



## **Terralingua Annual Report, 1999-2000.**

Dear Terralingua Members,

Another year of Terralingua existence has gone by, and it was fuller of activities and responsibilities than ever, as you will see from the attached activity report. Besides significant collaboration with major institutions and organizations, recognition has come to Terralingua via increased attention to us and our cause on the part of the media. Our Web site is being regularly updated and expanded and has earned itself repeated kudos for its comprehensiveness and informativeness. (As I write, we have just received yet another query from a journalist, in this case a *New York Times* columnist who is writing about Internet resources on endangered languages and (his words) was "fascinated" by our Web site). *Langscape* has continued to come to you as another source of a wealth of information and new knowledge about linguistic, cultural, and biological diversity and their mutual links. (See below for yet another thought-provoking article, by philosopher Kieran Suckling). As we report below, our work has continued to develop on the linguistic human rights front as well. Several books on these topics by Terralingua Board members came out or were prepared for publication this year and are already making, or are expected to make, an impact both within and outside specialized circles. Additionally, individual Board members, in their respective fields, have unstintingly pursued activities supportive of Terralingua ideals and goals.

Most of this is still happening through the extraordinary volunteered commitment of Board members, which reached truly outstanding extremes when our valiant newsletter editor, Anthea Fallen-Bailey, delivered the June 2000 issue of *Langscape* only days after giving us the shocking news of the sudden passing of her beloved father. Most of this, also, happened all the way through a long phase of life-threatening health concerns for our one-of-a-kind Vice- President, Tove Skutnabb-Kangas, whose condition in its acute phase left doctors at a loss and her family, friends, and colleagues on edge - and even once diagnosed it took a long time, and debilitating treatment, to bring under control. It also happened through disasters and transitions for Terralingua's President, whose

Evanston, Illinois apartment was partially destroyed by a fire just shortly before she was set to pack and move to Washington, D.C. After the dust settled (or the smoke dissipated, as the case may be), she did indeed pack and move and is now happily settled (well, almost settled) in the U.S. capital, where a Terralingua office (home office for now!) is also being established.

I dwell on such personal matters in part because this is the human face of the Terralingua Board - and it is always good to remember that such exists; in part to further stress the extent of our achievements even under the hardship conditions that life brought to several of us. But I could not omit mentioning the support we received from you, our members. You heard last year's appeal for membership renewals and donations and generously helped us move toward our stated goal of raising a still very modest **\$5000** in the year 2000 to cover our most basic operating and infrastructure expenses. As of September, we are delighted to inform you that you have taken us **\$3,070** close to that goal. This, among other things, has finally allowed us to establish our own internet domain, [www.terralingua.org](http://www.terralingua.org), along with Web hosting and e-mail services. Our sincerest thanks to all of you who have thus shown your trust and appreciation for what we are doing, along with a renewed invitation to each and every one of you to contribute, or contribute again, if you can so do. Let us reach (or, why not, surpass!) our funding goal for this year!

Additional support will enable us, for instance, to acquire a secure server and a credit card facility (**\$300 in equipment and \$500 a year**), allowing for the receipt of credit card payments either directly or via the internet - a much easier way of contributing and essentially the only convenient one for non-U.S. residents. This should help us increase the level of support coming to us through memberships and individual donations. It bears mentioning that we are, at last, gearing up for a concerted quest for support from funding institutions - in this, it also bears mentioning, greatly aided by another wonderful volunteer, Ben Willman, who designed a new, smart Terralingua brochure that is bound to take us "to the next level" in terms of public image. As a part of the Terralingua portfolio we're putting together to present to foundations, we need to have copies of this brochure professionally printed (**\$250**). Finally, in order to increase our chances of success with foundations, we need to develop a long-term plan and funding strategy for Terralingua. That will be the main topic for discussion in the upcoming Terralingua Board meeting. At the same time, in this connection we may find it useful to engage the services of one of the support organizations that help fledgling non-profits build

their profile. Although a sliding scale is applied, these services might cost us **\$500-1500**, depending on the number of hours needed.

Thus, even as we work toward becoming fully funded, we still need to count on your, the members', support as our lifeline to keep us going through thick and thin! Please do continue to give as generously as you can. The Treasurer's report below will give you an idea of how your money was spent this year. We trust that you'll find it was spent wisely and put to its best use in supporting many of the activities described below.

In closing, on behalf of the Terralingua Board of Directors, let me express my gratitude to all of you for having stayed with us and supported us for one more year. We look forward to continuing to serve you in the future. Best regards,

Luisa Maffi, President.

