

# ANNUAL REPORT 1989



WYOMING



IWGIA

ANNUAL  
REPORT  
1989

BY

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INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS

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## IWGIA ANNUAL REPORT

### Introduction

1989 has been a year of consolidation in IWGIA activities both in terms of organizational work locally at the Secretariat and by IWGIA's national groups, as well as at an international level.

A very important event during 1989 was the granting to IWGIA of non-governmental, consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations. This means that IWGIA has now the right to address Committees, Working Groups, and organizations under the United Nations.

Unlike the previous year when, owing to lack of funds, it was necessary to cut down on IWGIA's publications, this year IWGIA has been able to publish nearly all documentation scheduled for the year, both in Spanish and in English. In addition, IWGIA has been able to open two new posts in the Secretariat: an English Documentalist and a Spanish Documentalist. The positions have been occupied by Filomenita Mongaya Høgsholm and Mario Di Lucci and they will work full time and part-time respectively. These two new positions will enable IWGIA's Directors to coordinate the publications more thoroughly, and to devote more time to research and coordination of the general activities. In addition, IWGIA has also been able to employ two Anthropology students on a part-time basis. One of them has been working on IWGIA's card index files; the other one has made a bibliography on indigenous health and disease models in the Bolivian highlands, for IWGIA.

We are all sorry to see Andrew Gray move this year to England after working in the Secretariat for six years. He has now become a member of IWGIA's International Board and will continue with his commitment to IWGIA from the new position. Jens Dahl, former member of IWGIA's Board, together with Teresa Aparicio, who has now behind her a decade of work at IWGIA, form the team of IWGIA's co-directorship. IWGIA wishes to continue with the system of having two Executive Directors because it permits a division of labour which makes it possible for us to cover different indigenous issues more thoroughly. It also enables the Executive Directors to interchange practical work and publishing responsibilities within IWGIA, with research activities outside the International Secretariat.

This report covers the main issues, in which IWGIA has been engaged during 1989, and it presents an overview of the indigenous world movement. The world-wide struggle for self-determination of indigenous peoples, and their ability to organize themselves regionally, nationally, and inter-regionally, is increasingly becoming an international force which governments are compelled to consider. In addition, the indigenous cause has won new advocates with the shift of focus by some environmental organizations who now include indigenous issues in their struggle to protect the world's environment.

The role of IWGIA continues to be that of supporting indigenous nations in their endeavour to shape and control their ways of life and their futures as they themselves see fit. Throughout the world IWGIA also actively supports and helps indigenous groups in organizing themselves. During the last few years IWGIA has been supporting locally-based initiatives by channelling applications from indigenous-

controlled projects to the Norwegian State Development Agency (NORAD) and lately, to the Danish State Development Agency (DANIDA).

IWGIA's activities this year has covered a great variety of indigenous issues and it is not possible here to give a detailed account of all of them. We will, however, cover the main aspects of IWGIA's work in this report.

#### 1. IWGIA's revised structure & statutes

IWGIA's revised structure was officially adopted during IWGIA's last Board meeting held in Fanø (Denmark) in November 1989. At this Board meeting, IWGIA's revised structure was incorporated into IWGIA's statutes. The amended statutes were likewise passed during the same meeting.

IWGIA's highest authority is its International Board, recruited from the constituent parts of IWGIA: IWGIA's Council, IWGIA's national groups (formerly local groups) with one representative each, IWGIA's two Executive Directors and IWGIA's Administrator from the International Secretariat. An International Board Meeting takes place at least twice a year.

IWGIA's Council is composed of individuals from various countries who are committed to IWGIA's aims and who have experience in indigenous affairs. Council members attend IWGIA's International Board meetings, represent IWGIA internationally, and provide IWGIA with regular information on indigenous affairs. Appointments to the Council has to be approved by the International Board.

Every two years IWGIA's International Board chooses a Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson from IWGIA's Council members and the Chairperson's signature legally binds IWGIA in its activities. In the case of the Chairperson's absence, the Vice-Chairperson takes over the Chairperson's duties.

IWGIA's revised structure includes an Executive Committee. The Executive Committee consists of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson from the International Board and the Secretariat members of the International Board. The Executive Committee deals with routine matters concerning the Board in the interim period between Board meetings. The structure of IWGIA is as follows:

International Board:

Rene Fuerst - Chairperson (1989-92). He is a curator at the Ethnographic Museum in Geneva.

Georg Henriksen - Vice-Chairperson (1989-92). He heads the Institute of Anthropology in Bergen, Norway.

Aud Talle. Anthropologist. She works with the Swedish Development Agency and teaches at the Institute of Anthropology in Stockholm.

Espen Wähle. Anthropologist. He works at the Norwegian Agency for Development Co-operation (NORAD) in Oslo.

Andrew Gray. Recently moved to England. He is now undertaking a 3-year research program. He also tutors anthropology students at Oxford University.

Jens Dahl & Teresa Aparicio. Both are Anthropologists and are the Executive Directors of the International Secretariat. Their work includes the co-ordination and editing of all IWGIA's publications, and the co-ordination of IWGIA's international work and general activities.

Karen Bundgaard Andersen. She is IWGIA's administrator and responsible for the preparation of IWGIA's budgets, bank-accounts, and other relevant administrative tasks.

Representatives of IWGIA's national groups from Denmark, Norway, Sweden, and Switzerland.

Executive Committee:

IWGIA's Executive Committee is formed by Rene Fuerst, Georg Henriksen, Teresa Aparicio, Jens Dahl, and Karen Bundgaard Andersen.

