua, and co-ordinated by Dr. Gary Nabhan, director of C.S.E., was published last summer and launched at the Annual Meeting of the Ecological Society of America. It is now being distributed locally by C.S.E. and nationally and internationally by Terralingua. You can find the press release and the order information below as well as on our Web site. This report is the first of its kind in jointly assessing the state of biological and cultural-linguistic diversity in a specific region, with a focus on traditional ecological knowledge and the rôle of local languages in knowledge formation, maintenance and transmission, and on

Board member Dave Harmon and consultant Jonathan Loh completed the

concrete action for integrated biocultural restoration. We are planning to follow this with additional collaborative work in the Colorado Plateau, as well as to develop new work in other areas, including the Sierra Tarahumara of northern Mexico, Hawai'i and the Pacific (hence my trip mentioned above), and south-east Asia. We also plan to provide a showcase of some of this work at a conference to be held in Kunming, China, next summer. Organized by the U.N.-sponsored Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, this conference should offer us a prime opportunity to promote our biocultural perspective at the international level.

All new program developments hinge, of course, on our success in fundraising for the next phase of the G.B.C.D.A. in 2003-2005. This has been a considerable challenge this year, when virtually all foundations, even the largest ones, have been significantly hit by the downturn in the stock market on which they vitally depend. We continue our efforts with foundations, while at the same time, with the energetic intervention of Francine Madden, working to diversify our sources of revenue through contracts, individual donors, and membership campaigns. Indeed, as always, it is you, the members, who represent our lifeline. A donation appeal will be in your mailboxes soon. I would like to invite you to donate to Terralingua as generously as you can at this crucial time. Terralingua has already had several major breakthroughs and is poised for more, but we are facing an uphill battle in the current financial situation. Please do show your support!

When it comes to funding for cross-cutting, innovative work such as ours, an additional challenge is finding a match with foundations' programs and lines of funding. The likelihood of being marginal or falling through the cracks is far greater. It is, therefore, very encouraging to us to hear the news of a foundation in California that has re-configured its mission to focus specifically on the interface between natural environments and human cultures from a biocultural perspective. This is an historic milestone in the process of affirming and implementing this perspective for the benefit of local communities and humanity at large. We are pleased to help disseminate information about this foundation, the Christensen Fund, as well as its search for program officers, through our network. (The Fund's description of its mission and job announcements are sent in a separate message).

It is always difficult to keep one's optimism when,

day by day, the world appears to become a less and less safe and healthy place for both humans and non-humans to live, and now with rumors of war on the rise. Yet, day by day, I'm also struck by the incredible amount of energy and dedication that millions of people around the planet are devoting to turning that around and making the world a better place. Then, I take comfort in telling myself what my ancestors the Romans would say: *spes ultima dea* — hope is the last goddess.

Cordially,

Luisa Maffi.



Dear Members of Terralingua,

It is a great pleasure and honor to be working with Luisa, our talented and dedicated board, colleagues and friends to help further the goals and activities of Terralingua, as well as meet the needs of our most valued supporters — YOU! Without your support, Terralingua would not exist. Your support — professional, personal, financial, moral — is what keeps us going!

Like you, I was drawn to Terralingua because of its unique approach to perpetuating the diversity of life and because Terralingua is leading the way forward in its promotion of "biocultural diversity" as the most sensible, balanced and holistic approach to solving the world's extinction crisis. As a member of this small and hardworking team, I enjoy the daily challenge of further developing our activities and pursuing our goals.

As Luisa says in her letter, we have taken on many challenges in these last several months. We are working to build a sound and stable infrastructure to house and nurture Terralingua's cutting-edge research and ground-breaking projects. Like Luisa, I am dedicated to the success of this organization and am deeply appreciative of your support and understanding of our work. We really do appreciate your support — now more than ever.

I look forward to deepening my commitment and continuing my service to you and Terralingua.

Best wishes,

Francine Madden
Executive Director, Terralingua.



Reports on The World Summit on Sustainable Development

(Johannesburg, South Africa, 20 August–4
September, 2002)

Terralingua's Vice President Tove Skutnabb-Kangas and Advisory Panel member Margaret Florey participated in the World Summit on Sustainable Development from 20 August to 4 September, 2002, on behalf of Terralingua. Participation was made possible through travel grants from the Ford Foundation, administered by the Institute of International Education. The following two reports, submitted in October, detail the complementary activities in which Margaret and Tove engaged in Johannesburg.

Report 1

(Margaret Florey, Monash University, Australia)

The Ford Foundation (F.F.) sponsored the participation of several hundred delegates representing a wide range of organisations from all parts of the world. The F.F. and its staff won great respect for undertaking such an enormous logistical task in order to ensure broad representation (of ideologies, experience and interests, countries, ethnicities and gender) at the W.S.S.D. and to try to bring about a positive and lasting result from the Summit. The only comparable delegation was that funded by the European Union (E.U.), and the extent and diversity of the F.F. delegation was commented on a number of times in different fora. The F.F. staff provided invaluable support to the delegates throughout the conference.

My work at the W.S.S.D. built on Chris Healey's and my participation at the Fourth Preparatory Committee Meeting (PrepCom IV) for the W.S.S.D., held in Bali, Indonesia, from 24 May - 7 June, 2002. The background to the W.S.S.D. and the broader conflicts and challenges were addressed in the joint article on PrepCom IV written by Chris and myself for *Langscape* #23. This report will focus more specifically on the challenges we faced in Johannesburg and the activities I chose to undertake to face those challenges.

Which Summit? The Summit took place over three weeks, organised as follows:

Week 1: 19-25 August — pre-Summit events

Week 2: 26 August-1 September — plenaries and background events

Week 3: 2-4 September — Summit meetings involving heads of state/government

The W.S.S.D. was held in a number of different locations. The formal hub of the Summit was the Sandton Convention Centre (S.C.C.) in Johannesburg. The S.C.C. acted primarily as the centre of activities for the government and U.N. delegates. A number of the larger organisations, including the Ford Foundation and the Heinrich Böll Foundation, were based at N.A.S.R.E.C., a former exposition site approximately 30km. south of the S.C.C., which was resurrected for this event. Many of the workshops and other activities organised by the n.g.os. were held at N.A.S.R.E.C., which also became the main site for protest action of all kinds. The third main site was Ubuntu Village, which lies between the S.C.C. and N.A.S.R.E.C., and housed the Summit's exposition and provided venues for some W.S.S.D. events. Other locations included the Water Dome (the centre for water and climate fora and exhibitions), St. Stithian's College (where many of the forestry and biodiversity meetings were held), Shaft 17 (the base for the Environmental Justice group), and the Liberty Theatre at Sandton. Prior to the W.S.S.D., it was suggested that 65,000 people were likely to attend. Given the number of different sites and the physical distance between them, it was very difficult to develop a sense of how many participants actually were involved.

On my second day at the W.S.S.D. (22 August), I began to realise that having been at the Bali PrepCom was of uncertain benefit. At the first session of the all-day orientation organised by the Heinrich Böll Foundation, Danish 92, and the Ford Foundation I realised that part of what I had gained from PrepCom IV was a very clear understanding of the U.N. process, the business of working a caucus, lobbying and advocacy, the information flow and the key government coalitions, including the G-77 (the Group of 77, which has become a coalition of 133 developing nations, currently chaired by Venezuela), the E.U. (the European Union, with 15 member states, currently chaired by Denmark), J.U.S.C.A.N.Z. (a coalition that consists of representatives of Japan, U.S.A., Canada, Australia, New Zealand and several other Western nations), and the Pacific Islands Forum (with 16 member states including all the indepen-

dent and self-governing Pacific Island countries, Australia and New Zealand). However, I came to feel handicapped by the set of expectations PrepCom IV had left me with about how the Summit would run, the structure of the sessions, the access of n.g.os. to the convention centre and the various sessions, and possibilities for lobbying and participation. In Johannesburg, we were part of a summit that was spread over many sites. At the S.C.C. the more than 40,000 delegates in the nine Major Groups (Indigenous Peoples, Women, Youth, Non-Governmental Organisations, Trade Unions, Local Authorities, Scientific and Technological Communities, Farmers, and Business) had just one large meeting room that was used for morning briefings and for smaller meetings by caucus groups.

