



Terralingua Annual Report, 2000-01.

Terralingua News Update, Fall 2001.

Dear Terralingua members, first of all we owe you a sincere apology for skipping the June issue of *Langscape* with no notice. I hope the news I will give you below will serve both to explain this lapse and to reassure you that we are more alive than ever.

Before I do that, however, I feel the need to pause for a moment to consider the recent events that have so deeply shaken the United States, from which I write, and the entire world. I do not wish to go into a political or sociological analysis of the events. Rather, I wish to first of all express my deepest sympathy and support to any and all of you who may have been directly affected in any way by what happened in New York and Washington. Secondly, I wish to express my keenest hope that reason will prevail over the initial desire for revenge widely manifested in this country, beginning with its leadership, and that non-violent ways of responding to the attacks will be pursued. It will never be truer than in a case like this one that responding to violence with violence will only beget more violence -- and the consequences would be ones from which nobody anywhere would be immune. Finally, although it was a dramatic way to be reminded, it is even more evident that the work of organizations that, like Terralingua, seek to promote appreciation and respect for diversity and human rights is more necessary than ever in a world that is still riddled with intolerances, injustices, and inequalities of all kinds. Let us, then, as a community of people who care about the fate of humanity and the planet on which we live, solemnly renew our commitment to seek and promote peace and mutual understanding on this troubled, tragic, yet endlessly marvelous Earth of ours.

As I say this, I can't help thinking of someone who, I'm sure, would have shared this sentiment: our beloved Darrell Posey, whose passing I was profoundly grieved to announce in the previous (March) issue. At the end of April, Darrell's ashes were scattered in the waters of a small, lovely lake near the cottage he used to occupy in Oxford, England. During a heart-rending ceremony I was so very blessed to attend, and whose memory will be with me forever, he thus went back to the water whence all life comes. A later commemoration also took place near the water, this time that of the Pacific Ocean, on the Hawaiian island of Oahu, at

the end of May, on the occasion of the Building Bridges with Traditional Knowledge conference, during which Darrell had been asked to chair a session on indigenous peoples and intellectual property rights/traditional resource rights. Maui Solomon, to whom it befell to replace Darrell in this rôle, led participants in prayer and remembrance before starting the proceedings.* As was palpably clear on both occasions, Darrell's love, and the love of Darrell, will be with us forever and guide us to pursue, as best we can, the mission for which he lived and died: making the world a better place.

*(Darrell would also have been pleased with one of the outcomes of this session; that is, the establishment of the World Indigenous Coalition for Action (W.I.C.A.N., pronounced "we can"), an indigenous body intended to act as an autonomous voice in international debates on matters of intellectual property rights/traditional resource rights. For further information, contact Maui Solomon mauisolomon@hotmail.com or Kelly Bannister kellyb@telus.net or Ho'oipo Pa hooipopa@hawaii.rr.com).

A few months ago, we in Terralingua were both astonished and elated to find out that our keenness to pursue this mission had not gone unnoticed by a most unexpected observer. Unsolicited by us, last January we were contacted by the Ford Foundation with an expression of interest in our work, as part of a developing focus on language issues within the Foundation. We were told that our work had come to the Foundation's attention as especially innovative and broad-ranging and were invited to present the Foundation with our plans for future work. Be it chance or fate, at that very time we were precisely in the process of formulating such plans, with a focus on what we decided to call Global Biocultural Diversity Assessment (G.B.C.D.A.). We designed this as a multi-year project following up and building upon our earlier collaboration with the World Wide Fund for Nature on the overlaps between the world's biological and cultural diversity and their implications for conservation at both levels. We submitted our project to Ford and learned shortly thereafter that it had been approved for funding for Phase 1 (2001-2002), to be devoted to the development of the general framework for the study and to some initial analyses, with results to be presented at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (the "Earth Summit +10") in Johannesburg, South Africa, in September 2002.

