

Langscape

Letter from the Director

Salt Spring Island, British Columbia, Canada, June 2008

Dear Friends of Terralingua,

Whether you were previously a member or have simply expressed an interest in membership, I am writing to welcome you to Terralingua's new membership system and services! With this issue of *Langscape*, we are delighted to resume the publication of our quarterly newsletter, which keeps members informed about Terralingua activities and other important developments in the field of biocultural diversity.

Over the past few months, we have also been revamping and updating our website at www.terralingua.org, and have established a web-based registration form. Please go to "Become a Member" to activate or confirm your membership. Once you are registered, you will be able to start using the new Members-Only Discussion Forum, as an interactive space for communicating with us and with other members all over the world on issues relevant to Terralingua's mandate, which your membership supports:

"Terralingua supports the integrated protection, maintenance and restoration of the biocultural diversity of life - the world's biological, cultural, and linguistic diversity - through an innovative program of research, education, policy and on-the-ground action."

We look forward to hearing your thoughts, ideas, and suggestions, and to building a mutually beneficial relationship with you, our members! If you have any questions about membership, please contact our Membership Services representative, Tania Aguila taguila@terralingua.org. She is eager to interact with you! In addition, you will be able to participate in another discussion forum on our website, the "Round Table", which is open to everybody as a way of widening and strengthening the network of people who care about biocultural diversity and want to see it thrive.

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We also plan to offer a variety of other services through our expanding website. Please bear with us while we complete the upgrade and introduce new features. Meanwhile, we hope you'll enjoy our new look! Please contact our Web Designer/Manager Ortixia Dilts ortixia@terralingua.org for questions, comments, and suggestions about the website.

As in the past, membership in Terralingua is free, as we want to encourage everyone to become involved regardless of their means. We do, however, welcome voluntary donations of any size, with a suggested minimum of US \$50 for individuals and \$100 for organizations. As a non-profit, while we count on grants to carry out our program of work, we rely on your support to give us a solid, reliable basis on which that work can rest. Please be as generous as you can! In order to donate, you can:

- ◆ Go to our website and use your credit card through our secure on-line donation facility through our **Donate Now!** button
- ◆ Send us a check to the address in the following page. We will acknowledge all donations. Your donations are tax-deductible in the USA.

The rest of this newsletter updates you on Terralingua activities in 2007 and the first part of 2008. You will see that we have made a lot of progress on many fronts, and with your support we'll continue to do even more and better to sustain biocultural diversity around the world!

Thank you once again! We look forward to having you as a part of a vibrant, active membership.

With warm regards,

Luisa Maffi, Ph.D., Director

S U P P O R T T E R R A L I N G U A !

As a non-profit organization, we rely on public support to operate and to carry out our projects. Our funding comes from grants from foundations and other agencies, contracts for services to other organizations, and, most importantly, individual donors.

The contributions of individual donors like you are the solid foundation on which our operations rest. By sending us your donations, you show that you believe in Terralingua's mission to sustain biocultural diversity in this rapidly changing world, and want to support our work as much as possible.



Photo by Anna Maffi

To make a secure on-line donation, please visit www.terralingua.org, or detach the donation form below and send us your donation by mail.

Terralingua is a registered charity in the USA. We will acknowledge all donations, but only the USA donations are tax-deductible

Thank you for your generous support!

Yes! I Want to Support the Work of Terralingua

- Enclosed is my contribution of: \$ _____, or
- Enclosed are post-dated cheques for the amount of: \$ _____, for _____ Months
- I prefer to have my contribution deducted monthly from my bank account # _____

Bank name _____ Branch _____ Amount _____

Starting date _____

Signature _____ (Please send a void cheque)

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Please detach and send to: Terralingua, 217 Baker Road, Salt Spring Island, B.C. V8K 2N6, Canada.



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.

An update on Terralingua's 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).

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**.

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.

“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.”

United Nations Environment Programme
Global Environment Outlook (GEO-4), 2007

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



Photo by David Rapport

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



Photo by Stanford Zent

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.



