



## Terralingua Annual Report, 2004

With continued support from The Christensen Fund (TCF), in 2004 Terralingua (TL) further advanced its work program, the **Global Biocultural Diversity Assessment (GBCDA)**. The GBCDA is a multi-year program that aims to increase understanding of the interlinkages between linguistic, cultural, and biological diversity worldwide, as well as promote a biocultural approach in policy and on-the-ground projects. In addition to the GBCDA's three ongoing projects: **Geographic Information Systems (GIS) mappings of biocultural diversity** ; **Index of Biocultural Diversity** ; and **Global Source Book on Biocultural Diversity** , in 2004 TL started developing plans for an **on-the-ground project in collaboration with the Rarámuri of the Sierra Tarahumara of northern Mexico** . A planning meeting for the latter project had support from both TCF and the International Development Research Centre of Canada (IDRC). Activities related to each of these projects are described below, followed by a summary of other activities and institutional matters and by a financial report for 2004.

### 1. GIS Mappings of Biocultural Diversity

The purpose of these mappings is to depict the overlapping distributions of the world's biological and cultural diversity (the latter represented by linguistic diversity) and to analyze the observed correlations, yielding data that can inform policy recommendations for both environmental conservation and sustainable development.

- Following up on the review and analysis of our earlier work, conducted in 2003, in early 2004 Terralingua established a partnership with the GIS lab at the University of Florida, Gainesville, directed by Prof. Rick Stepp, Dept. of Anthropology. Stepp and his students undertook the further development of our previous GIS work, with the explicit purpose of beginning to address specific research questions on global biocultural diversity through GIS, and thus to contribute to the development of a more solid scholarly basis for biocultural diversity studies.
- Stepp and his group produced new mappings through the use of a new database from the University of Bonn that represents global □biodiversity zones□ beyond state or regional boundaries. The initial results of their work were described in a paper published in issue 13 of *Policy Matters* , a IUCN-World Conservation Union journal.
- In late 2004, Stepp obtained a grant from The Christensen Fund in order to further map and catalog biocultural diversity on a global scale and to develop detailed mappings at regional levels (Hindu Kush, Mesoamerica and Northern Australia/Melanesia). Through the addition of new data sets, he and his students plan to explore causal factors in the development, maintenance and

loss of biocultural diversity.

## **2. Index of Biocultural Diversity (IBCD)**

The IBCD is modeled after indexes used in the environmental field to gauge current conditions and trends in the state of the environment. Its purpose is to jointly measure global trends in biological and cultural diversity using a small number of indicators, and thus serve as a benchmark for changes in biocultural diversity. This index is itself meant to fill a noted lack of meaningful sociocultural indicators in global environmental assessments, which has hampered the deployment of a "humans-in-environment" perspective in policy and on-the-ground action.

- Building on their previous work, IBCD co-authors David Harmon and Jonathan Loh wrote an article on the IBCD for *Policy Matters* 13, published in November 2004, and submitted a research report to the journal *Ecological Indicators*.
- Harmon and Loh also prepared an extensive discussion paper on the IBCD for the 9<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Ethnobiology (ICE), which was held in June 2004 at the University of Kent, U.K. At the congress, Loh presented the paper in a workshop titled "A Global Index of Biocultural Diversity", with Gary Martin (Global Diversity Foundation), Rick Stepp (University of Florida), and Stanford Zent (Instituto Venezolano de Investigaciones Científicas) as discussants. Following this presentation, Harmon and Loh produced a revised draft of the IBCD, which was posted on TL's website.
- In June 2004, Harmon and Loh were invited to take part in the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)'s Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Indicators for Assessing Progress Towards the 2010 Biodiversity Target, whose role is to address the CBD's need for an indicator on the status of traditional knowledge, innovations, and practices, and specifically on the status and trends of linguistic diversity and numbers of speakers of indigenous languages.
- Through their participation in this process, Harmon and Loh began seeking ways in which further developments of the IBCD might serve the purposes of the CBD. To this purpose, they started investigating three areas in particular: better overall data on the numbers of speakers of the world's languages; trend data in the number of speakers of the world's languages; and elaboration of quantitative measures of traditional environmental knowledge and rates of change in the transmission of this knowledge from older to younger generations.

## **3. Global Source Book on Biocultural Diversity (GSB)**

This project aims to provide the first global source of information about projects, programs, and initiatives that take an integrated biocultural approach to environmental conservation and maintenance and revitalization of local languages and cultural traditions. It is also meant to offer an overview of the field of biocultural diversity and a variety of bibliographic and other resources on biocultural diversity.

- Through continued dissemination of our initial call for contributions, information about 33 projects from all continents was received and entered into our database.

- Based on these responses, Luisa Maffi and Ellen Woodley initiated the second phase of the survey, addressing follow-up questions to survey respondents and beginning to analyze the data received.
- Bibliographic data gathering continued, yielding over 400 references on biocultural diversity and related topics, in view of preparing a review of the literature in this field.
- A draft GSB report was prepared and circulated among respondents for their feedback. Based on the constructive comments and suggestions received, a further revised draft was prepared and posted on TL's website in late December 2004.
- Contributors showed an appreciation for the project's effort to allow people doing biocultural work in different parts of the world to learn about one another's activities. Respondents also expressed enthusiasm for the idea of a bulletin board, to be developed on TL's website, that would allow them to network with one another and more directly exchange ideas and experiences.
- Luisa Maffi prepared an article for *Policy Matters* 13 (November 2004), in which the GSB was presented and the call for contributions included, thus reaching the vast IUCN network.
- In late 2004, a new grant from The Christensen Fund was received for the completion, publication, and dissemination of the GSB.
- We continued to disseminate the call for contributions and began seeking opportunities for partnering with larger organizations for the purposes of both expanding the reach and impact of the GSB and garnering sponsorship and support for the later publication of the resulting work.