### **Annual Report of Activities, 1999-2000.**

Terralingua in the press and other media. The past year saw an almost exponential increase of media attention to the topic of endangered languages and the impending linguistic diversity crisis. It even seems to begin to seep into the public consciousness that there may be some relation between this crisis and the biodiversity crisis, and that both of these issues are related to matters of human rights.

We in Terralingua can only feel rewarded by these developments, since we have been working so hard for half a decade now to see them happen. Adding to the reward, in 1999-2000 we have had our fair share of recognition in several media outlets, research reports, and books. Amongst these we can cite an article in *The Futurist* (August-September 1999) and one in *Whole Earth Magazine* (Spring 2000). Both mention our Web site as a rich source of information, the latter even as a "cornucopia" and "perhaps the best on the Web". The former also includes photos of Terralingua Board member Martha Macri and Advisory Panel member Michael Krauss at work on language documentation and revitalization, and photographs from Advisory Panel member Margaret Florey's

fieldwork with speakers of the endangered language Alune (Maluku, Indonesia).

Maffi was interviewed (in Spanish) on linguistic diversity for the B.B.C. Latin American program "Via Libre", which aired in December 1999. We were consulted by R.A.I.-Radiotelevisione Italiana (Italian national television) in relation to a training programme on "variety and translations of human codes and languages" addressed to R.A.I. journalists and C.E.Os. (Naples, June 2000). The Terralingua Web site was prominently on display in a section devoted to linguistic diversity, and trainees also watched a compilation of some of the videos Terralingua had compiled (in collaboration with Virtual Learn) for the video screening "Nature and Culture: preserving the diversity of life" presented in April 1999 at the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago.

Interestingly, we were also consulted for (and our contribution was later acknowledged in) the occasional paper "Variety and Values: a sustainable response to globalization?", prepared by Solitaire Townsend for British Telecommunications. A remarkably well written, general-audience paper on biological and cultural diversity (including linguistic diversity) and what is happening to it in a globalizing world, meant for a readership of C.E.Os. from the point of view of corporate responsibility and responsible business, and whose conclusion is that "globalisation cannot be sustained unless it respects and enhances cultural as well as biological diversity". Still in the world of communications technology, Luisa Maffi was interviewed for an article on machine translation (*Wired Magazine*, May 2000), and was (correctly) mentioned therein as cautioning that faith in machine translation might make people in technologically advanced societies even lazier about learning other languages and thus understanding other world views.

Lastly, Terralingua features as one of the support organizations for endangered languages in linguist David Crystal's popular book *Language Death* (Cambridge University Press, 2000). A significant part of our statement of purpose is quoted on p. 98, preceded by a remark to the effect that stressing the relationship between language and ecology (an urgent task in Crystal's view) was "the chief motivation leading to the establishment of one of the new pressure groups in the 1990s, Terralingua". The 1996 Terralingua-sponsored conference "Endangered Languages, Endangered Knowledge, Endangered Environments" is also mentioned in a footnote on the same page as "the first joint

meeting on the loss of cultural and biological diversity".

Public outreach. Our Web site and electronic journal have continued to improve in the hands of Dave Harmon and Anthea Fallen-Bailey, respectively. As mentioned above, the Web site has won accolades as "perhaps the best" in our field. We plan to keep it that way and better! - although Dave certainly deserves some long-due help to continue to accomplish what he has admirably achieved so far through single-handed efforts. We are seeking a volunteer with webmaster skills to aid Dave in this task. As for *Langscape*, we started distributing it in .pdf format, which was a vast improvement in terms of looks and ease of electronic transmission. This format should also allow us to give the magazine a "face lift" by redesigning its front page and including our logo on it. We have continued to receive compliments for content (thanks, Anthea!), although in response to some concerns about growing size of the electronic document we're planning to "shed some pounds" and give you a slimmer, more agile publication with more focused attention on Terralingua activities and to general research and policy developments in our field. This very issue begins this new trend. We welcome your feedback on this matter: is this the direction in which you would like *Langscape* to go?

Among other activities aimed at reaching the general public, it bears mentioning that in March 2000 Terralingua and Virtual Learn presented an expanded version of the 1999 "Nature and Culture" screening at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C., as a part of the city-wide Environmental Film Festival. This event was widely publicized and well attended, and generated enthusiastic reactions and an animated question-and answer session between attendees and Luisa Maffi, acting as commentator. (A shorter version of this screening is scheduled for presentation in November in the Department of Integrative Biology at University of California at Berkeley, as part of a talk series focused on coevolution - in this case, coevolution of nature and culture).