As a delegate for Terralingua I was eligible to register for two photographic identifications: one that would give me entry to N.A.S.R.E.C., and one that would give me n.g.o. status to enter the S.C.C. However, fire regulation restrictions forced the U.N. to limit access to the



S.C.C. for n.g.os., even those who had registered. A system was established that made 1,000 secondary passes available each day on a first-come-first-served basis to the 40,000 n.g.o. delegates. Fortunately, an additional 100 passes were distributed to major caucuses,

including the Global Caucus on Community-Based Forestry in which I participated. Thus, one or two caucus members per day could gain access to the S.C.C. From 1 September, in preparation for the participation of the heads of state/government from 2-4 September, this system changed again. A total of 1,300 passes were distributed to give n.g.o. delegates access only to the Major Groups Room. For access to the Plenary Room, where many of the key meetings took place, a daily lottery was held for 1,000 seats. This, then, sets the scene for the Summit.

Travel from the F.F. accommodation (primarily at the Cradle of Humankind and Heia Safari Ranch) to N.A.S.R.E.C. usually took an hour to ninety minutes; a round trip from N.A.S.R.E.C. to the S.C.C. took at least three hours. For the first week, all buses were routed through the conference bus terminal at Ubuntu, and most trips involved changing buses at this site and a further wait. Travel time dominated decisions about what to do, what to try to achieve each

day. Most of the delegates would choose one site or another for their daily work rather than try to move between sites. Many of the Major Group delegates spent little time at Sandton, and very few of the government and U.N. delegates made it to N.A.S.R.E.C. Thus, the major line between summits was drawn. Under these circumstances, the daily experiences and overall impressions of the Summit were very different for each participant. This situation did not simply result from our particular interests, activities, achievements or frustrations. As the days passed, many delegates became increasingly bemused about how to find the *real* Summit — what were the core activities, where were they taking place, how could we have a real voice? Reflecting on the experience, the question for many of us has become: *which summit did you attend?*

Summit Activities

It became a constant challenge to find genuine ways of participating and to maintain hope for positive results and future action. I chose to take up these challenges in a number of diverse ways: through

- ❖ continuing my involvement with the Global Caucus on Community-based Forest Management (G.C.C.B.F.M. — formerly the International Community Forestry Caucus);
- ❖ working with the Biodiversity caucus to include language issues in documentation;
- ❖ raising and responding to language issues and publicising Terralingua's work at all opportunities both formally (at meetings and caucuses) and informally (in conversations);
- ❖ attending some sessions at the S.C.C. and other locations to try to remain in touch with events and issues at the U.N. and government level;
- ❖ networking with delegates representing a wide range of international organisations to find opportunities for future partnerships with Terralingua;
- ❖ working with the Ford Foundation staff to overcome logistical challenges and to facilitate stronger and more effective participation in the Summit.

These activities are detailed below.

1. The Global Caucus on Community-Based Forest Manage-

ment (G.C.C.B.F.M.) is an international caucus comprising individuals and organisations with an interest in a range of aspects of community forest management. The Caucus originated in Bali, first named the Community Forestry Caucus (C.F.C.) and later renamed the International Community Forestry Caucus (I.C.F.C.). Between Bali and Johannesburg the caucus became the Global Caucus on Community-Based Forest Management. At its inception, the C.F.C. membership comprised approximately fifteen F.F. delegates to PrepCom IV (including myself). Two weeks later, at the end of the PrepCom, it had expanded to 51 organisations, represented by 80 individuals with a wide international constituency. The most recently distributed contact list records details for 172 individuals from 89 organisations and 34 countries.



For Terralingua, with its focus on the issues of linguistic, cultural and biological diversity, there was no natural home in the setting of PrepCom IV or the W.S.S.D. As Terralingua's delegates at PrepCom IV, Margaret Florey and Chris Healey chose to make community forestry the focus for their work. This forum seemed to offer the greatest possibility for effective participation — the inclusion of issues of indigenous knowledge, the broadening of understandings of threats to biodiversity to include language and culture, and an opportunity to include discussion of the interrelatedness between linguistic, cultural and biological diversity and the impact on the other facets through threats to any one. As our achievements indicate (see our report in *Langscape #23*), our decision to help build and to continue to work with this caucus appears to have been effective and significant.

As the caucus literature notes, the I.C.F.C. was formed with a key goal of seeking recognition for community-based and indigenous forest management. At PrepCom IV, much of the work of the caucus focused around (re)drafting text for insertion in the Draft Plan of Implementation (the so-called "Chairman's Text"). New or changed text was drafted in the sections on Agriculture, Mountain Ecosystems, Biodiversity, and Forests and Trees. A major success was the inclusion of 43(h) in the Draft Plan:

43(h) *Recognise and support indigenous and community based forest management systems to ensure their full and effective participation in sustainable forest management.*

In Johannesburg, the G.C.C.M.F.M. focused on several tasks, as detailed below.

i) Caucus meetings were held daily throughout the W.S.S.D. The decision to hold daily meetings in a regular time slot was partly aimed at expanding membership as word spread about the caucus and its work. The success of this strategy is clear from the growing membership and the growing sphere of influence. The meetings also provided an opportunity to strategise and network, and enabled caucus members to delegate responsibilities, spend the day working in various locations or with different groups and to come back together and report on our activities. This became particularly important when access to the S.C.C. was restricted and only certain caucus members were able to enter each day.

Three subcommittees of the caucus were established to deal with various key matters:

- *Text*: to study the Draft Implementation Plan of the W.S.S.D. and suggest alternative text of interest to community forestry;
- *Forest Commission*: to organize and run the Forest Commission at N.A.S.R.E.C. on 29 September;
- *Partnership*: to list the number of "type two" partnerships (partnerships formed between governments, intergovernmental organisations and n.g.os. and/or community groups to achieve the goals of sustainable development) that members would like to see set up *vis-à-vis* community forestry.

ii) Re-drafting text. The caucus set up a subcommittee on Text to draft new text for possible inclusion in the Draft Implementation Plan of the W.S.S.D. The caucus recognized that opportunities for changes to be introduced into the text were very limited. Seventy-five percent of the Plan was agreed at PrepCom IV, leaving 25% that was of concern to the government delegates responsible for discussing and agreeing to each section. The controversial sections were mostly related to

finance, trade, globalisation, time-bound targets and governance. The text was being finalized in four contact groups at the S.C.C., which were “double informals” in “U.N.-speak” — i.e., they were completely closed, thus removing opportunities to know how the discussions were progressing or to contribute in any way.