Before we knew it, we were thus suddenly put in a condition, after five years of activities as a non-profit, to move from a "virtual" existence as a group of volunteers to a "real" existence as a funded

organization (with a good likelihood of soon establishing a small office in Washington, D.C. -- more on this soon). We will, of course, need to actively pursue additional funding in order to be able to continue this "real" existence and develop the later stages of our project. But this is an extraordinary first step that will, we are confident, place us in a good position *vis-à-vis* future fundraising. Needless to say, we feel immensely rewarded for all our efforts and grateful to the Ford Foundation for its interest in and appreciation of our work. Above all, we take this as the most tangible indication so far that the momentum that has been building (and to which we contributed) around the interrelation of linguistic diversity, with all other aspects of the diversity of life, has now reached the threshold of public awareness and that this issue is beginning to be perceived as a legitimate and timely topic for research and action.

I will reserve a fuller discussion of the G.B.C.D.A. for the next issue of *Langscape*. The project's executive summary follows this report. The full text of the project will soon be posted on our Web site (which is in the process of being re-designed and updated by Anthea Fallen-Bailey). For now, I'll only mention that the project will include both global analyses as well as a series of case studies at a regional, national, or local level. Our pilot case study, already in process, is devoted to the biological, cultural and linguistic diversity of the Colorado Plateau ecoregion in the southwest of the United States. Last June, we established a partnership with Northern Arizona University's (N.A.U.) Center for Sustainable Environments (C.S.E.) in Flagstaff, Arizona, directed by Terralingua Advisory Panel member Dr. Gary Nabhan, for the realization of this case study and other projects. The study will be presented at the Earth Summit along with the other initial results of Phase 1 of the G.B.C.D.A. Based on this model, we are discussing various possible additional studies on all continents.

As a part of this partnership with C.S.E., we have been offered office space on the N.A.U. campus, where post-doctoral researcher Dr. Patrick Pynes is acting as Terralingua-C.S.E. liaison and coordinates the production of the case study. Also in June in Flagstaff, Terralingua and C.S.E. co-organized the retreat "Bridging ecological restoration and language revitalization in Native American communities", which was attended by researchers and practitioners in both fields, many of them Native Americans from the Colorado Plateau First Nations. A paper including highlights from this remarkably stimulating event will also be posted soon on our Web site. For additional information, contact Dr. Gary Nabhan gary.nabhan@nau.edu or Dr. Patrick

Pynes patrick.pynes@nau.edu. The retreat came at the tail end of the Eighth Annual Stabilizing Indigenous Languages Symposium, "Merging Tradition and Technology to Revitalize Indigenous Languages", organized by another important unit on the N.A.U. campus, the Center for Excellence in Education. The potential for synergy between Terralingua and N.A.U. is evident at several levels.

Finally, the G.B.C.D.A. has already attracted even more far-reaching attention. We have been invited to participate in a design meeting of the United Nations' Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (M.E.A.), to be held in Cape Town, South Africa, at the beginning of October. (I write this just before preparing to fly there). The M.E.A. is a major effort to assess the state of the world's ecosystems by gathering and analyzing the best existing information and to recommend policies based on these findings (see www.millenniumassessment.org). Terralingua will have an opportunity to bring in our biocultural perspective and to contribute to addressing issues related to the rôle of traditional ecological knowledge in conservation. I will report on this meeting and its outcome, both in general and for Terralingua purposes, in the next *Langscape*.

As you can see, these have been both momentous and busy times for Terralingua, so we hope you'll forgive us for not having kept you, our members, regularly abreast of the situation! We are now striving to consolidate and strengthen our organizational structure in order to more efficiently perform our activities and services. We will keep you informed of this process as well.

I would also like to alert you to the fact that Board election time is coming up. The current Board of Directors, elected at the end of 1997, has served for the statutory three years and is due to step down at the end of this year. The Nominating Committee (Luisa Maffi, Tove Skutnabb-Kangas, Dave Harmon), formed earlier this month, is now selecting nominees for the following positions: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and 5 to 9 at-large Board members. According to our by-laws, additional nominations may be made by individual Terralingua members on petition signed by at least 10 individual members and delivered to the chairperson of the nominating committee (Maffi) at least 45 days prior to the opening date of the election balloting period. The balloting period will begin on December 1. Thus you, as members, will be able to submit nominations by petition (according to the mentioned procedure) until October 15. After that date, we will inform you of the nominations received and of the voting

procedure.