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:

Sheri Tatsch, Chair (2007-9)
E. Annamalai, Vice-Chair (2007-8)
Alan Hedley, Secretary & Treasurer (2006-8)
Susan Fassberg, Director (2006-8)
Margaret Florey, Director (2007-9)
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:

<p><u>Executive Committee</u> (ex officio Governors of the Corporation) Chair, Sheri Tatsch Vice-Chair, E. Annamalai Sec/Treasurer, Alan Hedley</p>	<p><u>Indigenous Peoples Committee</u> Rauna Kuokkanen (Chair) Sheri Tatsch E. Annamalai</p>
<p><u>Fund Raising Committee</u> Sooz Fassberg (Chair) Sheri Tatsch Alan Hedley</p>	<p><u>Education Committee</u> Rick Stepp (Chair) Rauna Kuokkanen E. Annamalai Eugene Hunn Margaret Florey</p>
<p><u>Public Outreach and Web Site Committee</u> Sooz Fassberg (Chair) Sheri Tatsch Alan Hedley</p>	<p><u>Research Committee</u> Eugene Hunn (Chair) Margaret Florey Alan Hedley</p>
<p><u>Membership Committee</u> Alan Hedley (Chair) E. Annamalai</p>	

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**.



Photo by Anna Maffi

“Sustaining Cultural and Biological Diversity in a Rapidly Changing World: Lessons for Global Policy”

American Museum of Natural History, New York, 2-5 April 2008

Report by Luisa Maffi

Over 350 people from 22 countries and all continents, including social and natural scientists, conservationists, indigenous researchers and activists, funders, and members of NGOs and international organizations, gathered in New York on April 2-5, 2008 for the international symposium “Sustaining Cultural and Biological Diversity in a Rapidly Changing World: Lessons for Global Policy”. The symposium, held in the context of the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH)’s yearly Spring Symposium series, was co-organized by AMNH’s Center for Biodiversity and Conservation (CBC), the Theme on Culture and Conservation (TCC) of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)’s Commission on Environmental, Economic, and Social Policy (CEESP), and Terralingua. It was supported by The Christensen Fund, the Wenner-Gren Foundation, the US National Science Foundation, the Oak Foundation, and the Rockefeller Foundation.

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. The goal was to offer new avenues and tools to address the continuing erosion of the diversity of life, all of whose manifestations are under threat by many of the same human-induced forces—such as rapid socio-economic change, consumerism, development pressures, overexploitation of natural resources, and other negative effects of globalization. The symposium was intended as a forum for thinking through possible future research directions as well as developing recommendations for global policy.

Following welcoming remarks by AMNH President Ellen Futter and CBC Director Eleanor Sterling, and

after an introduction by Terralingua Director Luisa Maffi, Jules Pretty (University of Essex, UK) gave the first overview talk, “How do biodiversity and culture intersect?”. He incisively tackled the large task he had been assigned: weaving together the many strands of disciplines and subfields that have dealt with the intersection of nature and culture and identify their commonalities, then look at the convergence of biodiversity and cultural diversity, the threats facing them, the impacts, and the responses in policy and action. He concluded with ten key questions relevant to the development of policy and action—from how to influence governments to how to empower local communities and inspiring younger generations.

Pretty’s presentation was followed by brief remarks by Ken MacDonald (University of Toronto and IUCN/CEESP/TCC) on what he saw as some of the persisting ideological and political challenges of “reconciling the diversity” of approaches between conservationists and social scientists when it comes to addressing the relevance of culture for conservation. Then Ashish Kothari (Kalpavriksh Environmental Action Group, India, and IUCN Theme on Indigenous/Local Communities, Equity, and Protected Areas) gave the other plenary talk, “Local voices in global discussions: How far have international conservation policy and practice integrated indigenous peoples and local communities?”. He reviewed the changes that are occurring as concerns the integration of the rights and aspirations of indigenous peoples and local communities into international conservation policy and practices. While pointing to the progress made—particularly with the increasing recognition of community-conserved areas and the affirmation of fundamental rights through the efforts of the indigenous peoples’ movement—Kothari noted that much remains to be done, especially when it comes to the rights of non-indigenous local communities such as farmers and fisherfolks, as well as of mobile (nomadic) indigenous communities, and as concerns the willingness of governments to comply with international agreements.