Despite the potential difficulties in having any new text considered, the caucus decided to go ahead with this task, seeing it as a long-term goal to influence governments and decision-makers. The subcommittee drafted text relating to indigenous knowledge and rights, biodiversity, forests, agriculture and water. The text was given to various government delegates (including those representing Mexico and Kenya) to use in lobbying other delegates.

iii) The Commission on Forests was held on 29 August from 2:45-5:45 p.m. at N.A.S.R.E.C. Six concurrent commissions were held on environmental themes (see also Biodiversity below). The Commissions were open fora to discuss and debate themes and provide a one-page contribution of key issues to the drafting committee for the Civil Society Declaration to the U.N. (a shadow document to the W.S.S.D. implementation plan). The G.C.C.B.F.M. that ran the Commission on Forests used a “fishbowl” discussion technique to address several themes. One of the main benefits for the caucus was continuing to reach out to new members and to strengthen our commitment to grassroots action to see 43(h) implemented.

iv) A combined caucus with S.A.R.D. (Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development) was held on 28 August to share information about each other’s work.

v) The Global caucus on C.B.F.M. Web site. A Web site for the caucus was set up after the W.S.S.D. and can be found at <groups.yahoo.com/group/globalcbfm/>. Files and notes that have been posted on the Web site include:

- instructions on subscribing to the e-mail list
- updated list of G.C.C.B.F.M. contacts (September 2002)
- notes from the Commission on

Forestry

- notes from G.C.C.B.F.M. meetings in Johannesburg from 2-4 September

2. Biodiversity caucus. While it was difficult to split my time and energy effectively between two caucuses, I felt it was important to also engage with the biodiversity caucus to make some contribution to the text that would form the statement to be delivered at the Biodiversity Commission (held on 29 August, 2002). A small working meeting was held to review and revise the draft text (N.A.S.R.E.C., 24 August). The Biodiversity Plenary (see below) was a useful forum in which to develop a sense of the broader issues raised by representatives from each of the Major Groups and by the government delegates. The result of the Biodiversity Commission can be read in the documents on the F.F. site at JoburgPlus10 <www.joburgplus10.org>. The caucus members were receptive to suggestions to include text about the interrelatedness of linguistic, cultural and biological diversity. These issues were included in Paragraph 1, which included both languages and cultures as aspects of diversity and pointed to threats to diversity. Indigenous and traditional living knowledge were also included in several other paragraphs of the document.

3. Language issues. During the G.C.C.B.F.M. meetings, issues arose about the use of English and the difficulties for those who do not have English as their first (or indeed, any) language. In response, I suggested that we compile a database of language skills held by members of the caucus who could then support people from non-English-speaking backgrounds during the caucus meetings. Further discussion of this matter was held with several caucus members including Victor Benavides (Board Member, National Network of Forest Practitioners), Farrell Cunningham (Maidu Nation), Ambrucio Rodriguez (Comunidad Indigena N.S.J.P. Mich, Mexico), and Nicolas Aguilar. As a result we:

- i) talked to the caucus about issues that arise in translation, and the difficulty for people who are acting as volunteer translators to both participate and translate;
- ii) co-developed the following simple guidelines for talking in the caucus; participants should

remember to:

- speak slowly
- enunciate
- avoid slang and acronyms
- allow space between sentences (breathe!)
- leave time for reflection before speaking
- respect silence
- invite those who haven't spoken to participate

The caucus agreed to remind people of these guidelines before each meeting; iii) asked that documents that are produced in the caucus (agendas, summaries, action plans) be given to translators ahead of time to be translated prior to a meeting and thus to allow for fuller participation by all members;

iv) agreed that funding agencies such as the F.F., which bring delegates to international meetings, should review best practices and be strongly encouraged to address this issue and to fund translators to accompany participants;

v) decided to continue building our database of language skills in the caucus to provide more informal translation;

vi) decided to approach Terralingua to talk further about this issue and possible involvement/partnerships in finding solutions.

The range of solutions was very well received in the caucus.

4. Publicity. It was very useful to have Terralingua's brochure to distribute to individuals and at meetings to inform people about the organisation and about our rôle. Some of the locations at which I distributed or left the brochures include:

- the G.C.C.B.F.M. meetings
- the Biodiversity Caucus meetings
- Global Forest Alliance at St. Stithian's College (25 August)
- World Sustainability Hearings at St. Stithian's College (27 August)
- Biodiversity Commission (29 August)
- U.N. Major Groups briefing room at S.C.C. (25 and 30 August)

5. Other key activities and events.

- **Biodiversity Plenary** (S.C.C., 26 August) — during the first official week of the W.S.S.D. six thematic plenaries were held around the main W.E.H.A.B. themes (water, energy, health, agriculture, biodiversity). The biodiversity plenary was the second, held on the afternoon of the first day of the second week. The plenary began with four speakers giving an overview of the value of biodiversity, what has been achieved and the challenges ahead. One representative from each of the nine Major Groups had speaking rights in a moderated session. Following the overview, the moderator posed questions to the representatives to draw out a range of perspectives on key issues. Government delegates were then offered an opportunity to speak from the floor to respond to the Major Groups' positions. Disappointingly (and predictably?) many of the government delegates read prepared statements rather than responding.

- The **World Sustainability Hearings** were held (St. Stithian's College, 27 August) to gather evidence from a range of witnesses about the impact on their communities of deforestation and unsustainable practices. One of the most moving witnesses was a Maaori man who spoke about the Maaoris' loss of access to their forests and the concomitant loss of language and cultural practices. He noted that there were occasions when, for example, he had been visiting the forest with his children and knew there was a Maaori word for a kind of tree, but didn't have the language to be able to name and talk in Maaori about features of the forest.

- **Environmental Justice National Forum** — On my first day in Johannesburg (21 August) I went on a trip with the Environmental Justice National Forum (E.J.N.F.) to a former coal-mining township. This provided me with an extraordinary and humbling introduction to South Africa, the W.S.S.D. and some of my fellow Civil Society Organisation (C.S.O.) participants.

- **Opening of "Poverty as a priority to sustainable development"** (N.A.S.R.E.C., 26 August)

- **Opening of Global People's Forum** at Johannesburg Stadium (23 August)

6. Orientations and briefings.

- **Orientations** — On my second day (22 August) I attended orientations (a) at N.A.S.R.E.C., organised for F.F. delegates; and (b) offered to a more general audience by the Heinrich Böll Foundation, Danish 92 and the Ford Foundation. The latter included training on advocacy and working with the media.
- **International Strategy Meeting** (N.A.S.R.E.C., 24 August). This forum included an introduction to South Africa, reflections on the road from Rio, and a session on the W.S.S.D. and expected results.
- **U.N. Major Groups Briefing** (S.C.C., 25 August). Delegates were briefed on the U.N. process, the layout of the building and where to locate various meetings and delegations, and the rules of access.
- **U.N. Major Groups Briefing** regarding changes to access (S.C.C., 30 August). This briefing was held to inform delegates of the new system of secondary passes that further restricted n.g.o. access to the S.C.C. and to meeting rooms within the S.C.C. I attended to be able to brief the Global Caucus and the F.F. delegates.

7. Logistical challenges and liaison rôle.

F.F. delegates were accommodated primarily at The Cradle of Humankind (a World Heritage Site outside Johannesburg that contains important archaeological sites) and secondarily at the Heia Safari Ranch, some twenty minutes by road from the Cradle (and where Tove and I stayed). The F.F. had a registration/logistics tent at the Cradle. The F.F. had also organised a number of local staff to handle logistics. A fleet of buses and minibuses was used to transport F.F. delegates from their accommodation to N.A.S.R.E.C., S.C.C. and Ubuntu village, and between the Cradle and Heia. Travel from our accommodation to N.A.S.R.E.C. usually took an hour to ninety minutes each way; a round trip from N.A.S.R.E.C. to the S.C.C. took at least three hours. Despite the best efforts of the F.F. staff, the distances travelled each day were very difficult to contend with and added to the feeling of chaos at the Summit. With the main F.F. operations centre at the Cradle, delegates at other hotels felt isolated from

communications and decision-making.