In conclusion, the future looks promising for Terralingua and the causes we stand for. The following Annual Report will serve as a reminder of what we accomplished in 2000-2001 -- with a meager U.S.\$5,000 budget! We are certainly poised to accomplish a lot more now with the Ford Foundation funding in our coffers. As always, though, it is you, the members, who constitute the backbone of our organization. Please make your voices heard at election time! And please also remember that, while we have been so exceptionally fortunate in obtaining funding from a major foundation, we are still far from having ensured our long-term existence and ability to further these causes. Therefore, while your membership will continue to be free, we will continue to count on your generosity in providing donations of any size -- be as generous as you can! I'd like to remind you that you can now securely donate on-line on our Web site, using the "Donate now!" button made available to us by E-Grants, a programme of the Tides Foundation. Alternatively, you can always send your checks care of Dave Harmon, our Treasurer, at P.O. Box 122, Hancock, MI. 49930-0122, U.S.A. For U.S. residents, donations either way are tax-deductible charitable contributions. Many thanks once again for your support! Sincerely,

Luisa Maffi.

Global Biocultural Diversity Assessment

Executive Summary.

The Global Biocultural Diversity Assessment is a multi-year project (2001-2005) that aims to provide the first comprehensive integrated assessment of global biological and cultural diversity ("biocultural diversity"). The project has funding from the Ford Foundation for Phase 1, with results to be presented at the United Nations' Earth Summit +10 in Johannesburg, South Africa, in September 2002. This project is also linked to the United Nations' Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, in whose process Terralingua is participating.

The G.B.C.D.A. will consist of three main components: a set of G.I.S.-based analyses of global correlations between biological and cultural diversity; an Index of Biocultural Diversity (I.B.C.D.) measuring trends in biocultural diversity; and a series of sub-global case studies that will look in detail at the links between biological and cultural diversity, with a focus on traditional ecological

knowledge and the rôle of local languages in knowledge maintenance and transmission, and on concrete action for joint biocultural conservation at various scales (from regional to local).

The primary use of the G.B.C.D.A. will be as a tool for planning and implementation of biocultural conservation and to identify priority areas and appropriate avenues for action. Internationally, the G.B.C.D.A. will be geared to assisting the Secretariats and States Parties of the major environment-related international conventions, such as the C.B.D., in the implementation of the relevant provisions on preserving and promoting traditional environmental knowledge. Researchers and practitioners working on biocultural conservation in indigenous and traditional communities around the world, including members of such communities themselves, should benefit from this database and from the integrated perspective it will provide, as well as from the conceptual and methodological tools offered by the case studies.

The G.B.C.D.A. will be an interdisciplinary effort calling upon the natural and social sciences, both theoretical and applied, and drawing from collaboration and partnerships with a large number of institutions, organizations, researchers, and practitioners from around the world.

Terralingua Annual Report (1 July, 2000 - 30 June, 2001).

Programme Review.

During the year under review, Terralingua continued to carry out its integrated programme of research, applied work, policy and outreach. Several major works authored or co-authored by Terralingua researchers were published or accepted for publication during 2000-2001:

Oviedo, G., L. Maffi, and P.B. Larsen. 2000. *Indigenous and Traditional Peoples of the World and Ecoregion Conservation: an integrated approach to conserving the world's biological and cultural diversity*. Gland, Switzerland: W.W.F.-International and Terralingua.

Maffi, L. (ed.). 2001. *On Biocultural Diversity: linking language, knowledge and the environment*, L. Maffi (ed.). Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian Institution Press.

Maffi, L. and T. Carlson (eds.) forthcoming.
*Ethnobotany and Conservation of Biocultural
Diversity*. Advances in Economic Botany Series.
Bronx, N.Y.: New York Botanical Garden Press.

Harmon, D. forthcoming. *In Light of our
Differences: how diversity in nature and culture
makes us human*. Washington, D.C.: Smithsonian
Institution Press.

Among numerous other journal articles and book chapters published by Terralingua Board members were the following two that appeared in two guest-edited issues of *Cultural Survival Quarterly*:

Maffi, L. 2000. "Toward the Integrated Protection of Language and Knowledge as Part of Indigenous Peoples' Cultural Heritage". *Cultural Survival Quarterly* 24 (4): 32-36. Winter 2001 issue, "Culture as Commodity: intellectual property rights", M. Riley and Katy Moran (guest eds.).