The four special topic panels were: “Conserving biodiversity and sustaining cultural diversity: Opportunities and challenges”, chaired by Alaka Wali (Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, USA) and Eleanor Sterling (AMNH/CBC); “Measuring and monitoring state and trends in biodiversity and culture”, chaired by Jonathan Loh (Zoological Society of London, UK) and David Harmon (George Wright Society, USA); “Biodiversity conservation and the resilience of socio-cultural institutions”, chaired by Dan Brockington (University of Manchester, UK; in absentia) and Bhaskar Vira (University of Cambridge, UK); and “The cultural politics of sustaining cultural and biological diversity”, chaired by Adrian Cerezo, Dana Graef, and Michael Dove (Yale University, USA).

Of these, of particular interest was the second panel, which reviewed progress in the development of integrated indicators of biodiversity and culture. Much of the research discussed in the related background paper was the result of Terralingua projects: the Index of Biocultural Diversity and Index of Linguistic Diversity (Harmon and Loh), and the Vitality Index of Traditional Environmental Knowledge (Stanford Zent); or it was the work of Terralingua’s close associates (Board member Margaret Florey’s Linguistic Vitality Test). The discussants on this panel were David Rapport, Ashbindu Singh, Yolanda Terán, and Stanford Zent. David Rapport commented on the respective pros and cons of using individual indicators versus aggregated indexes, and suggested that the effectiveness of the emerging biocultural indicators will be increased through the formulation of a strong framework and the identification of key interconnected dimensions to be measured, such as the organization, vitality, and resilience of biocultural systems. Yolanda Terán provided an indigenous perspective on indicators, relating how indigenous organizations have struggled to develop their own understanding of what indicators are and what they do, and whether they could be useful to indigenous peoples rather than being just an outside imposition. She pointed out that in a number of cases indigenous peoples prefer qualitative to

quantitative indicators (including indicators related to governance and rights issues), but are familiarizing themselves with the importance of quantitative indicators as well.

In closing, Michel Pimbert (International Institute for Environment and Development, UK) acted as a “super-discussant” of the first day’s presentations, bringing together their many threads and synthesizing the main themes.



Day 2 opened with a short video titled “Voices from Around the World”, which brought together excerpts from the contributions of individuals and communities to a project meant to gather inputs “from the trenches” on the links among language, culture, and the natural world. This project will continue after the symposium and the inputs will be assembled in an interactive map format.

The rest of Day 2 was devoted to concurrent panels on a variety of topics, including the following, featuring the work of

Terralingua and its close collaborators: “Endangered languages and traditional knowledge”, chaired by Margaret Florey (Monash University, Australia); “Mapping biological and cultural diversity”, chaired by Rick Stepp (University of Florida, USA); and “Maintaining and recovering eco-cultural health: Challenges and opportunities”, chaired by David Rapport (Ecohealth Consulting, Canada). Margaret Florey’s panel included members of the small but energetic group of linguists and anthropologists who have worked specifically on the links between language maintenance or endangerment and the persistence or loss of traditional ecological knowledge (Nigel Crawhall, Murray Garde, Yih-Ren Lin, Peter Whiteley, and Stanford Zent), who reviewed the “state of the art” with examples from Indonesia, Southern Africa, Northern Australia, Taiwan, and North and South America. Rick Stepp’s mapping panel included Larry Gorenflo, who presented his work on Conservation International global biodiversity hotspots and linguistic diversity hotspots, and three other speakers who presented local-level