After a couple of days of talking informally with F.F. staff to try to resolve these problems, I was asked to become the F.F. liaison at the Heia Safari. I agreed to take on this rôle as it seemed important to work with the Ford Foundation staff to overcome logistical challenges and thus to facilitate stronger and more effective participation in the Summit. In many ways this task was a challenging one to have taken on — it added to my daily work load and was on occasions very stressful. However, the resultant improvements in transportation and communication not only facilitated my own participation in the W.S.S.D., but also that of other delegates.

Summary — Maintaining Hope.

It would be foolish to suggest that the W.S.S.D. was not a logistical nightmare. It was, and the sheer scale of the Summit, the number of people, lack of access to the S.C.C., the distances between venues and the time spent in buses all contributed to a feeling that the Summit was not a success. Certainly I was told by many people upon my return to Australia that the W.S.S.D. had been reported as a failure. At the highest level — the interaction between government, U.N. and n.g.o. delegates — that perspective would be hard to challenge. As noted above, we were essentially locked out of the discussions at the S.C.C. and many n.g.o. delegates remained frustrated at our lack of voice and lack of opportunity to contribute to the Draft Plan for Implementation. Many people also feel that the Draft Plan is without any teeth, and is yet another international document that will never be implemented.



Yet, despite all these factors, as a participant in the Summit I returned home exhausted but exhilarated, and the feeling of exhilaration remains with me six weeks after my return, and I have great hope that some of the work of the Summit will continue to be productive and effective into the future.

The G.C.C.B.F.M. is one of the success stories of the Summit. In Bali, the F.F. staff commented that they had never seen a caucus come together so quickly and so

successfully. In Johannesburg, more than once we had people comment to us, upon learning we were members of the G.C.C.B.F.M., that they had heard of the caucus and that it was working very effectively. It was a great experience to have been there at its inception and to have continued to work with the caucus through the W.S.S.D. Perhaps because of our success in lobbying in Bali to have new text included in the Draft Plan, caucus members had a sense of empowerment and felt that we did have a voice. It would be wrong to suggest that we were naïve or foolishly optimistic in hoping or thinking that much of the Plan might be implemented. Rather, we saw, and still see, the Draft Plan as an educational tool. Lobbying delegates and talking about the text and our proposed changes — both in Bali and in Johannesburg — became a means to raise those issues and to introduce them into government and U.N. discussions whenever possible. We also plan to continue lobbying our governments for implementation of key chapters and to work with the caucus as an international lobbying agency around issues of mutual concern. It was great to see people thinking about the issues of concern to Terralingua, which we raised in both locations, and to know that people are thinking about possible future partnerships and rôles for Terralingua.

For a linguist, an international event such as the W.S.S.D. (and PrepCom IV) is a ceaseless and delicious smorgasbord of languages and linguistic experiences. Every day brought opportunities to talk with people about their language backgrounds, their communities and multilingualism, and to exchange ideas about language endangerment, language maintenance, and the interaction between language and cultural and biological diversity. It was very satisfying to be able to bring language issues into the caucus and begin to work on ways to inform and empower people around language, power and translation issues. This is work that I hope Terralingua will be able to continue.

The Ford Foundation and the E.U. brought the two largest groups of n.g.o. delegates to the W.S.S.D., and it is with genuine admiration for the organisation that I say that being a Ford Foundation delegate at the PrepCom IV and the W.S.S.D. was an extraordinary experience. The F.F. made the W.S.S.D. work for us with their funding, training, mentoring,

constant encouragement and organisation in providing meeting rooms, computer facilities, cellphones, bulletin boards, and so forth. Most of all, the F.F. network brought together an extraordinary group of people from around the world with a very broad range of skills and experiences and, most of all, with determination. I remember on one of the evening bus trips back to the hotels saying to one of my W.S.S.D. friends “Listen: there is not a trivial conversation to be heard on this bus”. We talked, exchanged stories, told of our experiences and planned the next stage/s in our various struggles and causes, and we inspired each other.

“Listen...there is not a trivial conversation to be heard on this bus!”

At what is perhaps the simplest (and yet also the most complex) level, it is very difficult to be in South Africa without feeling hope. There should be no underestimating the huge challenges that face South Africa (and many other African nations), yet this is a country that has one of the world’s greatest success stories to tell — of challenging devastating oppression for many years and succeeding in overthrowing apartheid. In every community there are stories of people who faced those challenges with enormous courage. Even in the very short two weeks that I spent in Johannesburg, my experiences of talking with the South African bus drivers, guides at each of the venues, fellow delegates, stall holders at the exposition, school children living in the mining township, the protestors from various groups, and people who simply saw our identification tags and would stop us to chat, were without exception very moving and inspirational.

Documents can be read on the *Ford Foundation W.S.S.D. Project* Web site

- JoburgPlus10 <www.joburgplus10.org>
- Documents from W.S.S.D.
- Draft Joint Statement from Civil Society
- Global People’s Forum Programme of Action.

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Report 2

(Tove Skutnabb-Kangas, Roskilde University, Denmark)

The U.N. Under-Secretary General Shashi Tharoor, Head of U.N.'s Department of Public Information, quotes an unnamed journalist as saying that every U.N. conference generates only "more empty talk". The journalist asks what difference these conferences make. Tharoor agrees about the talking but claims that such talk "lays down markers, articulates aspirations, identifies common approaches, reveals gaps and helps bridge them. Without talk, there would never be agreement; without agreement, there would be no action" (Deen & Kahn 2002: 2).

The former U.S. Ambassador to the U.N., Richard Holbrook, disagrees: "[t]housands of people gather, spending millions, even tens of millions of dollars. They preach to the converted, hash over longstanding differences, and pass empty and grandiose resolutions". [...] "The money these conferences cost could better be spent directly on the problem being discussed", he says (ibid.: 2).

Thalif Deen & Farah Kahn (2002: 1) also analyse the costs of the W.S.S.D. The "price for W.S.S.D. is being put at between 50 and 55 million dollars", and it is growing day by day. Most U.N. conferences cost "only about 1.8 million to 3.4 million dollars each. The only exception was Río" (ibid.: 1).

I represented Terralingua at the W.S.S.D. in Johannesburg 21 August - 4 September, 2002. Starting to write this report, I am looking out from the window of the round thatched-roof chalet at the Heia Safari Hotel outside Johannesburg, where Ford Foundation placed me and Margaret Florey, the other Terralingua representative, for the



conference. A large group of springbok are grazing just outside the window; zebras, peacocks and two giraffes roam freely around the chalets (all of them, and lots of other animals, drink from what is called a swimming pool, so

no people swim there). Despite the peaceful and nice environments, there would be no time for swimming anyway.

The first bus to one of the three main conference venues starts at 7 in the morning and people

come back late at night, exhausted. The venues are far from each other. If one goes to more than one of them the same day, daily transport time can (and did) easily come up to over 6 hours. We are mingling with the other 60,000 delegates and some 25,000 security people. Many things are chaotic. The Ford Foundation staff tried in many ways to make them less chaotic — everybody received a mobile telephone; the Ford people were working overtime to make things run smoothly, including organising and re-organising transport and housing and giving constant advice to those of us who felt a bit helpless or frustrated initially.

Having participated during a long life in writing countless Declarations, Recommendations, etc., and having followed them up, seeing that the precious words or sentences that we managed to insert into final international government and other documents of various kinds, mean next to nothing in real life, I did not use my energies on trying to influence the final documents (much of that should have been done in advance anyway). I concentrated on three things:

1. informing as many people as possible about Terralingua concerns, through public speaking at various events (on two U.N.E.S.C.O.-sponsored High-Level Parallel Events and lecturing in Cape Town), through radio and television interviews, participating in documentaries, and, of course, through talking to people;
2. connecting especially with indigenous peoples and minority representatives; and, obviously,
3. networking (the only positive thing with the long hours spent on various buses was that one could have long discussions with often extremely interesting people).

