



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

Program Review

During the year under review, Terralingua continued to carry out its integrated program 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.).

1766 Lanier Place NW • Washington, D.C. 20009 • USA

Phone/Fax: +1.202.9866139

E-mail: terralingua@terralingua.org

Web site: <http://www.terralingua.org>

Terralingua is registered as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization under U.S. tax laws (#38-3291259)

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 several of 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

1766 Lanier Place NW • Washington, D.C. 20009 • USA

Phone/Fax: +1.202.9866139

E-mail: terralingua@terralingua.org

Web site: <http://www.terralingua.org>

Terralingua is registered as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization under U.S. tax laws (#38-3291259)

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 a FAQ (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 focused 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.

1766 Lanier Place NW • Washington, D.C. 20009 • USA

Phone/Fax: +1.202.9866139

E-mail: terralingua@terralingua.org

Web site: <http://www.terralingua.org>

Terralingua is registered as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization under U.S. tax laws (#38-3291259)

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) we should develop a fundraising strategy to move from volunteer to funded status;
- 5) An application to the Tides Foundation's E-Grants program 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).

1766 Lanier Place NW • Washington, D.C. 20009 • USA

Phone/Fax: +1.202.9866139

E-mail: terralingua@terralingua.org

Web site: <http://www.terralingua.org>

Terralingua is registered as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization under U.S. tax laws (#38-3291259)