mapping work from an indigenous peoples' perspective: Philip Hogan on the use of mapping as a land planning tool among the Heiltsuk Nation in British Columbia, Canada; Nitin Rai on community mapping among tribal groups of India; and Sheri Tatsch on mapping Nisenan (Maidu) place names onto a conventional map of the Sacramento region of California, USA. David Rapport's panel on eco-cultural health provided a round-the-world tour of case studies of the maintenance and restoration of eco-cultural health—the organization, vitality and resilience of ecosystems and the communities living in them: from Mexico (Luisa Maffi) to Hawai'i (Scott Kekuewa Kikiloi and Amber Namaka Whitehead) to Australia (Glenn Albrecht) to Japan (Alphonse Kambu) to Bhutan (Victoria Lee) to Mesopotamia (Ashbindu Singh). All these panels were rich in content and very well received.

Other main Day 2 panels included: “Indigenous peoples and climate change”, chaired by Nora Bynum and Elizabeth Johnson (AMNH); “Agrobiodiversity”, chaired by Christine Padoch (New York Botanical Garden, USA); and “The role of social scientists in critical civic issues”, chaired by Alaka Wali (Field Museum, USA) and Eleanor Sterling (AMNH). Reports on the climate change panel (not attended by this reviewer) indicate that it also provided a wealth of poignant case studies.

An “ubuntu” space for both pre-planned presentations/discussions and impromptu meetings was available throughout Day 2. Among the pre-planned ubuntu events was one devoted to Terralingua's “Global Source Book on Biocultural Diversity”, which was coordinated by Source Book co-author Ellen Woodley (Liana Consulting, Canada). This same space also hosted an exhibition of Rick Stepp's stunning maps of biocultural diversity, the fruit of his recent work at the University of Florida—and a “preview” of the materials that will go into the production of a collaborative University of Florida-Terralingua “Atlas of Biocultural Diversity”.

Day 3 began with two panels on the cross-cutting topics of “Linking across scales from global to local and vice versa”, chaired by Myanna Lahsen (University of Colorado, USA, and IGBP, Brazil) and “Forging

alliances”, chaired by Terrence Turner (Cornell University, USA). These were followed by a panel on “Funding opportunities for sustaining cultural and biological diversity”, chaired by Ken Wilson (The Christensen Fund), and by a concluding summary panel discussion led by Kent Redford (Wildlife Conservation Society).

Of these, the most relevant was the funders' panel, which brought together representatives from several foundations and other funding institutions: Evelyn Arce-White (International Funders for Indigenous Peoples), Jeffrey Campbell (Ford Foundation), Terence Hay-Edie (Small grants program, UNDP-GEF), Anne Henshaw (Oak Foundation), Dana Lanza (Environmental Grantmakers Association), Josh Mailman (Mailman Foundation and Threshold Foundation), James Stauch (Gordon Foundation), and Rhea Suh (Packard Foundation). Wilson probed his fellow funders on a variety of questions having to do with



the extent to which their institutions embrace the notion of biocultural diversity and contribute to funding the field. All panelists were sympathetic and acknowledged the importance of including issues of culture along with the traditional concerns for environment, economy, and social justice. They also acknowledged, though, that there are persisting difficulties in matching the emerging interests of program officers with the established (and more old-fashioned) interests of the donors and the foundations' Boards, and in promoting integration among lines of funding. Several stressed the need to increase the amount of funding going directly to indigenous peoples and grassroots organizations, working on capacity building at the local level, and expressed admiration for The Christensen Fund for being risk-takers, funding new ideas and supporting the stewards of biocultural diversity. Perhaps the most significant outcome was the very fact of their presence at this venue and willingness to be challenged to do more. In the summary panel, Kent Redford addressed a number of questions to a group of panelists including representatives of international organizations (Eve Crowley of FAO, Gustavo Fonseca of the Global Environment Facility, and Rochelle Roca Hachem of UNESCO), and an indigenous representative (Aroha

Mead, Maori, of the University of Wellington, New Zealand). The questions ranged over how to increase funding for biocultural diversity (compared to, for instance, spending on armaments); obstacles to mainstreaming the recognition of the links between biodiversity and cultural diversity; how intellectuals can foster these processes; and whether academics and civil society are keeping pace with the tremendous challenges of our times. One of the more insightful responses here stressed the issue of “legibility”: that is, in order to engage governments and other decision makers—by and large still a “missing link” in the biocultural diversity equation—and convert messages into action, it is necessary to make the messages legible, by demonstrating the global scale and urgency of the problem of biological and cultural extinctions while putting a “human face” to it. The importance of showing and supporting the viability of traditional knowledge and collective forms of knowledge and know-how, and of increasing the international visibility of indigenous peoples and local communities was also stressed.