Magga, O.H. and T. Skutnabb-Kangas 2001. "The Saami Languages". *Cultural Survival Quarterly* 25 (2): 26-31. Summer 2001 issue, "Endangered Languages, Endangered Lives", E. Moore Quinn (guest ed.).

Plans for Terralingua's Global Biocultural Diversity Assessment (G.B.C.D.A.) were developed in the first part of 2001 and successfully submitted to the Ford Foundation. Implementation of Phase 1 of the G.B.C.D.A. will occur in 2001-2002. During the period under review, activities preliminary to implementation of the G.B.C.D.A. included contacts with numerous institutions with which Terralingua will or is likely to collaborate on the G.B.C.D.A.: Millennium Ecosystem Assessment; Global Environment Facility; World Bank; W.W.F. International and W.W.F.-U.S.; Conservation International; U.S. National Air and Space Agency (N.A.S.A.); U.S. National Academy of Sciences; American Association for the Advancement of Science; Population Action International; S.I.L. International; Linguistics Department, Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology (Germany); Linguistic Society of America; Linguistics Department, Georgetown University (Washington, D.C.); Northern Arizona University (Flagstaff, Arizona); Anthropology Department and Elliott School for International Affairs, George Washington

University (Washington, D.C.); Department of Integrative Biology, University of California (Berkeley, California); National Autonomous University of Mexico (U.N.A.M.), Campus Morelia (Morelia, Michoacán, Mexico).

Collaborative links were established with N.A.U.'s Center for Sustainable Environments (C.S.E.), directed by Terralingua Advisory Panel member Dr. Gary Nabhan. The collaboration focuses on efforts to integrate ecological restoration and language revitalization in community-based projects in the Colorado Plateau and on the elaboration of a case study on biocultural diversity in the Colorado Plateau for the G.B.C.D.A. The bases for this collaboration were established during the retreat "Bridging ecological restoration and language revitalization in Native American communities", co-organized by C.S.E. and Terralingua and held on the N.A.U. campus on 17-18 June, 2001. A Terralingua-C.S.E. office was established at N.A.U., co-ordinated by a post-doctoral liaison officer. Initial steps for a similar collaborative relationship with George Washington University were undertaken.

In 2000-2001, we continued to follow the development of the Sierra Tarahumara Diversity Project (later re-named Project on Diversity in the Sierra Tarahumara), an initiative of the Mexico-North Research Network taking place in the Rarámuri (Tarahumara) community of Norogachi in the State of Chihuahua, Mexico. During the June 2001 retreat on the N.A.U. campus, we discussed with colleagues from N.A.U.'s Ecological Restoration Institute the possibility of starting a community-based forest restoration project in Norogachi, linked to language and culture revitalization. This possibility will be pursued later this year in Norogachi.

Terralingua also participated in the "Innovative Wisdom" process started by Board member Gary Martin in collaboration with the International Science Council's (I.C.S.U.) International Union for the Historical and Philosophical Sciences. The purpose was to discuss the relationships between Western science and traditional knowledge, in light of the controversy that followed the U.N.E.S.C.O.-I.C.S.U. Declaration on Science and its affirmation of the relevance of traditional knowledge. Two meetings on this topic were held during the period under review: in October 2000 in Yulee, Florida, and in May 2001 in Honolulu, Hawai'i. Ensuing recommendations were sent to the I.C.S.U. committee in charge of reviewing the issue. A book of proceedings is being edited by Gary Martin. A third meeting was planned for September 2001 in Rome,

Italy.

In terms of outreach, we continued to provide services through our Web site and newsletter. An important addition to our Web site was an F.A.Q. (Frequently Asked Questions) page, mostly based on Tove Skutnabb-Kangas's book *Linguistic Genocide in Education -- or Worldwide Diversity and Human Rights?* Other means of outreach were correspondence with members and interested others, public speaking at numerous venues, as well as articles, communications, and interviews in magazines, newspapers and radio programmes. Of special note was Tove Skutnabb-Kangas's article "Murder that is a Threat to Survival", published in the March, 2001 issue of *The Guardian Weekly*, vol. 164 (13), as a part of a series devoted to "global English".