To me it seemed that, to some extent, Margaret Florey worked more optimistically, in "Tharoor's spirit", and I more skeptically, in "Holbrook's spirit", so we complemented each other nicely. Even if I am extremely pessimistic about the "official" results of W.S.S.D., I certainly feel that I have gained an enormous amount from meeting and working with all the people, and I also hope that Terralingua will benefit.

After this short introduction, my report details some of my programme day by day, and gives details about some of the people I met. This includes many possible follow-ups. I finish with a few general reflections on

some aspects of the Summit that I found important.

My programme.

22nd August. Arrival in Johannesburg; short briefing by Ford Foundation (F.F.); hotel, registration at Sandton Convention Centre for the World Summit; dinner at the Cradle (the F.F. “headquarters”), meeting many n.g.o. delegates who were also sponsored by F.F.

23rd August. Registration at N.A.S.R.E.C. for the Global Forum; meeting of the Forestry Caucus; attending the Opening Ceremony at the Stadion. Margaret Florey and I were both interviewed for a local radio programme about how we assessed the global importance of the Summit.

24th August. International Strategy Meeting at N.A.S.R.E.C., with “Introduction to South Africa”, Panel “From Río to Johannesburg – reflection on the process thus far”; N.G.L.S./W.S.S.D. Secretariat: “The W.S.S.D. and expected outcomes”. Next, collecting materials and discussing with people in the Exhibition Hall at N.A.S.R.E.C., where many of the non-governmental organisations had their stands. After that, using 4 hours for transport and 2 hours at Sandton trying to find the U.N.E.S.C.O. office, which I found empty.

25th August. Five-hour meeting with Dr. Anne-Marie Beukes, Head of Language Planning Office, National Language Services, Ministry of Arts & Culture, South Africa. A thorough briefing about the latest developments of, and future prospects for, South African language policy, including discussions about the views of key S.A. politicians and high-level bureaucrats opening and closing the U.N.E.S.C.O./S.A. Government Parallel Event 2-3 September; discussions about how Terralingua’s work could be useful in influencing S.A. government language policy and practice. After that, finishing a lecture for Cape Town (see 27th August).

26th August. Writing most of the Power Point presentation for the U.N.E.S.C.O. Parallel Event 2-3 September; starting to write this report; travel to Cape Town. Discussions with Kathleen Heugh, P.R.A.E.S.A. (Project for Alternative Education in South Africa).

27th August. Meeting with Kathleen Heugh and Peter Plüddemann, P.R.A.E.S.A., then a seminar with most of the P.R.A.E.S.A. staff where they also presented the

P.R.A.E.S.A. projects for me. Lecture at All Africa House, University of Cape Town, for a very large audience, which included people from several universities (some from as far away as Stellenbosch) and people from the Education Department. Neville Alexander, the director of P.R.A.E.S.A., introduced me (see his latest book in the bibliography). After the lecture, discussions with many people. (P.R.A.E.S.A. was instrumental in planning today’s South Africa’s language policy: Neville Alexander chaired LANGTAG, Kathleen Heugh was a member; Neville was the first co-chair of P.A.N.S.A.L.B., the government-appointed body responsible for the planning and implementation of language policy, Kathleen was a member). Zubeida Desai, University of Western Cape, also attended my lecture (she has also chaired P.A.N.S.A.L.B.). I discussed possible co-operation with P.R.A.E.S.A.

28th August. Ubuntu village, collecting materials and discussing with people at the Exhibition stands where many official organisations, states, and multinational corporations had their stands. This included U.N.E.S.C.O. Our booklet flier (very nicely done) was displayed and I collected a pile for distribution. The booklet itself (Skutnabb-Kangas, Tove, Maffi, Luisa and Harmon, Dave (2002). *Sharing A World of Difference. The Earth’s Linguistic, Cultural, and Biological Diversity*. Paris: U.N.E.S.C.O., Terralingua, and World Wide Fund for Nature) is not out yet, so I cannot give copies to the 2-3 September panel participants or even show it to them. Workshop “Aboriginal Participation in Sustainable Forest Management in Canada”, organised by the National Aboriginal Forestry Association (N.A.F.A.). One very interesting paper about aboriginal/business partnership in sustainable forestry.

29th August. A full-day session at Ubuntu village, a Parallel Event “Linking Traditional and Scientific Knowledge for Sustainable Development”, co-organised by U.N.E.S.C.O., Tebtebba Foundation (Indigenous Peoples’ International Centre for Policy Research and Education, (<www.tebtebba.org>), and International Council for Science (I.C.S.U.), in co-operation with the International Chamber of Commerce (I.C.C.). Altogether, 13 speakers, and extremely interesting. Since one speaker (from Vanuatu) was not present, I asked one of the U.N.E.S.C.O. chairs (who knew about our booklet) if I could step in with a short presentation, and was welcomed. I used probably 10 minutes. There seemed to be a really great interest in what I said — at least 50 people gathered around me, wanting to know

more, after it.

I had exchanges of ideas with representatives from U.N.E.S.C.O.'s Sciences Division (Walter R. Erdelen) and the L.I.N.K.S. programme (Local and Indigenous Knowledge Systems (www.unesco.org/links)) (Douglas Nakashima). One of the two I.C.S.U. representatives speaking, Jens-Erik Fenstad, Professor of Mathematics and Ethical Questions in Science (an interesting combination), spoke interestingly about the relationship between science, traditional knowledge and pseudo-science or anti-science. I talked to him after his presentation. He is on the I.C.S.U. Board, and chaired the I.C.S.U. Study Group that prepared the report on which the I.C.S.U. 2002 publication (see bibliography) is based. The publication (24 pages) is extremely good (see www.icsu.org). Relevant quotes:

Universal education programs provide important tools for human development, but they may also compromise the transmission of indigenous language and knowledge. Inadvertently, they may contribute to the erosion of cultural diversity, a loss of social cohesion and the alienation and disorientation of youth. [...] In short, when indigenous children are taught in science class that the natural world is ordered as



scientists believe it functions, then the validity and authority of their parents' and grandparents' knowledge is denied. While their parents may possess an extensive and sophisticated understanding of the local

environment, classroom instruction implicitly informs that science is the ultimate authority for interpreting "reality" and by extension local indigenous knowledge is second rate and obsolete. [...] Actions are urgently needed to enhance the intergenerational transmission of local and indigenous knowledge. [...] Traditional knowledge conservation therefore must pass through the pathways of conserving language (as language is an essential tool for culturally appropriate encoding of knowledge)...

The chair of I.C.S.U., professor Thomas Rosswall, former vice-chancellor of Stockholm University, spoke after me at the U.N.E.S.C.O. panel, 2-3 Sept. I.C.S.U. has prepared a list of people, with addresses, who participated as speakers at

everything I.C.S.U. organised. They have also put me on their mailing list and I have received some materials from Stockholm.

Natalie Drache, a producer at D.B.N. Digital Broadcast Network (www.dialoguebetweenations.com) heard me speak, and wanted to have me in a dialogue with 3 other people about what I had said. We filmed approximately half an hour, talking to each other, with me repeating partly what I had said, and then asking them questions and relating their experience to linguistic genocide in education. One was a fairly young Indonesian indigenous woman who talked about how they were being called primitive and constantly told that they should not speak their own language but only Bahasa Indonesia. I did not have her name and she did not have a card. I talked much more with the two others, Mario Mahongo, an indigenous San leader from Kimberley, South Africa, from !Xu & Khwe Communal Property Association (xukhwe@iafrica.com) who still speaks his language, and Dr. William Langeveldt, who represented National Khoi-San Consultative Conference (N.K.C.C.), Khoi-San National Trust (K.N.T.) and Barendse Griqua House (B.G.H.) (william.langeveldt@freemail.absa.co.za), himself a Khoi from the Griqua nation, who knew only a little of his ancestral language but used a sentence in the filming.