Some commentators, on the other hand, questioned the idea that the “burden of proof” always falls on those who are trying to advance a “bottom-up” agenda, and called for efforts to curtail the powers of those “at the top”. Some of the participants also noted that the main conservation organizations, such as the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and Conservation International, did not have a significant presence at the symposium and appeared to remain aloof on issues of biocultural diversity and the relevance of culture for conservation. But, as one participant put it, “Rome was not built in a day”, and this was an important step in that it brought together a wide array of stakeholders to get to grips with the issues through dialogue and sharing and emerging convergences around the plight of biocultural diversity. For us in Terralingua, if success were to be measured even just in terms of the number of times the expression “biocultural diversity” was uttered by people other than Terralingua members, the symposium would have been a smashing success! Clearly, the topic has been seeded at many levels, and now the challenge indeed is to mainstream it in policy and call governments to task on it.

In terms of influencing policy, the symposium served to establish a process for follow-ups in various policy venues. Special working groups met during lunch break on both Day 1 and 2, to discuss and prepare policy inputs for three pre-selected international processes: IUCN’s 4th World Conservation Congress (WCC; Barcelona, October 2008); the 7th session of the UN

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (New York, April-May 2008), and the 9th Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (Bonn, May 2008). The working groups will continue their activities after the symposium, in the lead-up to these venues. In particular, the WCC working group will formulate a formal resolution to be submitted for a vote at the WCC, requesting 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. Follow-up at the WCC will also be by means of a large block of side events focused on aspects of biocultural diversity, which The Christensen Fund is helping coordinate along with IUCN. Terralingua is directly involved in a number of these events, and our presence in Barcelona will allow us to contribute to efforts to lobby for IUCN members to “get serious” about biocultural diversity and take the message home to their constituencies.

Want to know more about the symposium?

All of the symposium’s proceedings were recorded and are available as a webcast on the symposium’s website: <http://symposia.cbc.amnh.org/biocultural/index.html>

Podcast interviews from the Symposium: <http://www.aworldofpossibilities.com/details.cfm?id=326>

Voices From Around The World

Beginning in October 2007, individuals and communities from around the world are invited to record and submit their perceptions about the links between their culture and the natural world. Accepted material will be posted on the Symposium website and linked to a world map.

A [list of sample questions](#) serves as a guideline for your responses, which may be submitted in written form, as video or audio recordings, through a series of photographs, or any combination thereof. Please provide an English-language translation or synopsis of audio and video submissions recorded in languages other than English.

For more information contact the America Museum of National History site: <http://symposia.cbc.amnh.org/biocultural/voices.html>

Membership

Update....