Also of particular resonance was the press release of the W.W.F.-Terralingua report, organized by Gonzalo Oviedo of W.W.F. International in November 2000 in Gland, Switzerland, which generated considerable press coverage around the world. A joint talk by Luisa Maffi, Gonzalo Oviedo and Sarah Christiansen (W.W.F.-U.S.) at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History (Washington, D.C.) introduced the report, as well as Terralingua's plans for the G.B.C.D.A., to the general public and to invited representatives of various national and international organizations. In February 2001, press attention was also devoted to Darrell Posey's edited book *Cultural and Spiritual Values of Biodiversity*, published by the U.N. Environment Programme, which included a chapter on linguistic diversity. The media's attention was focussed on this book by the extensive reference made to the book by U.N.E.P.'s Executive director Klaus Töpfer during the U.N.E.P.'s General Assembly. Töpfer repeatedly referred to the need to think of conservation in an integrated fashion, jointly addressing the threats to the world's cultural, linguistic, and biological diversity. In connection to this U.N.E.P. statement, Maffi was interviewed on linguistic diversity and biodiversity during U.N. Radio's "Scope Magazine" programme (6 March, 2001).

In November 2000, Terralingua co-organized (with Steve Bartz) the video screening "Coevolution: nature and culture" at the Berkeley Natural History Museums (Berkeley, California), a selection of videos on indigenous peoples from all over the world and their efforts to protect and revitalize their languages, cultures, and environments.

Mentions of Terralingua in the media have multiplied beyond our

ability to keep track of them. Among those noted during the period under review, Terralingua's Web site was praised, and Luisa Maffi interviewed in Michael Pollack's *New York Times* article "World's dying languages, alive on the Web" (19 Oct., 2000). Terralingua was cited as one of the sources in the *Issues and Controversies on File* article "Linguistic Diversity" (vol. 5, no. 22, 24 Nov., 2000, pp. 481-488), and mentioned in two articles by David Taylor on environmental issues: "Ancient Teachings, Modern Lessons", *Environmental Health Perspectives* 109 (5), 2001, pp. 208-215, and "Listening to the Language of the Land", *Américas* 53 (4), 2001, pp. 38-45.

Organizational Review.

- 1) The organization maintained its corporate registration with the state of Michigan through the filing of the requisite paperwork in September 2000;
- 2) In January 2001, we received from the U.S. Internal Revenue Service the final determination of our status as a non-profit organization, known as 501(c)(3) status;
- 3) Our membership currently stands at 376 members. Our streamlined membership structure no longer distinguishes among membership categories, with the exception of organizational members. As per our by-laws, such members are not eligible to vote in Terralingua Board elections. Of the 363 members, seven are organizations. The geographic distribution of our membership is: Africa 13; Asia 19; Europe 87; North America (incl. Central America & Caribbean) 179; South America 21; Oceania 28; and unspecified country 29 (generic e-mail address only on file). During the first part of 2001, for the first time we were able to offer additional, occasional, membership benefits in addition to the newsletter, in the form of discounts on several publications by Terralingua Board members and others;
- 4) A Board of Directors meeting was held, once again on-line, during the period 10 October - 10 November, 2000. This unusually extended period was due to our inability to find a shorter period of time during which all Board members would be available at the same time for e-mail discussion of the agenda. There was only one item on the agenda, that is, consideration of which direction Terralingua should take in its development, in terms of its foci of attention and of the needs to be fulfilled, also in view of starting a decisive fundraising campaign. The results of the meeting were: 1) Terralingua should concentrate on developing research in its own

signature domains of biocultural diversity and linguistic human rights; 2) should carry out its own research in this domain rather than research commissioned by others, while making sure that this research is relevant to key policy issues internationally, regionally, and locally; 3) information and education services should be continued mostly through our Web site and newsletter, while advocacy and applied work should focus as much as possible on issues directly related to our research; 4) should develop a fundraising strategy to move from volunteer to funded status;

5) An application to the Tides Foundation's E-Grants programme was reviewed successfully, allowing us to establish a secure mechanism for on-line donations to Terralingua on our Web site;

6) An unsolicited offer from the Ford Foundation to submit a proposal led to Terralingua obtaining its first grant for programme development. The grant from the Ford Foundation became available as of 1 June, 2001 (although the actual disbursement of the funds to Terralingua did not occur until the following month, after the end of the fiscal year 2000-2001).