I met several of the key people behind the publication of Ho et al. 2002 (see bibliography; can be bought at www.i-sis.org.uk/onlinestore.php), and seen on their general Web site), meaning the main architect behind it, Mae-Wan Ho, the founder & director of Tebtebba, Victoria Tauli-Corpuz, and others. The publication is a discussion paper, prepared by several organisations (including T.W.N., see next sentence) and suggest a Convention of Knowledge. Third World Network (T.W.N.) was the organisation behind the People's Communication Charter — I chaired the panel of judges at the hearing on its Article on language rights in the Hague, the Netherlands, some years ago. This new Convention would be along similar lines, not to be signed by states but a guideline for civil society. (Web sites: I.S.I.S. is above; S.G.R. www.sgr.org.uk; T.W.N. www.twinside.org.sg). The suggested Convention is otherwise quite good on knowledge, but has absolutely nothing about language. I have already written comments and suggestions into my copy and will follow up.

30th-31st August. Finishing the Tuesday presentation, reading materials collected, writing notes; networking with lots of people, connecting with U.N.E.S.C.O.; lots of organisational things.

1st September. Making a documentary (direct filming, almost 2 hours), with Mary Ann Burris and David Hanrahan who asked me questions. In addition to the purposes the Group is here for (trying to connect traditional healers/elders all around the world, supporting their interaction), David wants to use the documentary to influence several groups in the U.S.A., mainly the one for which he does a lot of work, the largest testing/licensing group in the U.S.A., Educational Testing Services (E.T.S.) in Princeton, New Jersey; they test everything in schools, but they are also the ones who organise T.O.E.F.L., the largest test worldwide on English as a Foreign Language.

Mary-Ann Burris (Ford Foundation, East Africa) is involved in a project in Kenya where children will try to engage elders in teaching them about traditional knowledge. They are planning questions that children could ask the elders. She has sent an invitation to a dozen people to suggest nine questions. I'll send her suggestions (thinking of Terralingua concerns), and also send the appeal further, to some Saami colleagues who are involved in the use of traditional knowledge in schools.

I had a long discussion with Dr. Apela Colorado (based in Oakland, living in Hawai'i). Among other things, she directs an M.A. programme about the indigenous mind and indigenous knowledge (see the Web), where apprenticed young healers can be taught by traditional elders/healers in an academic programme. Most of it is distance education; people convene a few times per year and she has money to bring them there. They should (continue to) work in their own communities. Apela Colorado has asked me to try and find a young Saami who might be interested (and called) to participate in her M.A. programme. I also asked about a Roma person and Apela would be delighted to find one. Likewise, we discussed the possibility of a Kurdish person.



2nd -3rd September. U.N.E.S.C.O. and S.A. Government-organised, in co-operation with the N.G.O.-U.N.E.S.C.O. Liaison Committee, a High-Level Parallel Event

entitled "Educating for a sustainable future: action, commitments and partnerships". It was chaired by U.N.E.S.C.O.'s Director General, Koichiro Matsuura and the South African Minister of Education, Kadar Asmal. There were five Heads of State among the speakers. Other speakers included Jacques Diouf, Director General, F.A.O.; James T. Morris, Executive Director, World Food Programme; Hans van Ginkel, President, International Association of Universities; etc. My last two days were spent there (including a reception the first evening). My own paper, "Literacy and Language in Sustainable Development", was extremely well received (and will be published by U.N.E.S.C.O.). I had two television-interviews and a short documentary after it; several people want to publish it in several languages (Polish, Hungarian, French, English). Several African Members of Parliament present wanted copies; I had lunch with several. I have had several offers of co-operation and networking from people there. I'll send round my PowerPoint presentation to everybody who wanted it, and see what other follow-up needs to be done.

Other, non-dated.

I discussed various indigenous issues for hours, on many different occasions, with Mililani Trask who is one of the four co-chairs of the U.N. Indigenous Forum (Ole Henrik Magga, our Advisory Panel member, is the Chair). She would like to organise a week-long training session with me, for indigenous women, maybe in Geneva or maybe somewhere in the U.S.A. Likewise, Priscilla Settee, Canada, wants to organise something. I also had long repeated discussions with many African women about women's education, women's political participation, micro-loans, languages, etc.

An interesting exchange in relation to language and biodiversity was with two Nigerian women from C.O.W.A.N., Country Women Association of Nigeria, a rural self-help organisation operating in 32 states in Nigeria, with almost 50,000 working groups and over 260,000 members. I spent many hours with the chair and founder of C.O.W.A.N., Chief (Mrs.) Bisi Ogunleye, and with C.O.W.A.N.'s Plateau State Co-ordinator (C.O.W.A.N., 7, Awosika Crescent, Ijapo Estate, Akure, Ondo State, Nigeria). An example of one of the concrete issues we discussed was their COICO cooking device, which they demonstrated at several seminars. Women in Africa are often blamed for desertification because they have to

fell trees for cooking, and for making the land less fertile because they use dried manure for cooking, instead of using it as fertilizer. C.O.W.A.N. has developed a way of cooking that both uses much less energy (and thus saves trees and manure) and also frees women's time for, for example, education, because they do not need to stand next to the food while it is cooking. They bring the food to the boil, and at the same time they heat a stone that is flat on one side and concave on the other, which matches the shape of the pots used in the household. As soon as the food boils, the pot is placed, with a tight lid, on top of the stone and both are placed in a big box where all sides are insulated with whatever local materials are at hand, e.g., dry grass. Grass is also placed on top — the two women had brought a kind of “grass lid” (dry grass put inside a small but strong plastic sack that fitted the box; having a lid where the grass does not fall out makes it easier to check the food if need be). The food continues to boil slowly, without burning, because of the insulation, and stays warm.

It was very interesting for me to compare: this is more or less what we used in my childhood during the war in Finland, and even when it was used in cities with lots of newspaper instead of hay, it was still called what would translate as “hay box”. I now use a modern version, where the insulation is Styrofoam that has been formed to fit a special saucepan, and where the “grass lid” to be put on top of the saucepan's lid is also foam. One can start a healthy porridge in the evening and it is ready and hot in the morning. All of us also learned some new practical tricks — I have not used a stone, but will try that, because it obviously maintains heat. They said the saucepan lids were often a problem because they were not tight enough for the food to continue to boil. I told them about the clean cloth that we wrap around the saucepan, with some inside the lid, and most outside, when we make couscous, to make the lid tight — they were going to try that.

A few general reflections.

As I said, I had no expectations about the governments' part of W.S.S.D., so the disappointment was not huge. The meeting showed very clearly that many government representatives (and I did obviously talk to many)

live in a completely different world from us others. The gaps between most decision makers (and this includes some of the big professional “n.g.os.” that are no longer NON-governmental) and others are, if possible, still widening. Being a language professional makes me wonder what kind of

discourses, if any, might make the decision-makers wake up. It seems that a lot of language has been appropriated by decision-makers so that it does not mean anything anymore. Blatant lies can be told (and were being told), without anybody reacting; nice words and promises can be uttered, all the right things said, even in sophisticated ways, and it means absolutely nothing. It

obviously makes it difficult to believe that real negotiations about important issues are possible.