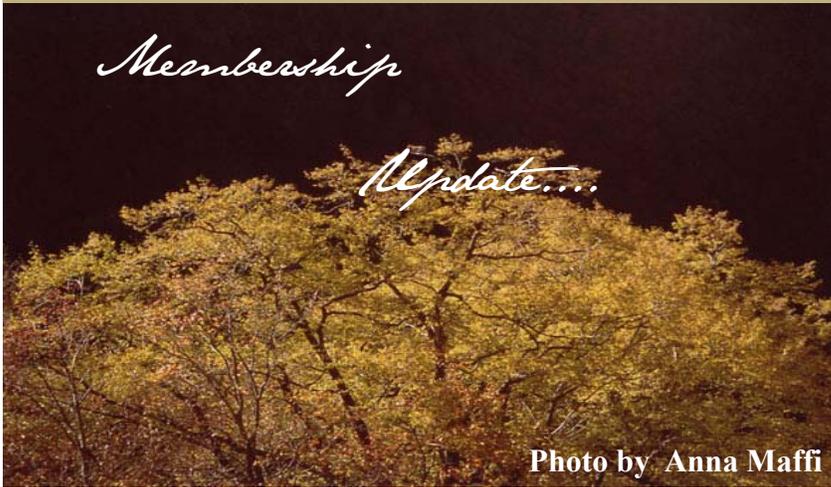


Photo by Anna Maffi

I would like to take the opportunity to introduce myself as the membership representative of Terralingua. Over the last few months I have been compiling a membership database that will facilitate communications between Terralingua's office and the rest of the world. I was very impressed with the amount of people supporting Terralingua's work on Biocultural Diversity, but most of all I was excited to see the level of expertise that we have in our membership group. Creating a network of people with such high profile has taken many years, and now I look forward to seeing that network move into a more dynamic role, in which Terralingua will facilitate the

connections among people in different regions to advance the field of Biocultural Diversity. Some ways to do that will be through the Discussion Forums on our website and also by sharing some of the work done by Terralingua and its members through our newsletter *Langscape*. We invite members to send news, information, or articles relevant to biocultural diversity, which might be either published in the newsletter or posted in the "news" section of the website.

Please feel free to contact Terralingua's office at membership@terralingua.org if you have any questions or suggestion about membership and on how we can best work together.

In peace, Tania Aguila

Unity in Biocultural Diversity



Weaving a Web of Diversity....

This issue of *Langscape* celebrates a new volume in Terralingua's story; as we rekindle our membership, we are also launching the newest version of our website.

What I was looking for was to build a graphic foundation with a navigation system that would clearly and quickly show the wealth of resources available on the site which were previously hidden. With an introductory statement for each section, I imagine this phase as Terralingua's storybook.

It is a delight as a designer, to feature the photographs of Italian Photographer, Anna Maffi, and work with photographs directly from the Sierra Tarahumara project, taken by Terralingua collaborator, David Rapport.

Our next phase of weaving, develops our site into an active and dynamic 'tool'. This will include a resource section of downloadable pdfs, research links and educational materials available in the field of biocultural diversity.

We are now seeing the return of our Member's Discussion Forum. Here, you can keep in touch with Terralingua's most recent activities, exchange ideas and seek resources.

Our site is being updated weekly, so please keep in touch, follow the changes and enjoy the show.

Become a Terralingua Member!

As we move forward, Terralingua is launching a Membership campaign. With this new volume of *Landscape*, we are happy to welcome new members and wish to rekindle old memberships. If you are already a member of Terralingua, please send us an email to membership@terralingua.org and update your contact information.

If you would like to become a member of Terralingua, please complete the membership form on our website <http://www.terralingua.org/tldyn/index.php/member/register/>

New and returning members can also print out and fill the form on this page and mail it to us at **Terralingua, 217 Baker Road, Salt Spring Island, B.C. V8K 2N6, Canada.**

Terralingua members receive our quarterly newsletter *Landscape*, are entitled to discounts on our publications and other special offers, and get occasional updates on “hot off the press” news.

Members have exclusive access to the Members’ Discussion Forum, which is devoted to how Terralingua and its members can work together to achieve our shared goals.

If you want to know more about how to become a member, send an email to: membership@terralingua.org.

For information about Terralingua’s work, please send an email to info@terralingua.org.

Member Registration Update

Are you Registering as Individual or Organization?	<input type="text"/>
Title	<input type="text"/>
Last Name	<input type="text"/>
First Name	<input type="text"/>
Business or Organization	<input type="text"/>
Street Address	<input type="text"/>
City	<input type="text"/>
Province/State	<input type="text"/>
Postal Code/Zip	<input type="text"/>
Country	<input type="text"/>
Phone Number	<input type="text"/>
Language(s) spoken	<input type="text"/>
Email	<input type="text"/>