#### **4. Sierra Tarahumara Project**

- On 27-28 March 2004, TL held a planning meeting with Rarámuri governors (traditional authorities) in the town of Guachochi, in the Sierra Tarahumara of the state of Chihuahua, Mexico. With support from TCF and IDRC, a TL team of Canada- and US-based participants met with the Rarámuri, to hear their concerns and explore possibilities for collaboration on community-based and □directed projects on issues of ecological and cultural resilience and human health.
- Preparations for the meeting were undertaken in collaboration with Sr. Carlos Palma, coordinator of the Rarámuri Educational Initiative, who invited the Rarámuri governors and organized local meeting logistics, field activities, and entertainment.
- The meeting was attended by 25 Rarámuri authorities from 15 communities. The interaction was very successful and led to an invitation to the visitors to come back at a later time to hear the result of the governors' consultations with their communities and possibly to start planning educational and field activities with a focus on ecological, cultural, and human/animal health related to water.

- Given this outcome, TL initiated a follow-up with IDRC, which indicated that funding for a second meeting might be available for the second half of 2005. The purpose of this meeting would be for TL to receive feedback from the Rarámuri governors and, in the case of a positive response, work with them on a larger proposal to establish a collaborative project in one or more communities. The focus of this project would be on alternative education about water from both a Rarámuri and a scientific perspective, as well as on-the-ground work to restore a stream and revitalize traditional knowledge about stream ecosystem management. A new proposal to IDRC was to be submitted before April 2005.

## **5. Other Activities**

Promotion of the biocultural diversity approach occurred at various venues, including:

- The Workshop on Sustainability and Environment held by the Canadian Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council at York University, Toronto, in February 2004.
- The IUCN □ UNDP Dialogues on Biological and Cultural Diversity and the Millennium Development Goals, held in Barcelona, Spain at the Universal Forum of Cultures in September 2004.

Two significant publications in 2004 were:

- The special issue of IUCN's journal *Policy Matters* (issue 13), devoted to the topic of history, culture, and conservation, and co-edited by Grazia Borrini-Feyerabend, Ken MacDonald, and Luisa Maffi, which was showcased at the World Conservation Congress in Bangkok, Thailand, in November 2004. It contained papers on TL's Global Source Book on Biocultural Diversity, the GIS mappings, and the Index of Biocultural Diversity.
- The edited volume *Ethnobotany and Conservation of Biocultural Diversity* (Thomas J. Carlson and Luisa Maffi, eds.), published by New York Botanical Garden Press in the *Advances in Economic Botany Series* (Vol. 15). This volume presented some of the most recent ethnobotanical research as relevant to the conservation of biocultural diversity.

## **6. Organizational Development**

One major development at the organizational level was the decision made by TL's Board in the Spring of 2004 to close the Washington, D.C. office, for financial and administrative reasons, and revert to a □virtual□ (Internet-based) mode of operation, while maintaining our incorporation in the U.S.A. The office was closed in June 2004. Project activities continued without interruption through our distributed network of collaborators, with program and administrative coordination carried out from the President's office in Canada. Initial discussions took place about the possibility of incorporating TL also in Canada, to take advantage of sources of funding only available to Canadian nonprofits.

In December 2004, TL's annual Board Meeting was held by conference call, during which general elections were also held. As per TL's by-laws, a new election procedure was inaugurated,

based on staggered slates of candidates. This is meant to ensure that in the future only a subset of Board positions will come up for election in any one year. The positions of Secretary and Treasurer had become vacant earlier in 2004. The new Board, with some continuing and some new members, is composed as follows (with term in office in parentheses). Board members' bios are posted on our website.

Luisa Maffi (President and Secretary, 2006)  
 E. Annamalai (Vice-President and Treasurer, 2005)  
 Anvita Abbi (Director, 2006)  
 Rauna Kuokkanen (Director, 2007)  
 Martha Macri (Director, 2005)  
 David J. Rapport (Director, 2005)  
 John Richard Stepp (Director, 2007)  
 Jeffrey L. Wollock (Director, 2007)

The Board agreed to temporarily fill the Secretary and Treasurer vacancies as shown above, as it was felt that more time was needed to discuss our related needs in the context of a more general discussion of TL's institutional matters. The Board therefore decided to constitute a task force of Board members that would be in charge of consulting the rest of the Board and provide recommendations on a variety of organizational issues by June 2005. The task force was to be created and start work in early 2005. The President also agreed to initiate a visioning process about the future of TL, to take place in the course of 2005. Finally, the Board confirmed its favorable position concerning TL's registration as a non-profit in Canada, subject to clarification of certain aspects of this process through consultation with qualified Canadian accountants and lawyers.

#### **Terralingua Financial Report, 2004**

##### **Revenue**

Contributions, gifts & grants	104,206
Interest	40
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>\$104,246</b>

##### **Expenses**

Salaries & benefits; consultants	54,774
Payroll taxes	4,748
Accounting & legal fees	13,405
Supplies	1,478
Telephone	2,435
Postage & shipping	664
Occupancy	9,925
Equipment rental & maintenance	242
Printing & publications	828
Travel	3,983
Conferences, conventions & meetings	14,896
Depreciation, depletion, etc.	0

Insurance	1,778
Other expenses	19,074
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>\$128,230</b>

<b>Change in net assets, 2004</b>	<b>□\$23,984</b>
Net assets as of 1 January 2004	125,309
Change in net assets, 2004	□23,984
<b>Net assets as of 31 December 2004</b>	<b>\$101,325</b>