Research publications. We are also expanding our reach with our own publications and the publication ventures we're involved in. Beside a wealth of articles by Board members, the past year saw several of us at work on, or launching, major books in our field. Topping the list is Tove Skutnabb-Kangas's magnum opus *Linguistic Genocide in Education - or worldwide diversity and human rights?* (Lawrence Erlbaum, 2000). At nearly 800 pages, with an astonishing wealth of tables and boxes, this must surely be

the most comprehensive treatment ever of the topic of linguistic human rights, especially in education. Also worth mentioning is the volume *Rights to Language: equity, power, and education* (Lawrence Erlbaum, 2000), edited by Terralingua member Robert Phillipson, a tribute to Tove Skutnabb-Kangas on her sixtieth birthday. Sakej Henderson and Marie Battiste published *Protecting Indigenous Knowledge and Heritage: a global challenge* (Purich Publication, 2000), and Battiste also edited *Reclaiming Indigenous Voice and Vision* (University of British Columbia Press, 2000). Dave Harmon completed his manuscript *In Light of Our Differences: how diversity in nature and culture makes us human*, now under review for publication. Maffi was at work on two edited volumes: *On Biocultural Diversity: linking language, knowledge and the environment*, based on the "Endangered Languages" conference mentioned above, to be published by Smithsonian Institution Press in Spring 2001; and (with Thomas Carlson), *Ethnobotany and Conservation of Biocultural Diversity*, based on the session by the same title the editors organized last year at the International Botanical Congress in St. Louis, Missouri, soon to be submitted for publication.

In addition, Tove became series editor of the new book series "Multilingualism and Linguistic Diversity" with the Dutch publisher Swets & Zeitlinger. The first book in the series, by Rob Amery, *Warrabarna Kaurna! Reclaiming an Australian Language*, was published in July 2000. (Tove welcomes relevant manuscript submissions!). Maffi became international advisor to the new peer-reviewed electronic journal *Diversity*, which will focus on all aspects of the diversity of life. (For more information about this journal, please contact Maffi).

Linguistic and other human rights. On the front of the linguistic and other human rights of indigenous peoples and minorities, Skutnabb-Kangas has been pursuing cooperation with U.N.E.S.C.O. on the revision of the Draft Universal Declaration of Linguistic Rights and is preparing an article for *Cultural Survival Quarterly* on the topic. Maffi has continued to speak on rights to language and knowledge as part of indigenous peoples' cultural heritage (including at a session on indigenous intellectual property rights at the 1999 meeting of the American Anthropological Association) and is also preparing a related article for *Cultural Survival Quarterly*. This journal reaches a vast audience of cultural advocates and advocacy grassroots organizations, so that these articles should help put an increasing accent on language issues within human rights circles. Marie Battiste contributed to the development of Mi'kmaq Research Principles and Protocols for the

Mi'kmaq Grand Council in the Atlantic provinces of Canada. These shall attempt to protect indigenous knowledge and heritage from unwanted appropriation and misuse. Battiste was also selected as Co-chair of the Seminar on the Draft Principles and Guidelines for the Protection of the Heritage of Indigenous People, held at the U.N. in Geneva February 28-March 1, 2000. The Final Report of the seminar is available as U.N. document no. E/CN.4/Sub.2/2000/26, which includes the final version of the draft principles and guidelines, now under examination by the Subcommission on Human Rights.

Conservation research and policy. On the policy front, this year we brought to near completion the project on which we have been collaborating with the World Wide Fund for Nature (W.W.F.) International since 1998. This project involved cross-mapping the world's ethnolinguistic groups onto the W.W.F. map of the "Global 200" conservation-priority ecoregions and in preparing the W.W.F.-T.L. report "Indigenous and Traditional Peoples of the World and Ecoregion-Based Conservation: an integrated approach to conserving the world's biological and cultural diversity", also including guidelines for W.W.F. partnerships with indigenous peoples in biodiversity conservation. Terralingua co-ordinated the mapping project, which was realized by a number of collaborators and then brought together by Manuel Lizarralde and Anne Lott at Connecticut College in New London, Connecticut.

The mapping aimed to show the overlap of the locations of ethnolinguistic groups (mostly indigenous and tribal peoples) and the Global 200 ecoregions, to stress the importance for a conservation organization such as W.W.F. to work in partnership with indigenous peoples in those ecoregion where such overlap is found. The results of the cross-mapping could not be more convincing: out of 233 priority ecoregions, 225 have ethnolinguistic groups living in them, for a total of 4,635 groups, or 67% of a world total of 6,867 ethnolinguistic groups!