On the other hand, it is clear that there has never been a meeting in world history where as many brilliant minds have come together in the same place; a meeting where people, who are working hard to make the world a better place, have mingled, and had at least some chance for networking (even if the infrastructure certainly militated against it). One could FEEL, quite concretely, the power of all the positive thinking and feeling and action that took place. People are starting to move; an incredible amount is happening all over the world. Even if 80% of the world's population still has never used a telephone, those who do have access to the Internet can strengthen the positive movements in ways that were unimaginable some 30 years ago. It is much easier to maintain contacts.

I was positively surprised by the change since Río in the attitudes of many fairly “hard-core” scientists (in biology, chemistry, physics, medicine, etc.), exemplified by the quotes above from the I.C.S.U. Report. There seems to be much more acceptance of the historical fact that a lot of science owes much of its beginnings and theories to traditional, often indigenous knowledge (e.g., Carl Linné's categories for classifying plant species were based on indigenous Saami categorisations). Even if indigenous peoples (who had their own meeting in Kimberley just before the government meetings started in Johannesburg) do not figure much in the final report, the only sentence that they suggested for inclusion, acknowledging their rôle in sustainable development, was accepted. It seems to me that there is more

People are starting to move; an incredible amount is happening all over the world.

chance now than ever before for multi- and trans-disciplinary and trans-group co-operation, based on more equality than earlier; an acknowledgement of the global interdependencies.

The big questions are, then: do we have enough time for the positive forces to grow? How can they grow without being co-opted or marginalised?

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Press Release for the Colorado Plateau Study

Report Assesses Biological and Cultural Diversity on the Colorado Plateau and Promotes Integrated Biocultural Conservation.

The greatest gains in conservation over the next two decades, says a new report, will be made by building broader coalitions to jointly protect biodiversity and cultural diversity, in particular, in regions with high species endemism. This integrative approach — modeled in a joint effort by the Center for Sustainable Environments at Northern Arizona University (N.A.U.), Terralingua: partnerships for linguistic and biological diversity, and the Grand Canyon Wildlands Council — has culminated in a report, the first of its kind, which synthesizes a wide range of data on the natural and cultural makeup of the Colorado Plateau. This report, *Safeguarding the Uniqueness of the Colorado Plateau: an ecoregional assessment of biocultural diversity*, documents that the Colorado Plateau of the Four Corners States is one of the five most biologically diverse among North America's 110 ecoregions, as well as the most diverse region of this subcontinent ethnolinguistically, with more than half of all remaining speakers of Native American languages in the U.S.A. residing there. It also establishes that the region has the greatest number of endemic plants of any ecoregion in North America.

In addition, the report provides a preliminary assessment of the current state of the plateau's geographic, hydrological, biological, ethnolinguistic and agricultural diversity. The report also examines the increasing threats to this region and its resources brought about by a variety of economic, social, and political forces, both local and global. It concludes by outlining steps toward innovative action. *Safeguarding the Uniqueness of the Colorado Plateau* will help the resource managers working for federal agencies and reservations plan and implement comprehensive biocultural diversity conservation plans and identify key areas for taking action. Researchers, practitioners, and indigenous communities will be able to use the report to envision future action if such trends and threats continue, and to outline appropriate responses to counteract or reverse negative trends.

"The significance of the Colorado Plateau from a biocultural perspective is enhanced by the



persistent vitality of a large number of Native American communities in this region," explains Dr. Luisa Maffi, President of Terralingua. „Their traditional ecological knowledge and values, encoded in their languages, has historically guided their respect, use and management of these lands. These traditions remain remarkably intact today, but are undergoing rapid change. As the report underscores, it is crucial to recognize First Nations as key stakeholders and partners in conservation and restoration projects, and to consider the strengthening of their cultural and linguistic heritage as an intrinsic component of any such effort.“

See the report's executive summary on <www.environment.nau.edu>.

The report is available for US\$15.00 (checks made out to N.A.U.) from the Center for Sustainable Environments, Northern Arizona University, Box 5675, Flagstaff, Arizona 86011. U.S.A.

Contacts.

The Center for Sustainable Environments at N.A.U. is a catalyst for collaborative research, education, training and stewardship in the Intermountain West of the United States.

Gary Nabhan, Ph.D.
Director, C.S.E.

Tel.: 928-523-6726
E-mail: <gary.nabhan@nau.edu>
Web: <www.environment.nau.edu>

Terralingua is an international non-governmental organization, founded in 1996, dedicated to fostering an integrated approach to the conservation and restoration of the world's biological, cultural, and linguistic diversity.

Luisa Maffi, Ph.D.
President

Tel.: 202-518-2060
E-mail: <maffi@terralingua.org>

OR

Francine Madden
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Washington, D.C. 20009, U.S.A.

Tel.: 202-518-2040
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Fax.: 202-387-4823
Web: <www.terralingua.org>

Grand Canyon Wildlands Council is a consortium of scientists and conservationists whose goal is to protect and restore the native biodiversity and ecological processes of the ecoregion surrounding the Grand Canyon.

Larry Stevens, Ph.D.
President and Science Advisor
Grand Canyon Wildlands Council, Inc.
P. O. Box 1594
Flagstaff, AZ. 86002. U.S.A.

Tel.: 928-556-9306
E-mail: <farvana@aol.com>
Web: <www.grandcanyonwildlands.org>

General News & Correspondence

Information on Latgalians Available on the Web

From: g r a i d i <graid@latgola.lv>

We have developed a Web site for basic information on Latgalians. Please see <www.geocities.com/latgalian/>, which has been prepared by Armands Kucens. Some good information can also be found either by following <www.graid.lv> links or by typing „Latgalian“ in the <www.google.com> search engine.

Best regards,
Zane Kucena (Ms.)
Graid editorial office.

All the news on Latgola — in one place at the same time! The *Graid* magazine issues the weekly press review „This Week in Latgola“ every Monday. It covers the Latgola region news from Friday to Friday. The press review is compiled by „Graid“ editors; contact e-mail: <graid.zinis@latgola.lv>.

Receive the weekly press review in your mailbox every Monday! To subscribe please send an e-mail to <graidi.zinis@latgola.lv> requesting the press review. From then on you will receive it every Monday. This service is free of charge, but we would be delighted to see you among our „e1“ sponsors.

Join the discussion group on the latest news in Latgola! The *Graidī* forum „This week in Latgola“ gives you an opportunity to participate in the discussion and read comments submitted by other readers.



Request for Proposals, 2003

Endangered Language Fund

The Endangered Language, thanks to the generosity of its members, is once again able to offer small grants for work on endangered languages. This announcement contains all the information you will need to apply. — Doug Whalen, Dh.W.

The Endangered Language Fund provides grants for language maintenance and linguistic field work. The work most likely to be funded is that which serves both the native community and the field of linguistics. Work that has immediate applicability to one group and more distant application to the other will also be considered. Publishing subventions are a low priority, although they will be considered. Proposals can originate in any country. The language involved must be in danger of disappearing within a generation or two. Endangerment is a continuum, and the location on the continuum is one factor in our funding decisions.

Eligible expenses include consultant fees, tapes, films, travel, etc. Grants are normally for one year periods, though extensions may be applied for. We expect grants in this round to be less than US\$4,000 in size, and to average about US\$2,000.

How to Apply — Please Note Change of Address

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There is no form, but the information

requested below should be printed (on one side only) and FOUR COPIES sent to:

The Endangered Language Fund
Dept. of Linguistics
Yale University
P. O. Box 208366
New Haven, CT. 06520-8366. U.S.A.

The street address for express mail services is:

The Endangered Language Fund
Department of Linguistics
370 Temple Street
Yale University
New Haven, CT. 06511. U.S.A.