The map was officially presented for the first time last July at the W.W.F. stand at the World Expo. 2000 in Hanover, Germany. You can view two photographs of this event, showing the map, on our Web site, and read the executive summary of the report (also included in this issue of *Langscape* for your convenience), as well as a brief paper based on the report that was presented, also in July, at the Cultures and Biodiversity Congress 2000 in Kunming, Yunnan, People's Republic of China. The full text of the report is under final revision and will be published by W.W.F., along with a small version of the map. In the longer term, W.W.F. hopes to

produce a whole kit including a CD-ROM in addition to the report and map. We will keep you posted as these documents and materials become available.

Still in the domain of conservation, Dave Harmon has continued to champion the cause of cultural (including linguistic) diversity in his field of parks and protected areas, including at the 4th. Science and Management of Protected Areas Conference in Waterloo, Ontario, Canada (May 2000).

Last year, Gary Martin founded The Global Diversity Foundation (G.D.F.) in the United Kingdom, with the goal to document, monitor and promote agricultural, biological and cultural diversity around the world, particularly through participatory training and research. As Gary explains in the G.D.F. announcement reproduced in this issue of *Langscape*, the Foundation is launching an international program of research, training and action that will focus on the challenges facing agricultural, biological and cultural diversity and seek practical solutions to these challenges. G.D.F. activities will be highly complementary with those of Terralingua, and we can anticipate close collaboration to develop between these two organizations.

Documenting linguistic diversity and supporting language revitalization. We have also been involved in research projects aimed at documenting linguistic diversity and supporting language revitalization. Skutnabb-Kangas is collaborating with U.N.E.S.C.O. on the World Languages Project, an extensive survey that aims to produce an up-to-date assessment of the state of the world's languages. At the Native American Language Center, University of California at Davis, Martha Macri has continued to work on language revitalization with students and several local Native American communities and to contribute to "Breath of Life, Silent No More", a workshop for Native Americans working on their languages, who come from communities with no or very few speakers of the ancestral languages. (The workshop is directed by Prof. Leanne Hinton at the University of California, Berkeley). Anvita Abbi was offered a visiting professorship at the Max Plank Institute in Germany to help establish a data bank on some of the tribal languages of India on which she has been working. As you probably know, many of our Advisory Panel members also are at the forefront of this kind of research, as well as of language support activities on all continents.

Biocultural diversity research. Our focus on biocultural (including



linguistic) diversity is central to another project on whose conceptualization we have been collaborating for over a year - the Sierra Tarahumara Diversity Project (S.T.D.P.). The S.T.D.P. is a bi-national (U.S.-Mexican), multidisciplinary, and multicultural initiative focused on the biological, cultural, and linguistic diversity of the Sierra Tarahumara of the state of Chihuahua, in northern Mexico. It has four general objectives: 1) to document the cultural, linguistic, and biological diversity of the Sierra Tarahumara; 2) to understand the interrelationships among these different forms of diversity, both today and in the past; 3) to identify threats to this diversity and opportunities to promote its conservation; 4) to produce benefits for specific communities and the region as a whole that local residents consider appropriate and significant.

This initiative is being developed by a number of institutions in Mexico and the United States in partnership with members of predominantly indigenous communities of the Sierra Tarahumara. These institutions include the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History, the Comisión Nacional para el Conocimiento y Uso de la Biodiversidad (CO.N.A.B.I.O.), the Centro de Investigaciones y Estudios Superiores en Antropología Social (C.I.E.S.A.S.), the World Wide Fund for Nature-Mexico (W.W.F.), the Instituto de Ecología, A.C., and the non-profit organization Mexico-North Research Network. The principal Sierra Tarahumara participants to date are Rarámuri (Tarahumara) people from the area of Norogachi, situated near the headwaters of two of the Sierra's main rivers, the Río Urique and the Río Conchos.

Maffi has been representing Terralingua in preliminary S.T.D.P. activities, including two planning meetings in June and August of this year between participating researchers and Sierra residents, leading up to an official invitation extended by the traditional leaders of the Norogachi communities to the sponsoring institutions and other scholars involved to start collaborating on project development. Terralingua is now in the process of defining its specific rôle in the project, with a likely focus on fostering the multidisciplinary and multicultural collaboration it will require, organizing training workshops, researching the biological-cultural-linguistic diversity links and issues of language and traditional ecological knowledge, and working on matters of ethics in the collaboration between researchers and local people.