Applications MUST be mailed in. No e-mail or facsimile applications will be accepted. Please note that regular mail, especially from abroad, can take up to four weeks. If you have any questions, please write to the same address or email to <elf@haskins.yale.edu>.

Required Information

Cover Page —

The first page should contain:

- title of the project
- name of language and country in which it is spoken
- name of primary researcher
- address of primary researcher (include telephone and e-mail if possible)
- social security number (if U.S.A. citizen)
- place and date of birth
- present position, education, and native language(s)
- previous experience and/or publications that are relevant

Include the same information for collaborating researchers if any. This information may continue on the next page.

Description of the Project —

Beginning on a separate page, provide a description of the project. This should normally take two pages, single spaced, but the maximum is five pages. Be detailed about the type of material that is to be collected and/or produced, and the value it will have to the native community (including relatives and descendants who do not speak the language) and to linguistic science. Give a brief description of the state of endangerment of the language in question.

Budget —

On a separate page, prepare an itemized budget that lists expected costs for the project. Estimates are acceptable, but they must be realistic. Please translate the amounts into U.S. dollars. List other sources of support you are currently receiving or expect to receive, and other applications that relate to the current one.

Letter of Support —

Two letters of support are recommended, but not required. Note that these letters, if sent separately, must arrive on or before the deadline (21st April, 2003) in order to be considered. If more than two letters are sent, only the first two received will be read.

Limit To One Proposal

A researcher can be primary researcher on only one proposal.

Deadline

Applications must be received by 21st APRIL, 2003. Decisions will be delivered by the end of May, 2003.

Acknowledgment of Receipt

Receipt of application will be made by e-mail if an e-mail address is given. Otherwise, the applicant must include a self-addressed postcard in order to receive the acknowledgment.

If a Grant is Awarded

Before receiving any funds, university-based applicants must show that they have met the requirements of their university's human subjects' committee. Tribal- or other-based applicants must provide equivalent assurance that proper protocols are being used.

If a grant is made and accepted, the recipient is required to provide the Endangered Language Fund with a short formal report of the project and to provide the Fund with copies of all audio and video recordings made with E.L.F. funds, accompanying transcriptions, as well as publications resulting from materials obtained with the assistance of the grant.

Further enquiries can be made to:

The Endangered Language Fund
Dept. of Linguistics
Yale University
P. O. Box 208366
New Haven, CT. 06520-8366. U.S.A.

Tel.: 203-432-2450
Fax.: 203-432-4087
E-mail: <elf@haskins.yale.edu>
Web: <www.ling.yale.edu/~elf>

Doug Whalen
Haskins Laboratories
270 Crown St.
New Haven, CT. 06511. U.S.A.
Tel.: 203-865-6163, ext. 234
Fax.: 203-865-8963
Web: <www.haskins.yale.edu/>

Annotated Listing of Interesting/Useful Sources

New Book by Terralingua Author

In Light of our Differences: how diversity in nature and culture makes us human.

Author: Harmon, David.

Publisher: Smithsonian Institution Press.

Price: US\$38 hardcover. No paperback, at least not yet.

Web site: <www.sipress.si.edu/books/titles_books/1-58834-066-X.html>

See attached file „harmon.pdf „ for details on discount for Terralingua members.

**New Book on Anthropology and Environment**

Antropología y ambiente: enfoques para la comprensión de la relación ecosistema-cultura.

(Anthropology and environment: approaches for the understanding of the ecosystem-culture relationship).

Author: Cárdenas, Felipe.

Publisher: Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Ideade-Departamento de Ecología y

Territorio, Javegraf, Bogotá, Colombia.
2002; 235 p.

Price: US\$40. + US\$10 correo en Latino America, + US\$20 Correo Estados Unidos, Europa.

Pedidos Bogotá, Colombia
Tel: 3208320, ext. 4820

E-mail: <ideade@javeriana.edu.co> OR
<fcardena@javeriana.edu.co>

In this work a series of visions referred to an exercise of description, understanding and interpretation of the relation ecosystem-culture were used on the basis of an eclectic approach of work that and recognizes the importance of the models of natural science, the social approaches and hermeneutics interpretations at the moment of defining research-management strategies on the territory and the culture. The thesis and the main argument of the work make reference to the importance of symbolic planes and imaginary dimensions in the processes of configuration of the territory by the cultural systems. The empirical evidence of the diverse works that structure the document aims to reinforce that argument.

Felipe Cárdenas, Associate professor
Anthropologist Universidad de los Andes-Colombia
MSc. in Rural Development, Pontifical University Javeriana-Colombia
Homeopath qualification from the British Institute of Homeopathy



Two Publications

Two important works were developed by the Encyclopedia of Life Support Systems Publishers, Oxford, U.K., under the auspices of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (U.N.E.S.C.O.). Terralingua's Board member David Rapport, a leader in the field of ecosystem health, was one of the contributors.

The *Encyclopedia of Life Support Systems* (E.O.L.S.S.) brings together the work of many of the world's foremost scholars, experts, and policy makers in all major fields, representing a broad spectrum of well-known leading academic and research institutions, professional organizations, government agencies, private enterprises and policy planning bodies spread throughout the world, contributing to state-of-the art information and expert opinion on virtually every aspect of the life support systems on which we depend. The E.O.L.S.S. was officially released on the Internet on the occasion of the World Summit on Sustainable Development 2002 in Johannesburg, South Africa.

The other publication is *Our Fragile World: challenges and opportunities for sustainable development*. This publication was officially released on 30 May, 2001, by Koichiro Matsuura, Director General of U.N.E.S.C.O. This text presents integrated knowledge and world views related to the state of earth's natural resources; human and cultural resources; institutional resources; and economic, financial and technological resources. It presents the vision and thinking of over 200 authors in support of efforts to solve the complex problems connected with peace, equity, justice, world stability and global sustainable development, and to secure perennial life support on „The Blue Planet“.

More information on these publications can be found at either <www.eolss.net> or <www.eolss.com>.



Comments and suggestions are welcome, and we do welcome articles and news items for publication. Please send all communications regarding this newsletter to the Editor, Ms. Anthea Fallen-Bailey, either by e-mail (afallenb@terralingua.org), or by regular mail (41620 Fish Hatchery Drive, Scio, Oregon 97374-9747. U.S.A.). Membership inquiries and renewals should also be sent to the Editor. Fees/donations should be sent to our Treasurer, Mr. David Harmon, Terralingua, P. O. Box 122, Hancock, Michigan 49930-0122. U.S.A. Funds can also be donated via our secure on-line service at <www.terralingua.org>.

ReVision Journal Issue on Indigenous Language Revitalisation

The Fall 2002 issue of the journal *ReVision* (vol. 25, no. 2) is devoted to the theme of indigenous language revitalization. It is guest-edited by Melissa Nelson, Executive Director of the Cultural Conservancy, a non-profit based in San Francisco, California, U.S.A., that works to protect and revitalize indigenous cultures and their ancestral lands. The table of contents is as follows:

- Preface — Leanne Hinton
- Introduction — Melissa Nelson
- „Rekindling the Flutes of Fire: why indigenous languages matter to humanity“ — Matthew C. Bronson
- „Storyscapes: living songs in native lands“ — Philip M. Klasky and Melissa Nelson
- „Diversity and the Spice of Life“ — Luisa Maffi
- „Nurturing a Faint Call in the Blood: a linguist encounters languages of ancient America“ — Dan Moonhawk Alford
- „The People from on Top of the Land: a Kashaya Pomo elder’s journey“ — Otis Parrish
- „Moyla Tuupanga: the moon is in the sky“. An Interview with L. Frank Manriquez — Melissa Nelson



END LANGSCAPE #24