2. IWGIA's National Groups

The work of IWGIA's national groups in Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland have mirrored IWGIA's process of consolidation. The different groups have made exhibitions on specific indigenous issues. They have published brief versions of IWGIA's Newsletters in their own languages, and they have also contributed to national debates on indigenous issues by publishing articles in the national newspapers and producing radio programmes regularly. In addition, they have also participated in international meetings on indigenous issues, and have likewise been able to hold international Conferences on the same. IWGIA's National Groups from Switzerland, Sweden and Denmark participated at the UNWGIP this year. Of the variety of issues undertaken by IWGIA's National groups, the following are worth mentioning:

IWGIA's Swedish National Group held a Chittagong Hill Tracts Conference in Stockholm on May 20-21. The Conference was attended by international NGOs, representatives from the Swedish State Agency for Developing Aid (SIDA), representatives from the Jumma indigenous peoples of the CHT, as well as a representative from the Bangladesh Embassy in Stockholm. The Conference provided a forum for open discussion on the current situation in the CHT. It also raised the issue of the Swedish involvement in Bangladesh; it also provided a basis for discussing the future work of European NGOs on the CHT issue.



The Zurich National Group has organized seminars on different topics. During the summer of 1989, the group organized a seminar entitled "Ethnology and Human Rights" at the Department of Anthropology, University of Zurich. After the seminar, an interdisciplinary group called Rainforest Group of Zurich was founded. The Group is expected to provide a discussion forum for human rights' organizations and environmental groups. Public lectures have been held by the Group, accompanied by relevant ethnological films on the situation of the Yanomami Indians in northern Brazil and the Mangyan people of the Philippines. The activities of IWGIA's National group in Switzerland have been supported by Prof. Loffler from the Institute of Anthropology in Zurich.

IWGIA-Norway has started to co-ordinate activities with other NGO organizations for the 1992 Indigenous Peoples Campaign (marking the 500 years of the arrival of Europeans in the Americas) as well as working towards the holding of a Conference during 1990, reflecting the role of NGOs on indigenous issues. A very important task of the Group has been the preparation of a new special issue of IWGIA's Norwegian Newsletter, containing articles on indigenous affairs exclusively.

The National Group from Denmark has been especially active in Arctic issues. The writing and editing of an IWGIA-compiled Document on Arctic environmental issues is nearly finished and will be published during the first part of 1990. Likewise, a translation of the book "Arctic Hunters" for schools and high-schools has been completed and it will be published at the beginning of this year. Furthermore, a major exhibition about Arctic Peoples, environmental issues and indigenous, traditional trapping methods was shown at the Roskilde music festival last summer. In addition, members of IWGIA-Denmark have contributed to the public debate on the

same topics by publishing several articles in the Danish press.

### 3. Finances

IWGIA's 1989 budget shows a deficit, although not as serious as in previous years. The reasons for the deficit are mainly owing to an increase in production prices together with lack of funding for IWGIA's publications. Another reason is the fact that IWGIA has increased its networking efforts with indigenous peoples and organizations who in turn receive our publications free of charge. This results in an increase of publications volume and consequently an increase in production costs and postage. There is not one single funding agency for IWGIA's publications, therefore should IWGIA not succeed in raising adequate funds for the publications scheduled for 1990, continuing our documentation work will become a serious problem. Up to now we have only succeeded in obtaining funds for a few specific documents and not for all of our publications such as a well co-ordinated publication-work requires. Added to this is the fact that IWGIA's funding agencies make their contributions for only one year at a time. This means that there is always uncertainty when planning our activities -what grants to earmark for what projects- since IWGIA is not sure whether the funds will still be available the following year.

### 4. Visitors

#### Anini Surui.

Anini is a Surui Indian from Rondonia, in western Brazil. During his visit to IWGIA we discussed a health project which is currently being implemented among the Surui and which NORAD is financing. We also discussed the current

situation in his area and the fact that madereras companies are selling timber illegally from indigenous areas. IWGIA did arrange meetings with some environmental organizations, before which Anini explained how the environment is being destroyed by these timber companies. The Surui people have recently established their own organization, the Surui Association, which comprises all Surui groups in Rondonia. One of the primary objectives of the Association is to protect the land-rights of the Surui and to ensure that the extractive activities on indigenous lands are controlled by the Surui.

#### Catarino Sevirope

Sevirope is a Gavião leader also from Rondonia. He came accompanied by Mauro Leonel, the Director of IAMA (Institute of Anthropology & Environment). We talked about the health situation of the Gavião and other Indian groups in the area. We also discussed the possibilities of obtaining funds for a meeting which Sevirope wishes to organise with different Indian groups in Rondonia. IWGIA accompanied Sevirope and Mauro to NORAD in Norway in order to discuss NORAD's possibilities of extending help to the Gavião. The Gavião Indians are currently setting up an organization which will comprise all the Gavião groups.

#### Betty Mindlin and Mauro Leonel

Betty Mindlin and Mauro Leonel are Brazilian anthropologists who have collaborated with IWGIA and contributed to our publications for many years. Mauro is finishing a document for IWGIA on the consequences of road-building for indigenous groups in Brazil. Peter Frick, a German medical doctor who has been working among indigenous groups in Paraguay, joined us in one of the meetings where we held discussions on integrated health, education and development program for different Indian groups in Rondonia.

Luis E. Maldonado

Luis E. Maldonado is a Quechua Indian from Ecuador. He represents the National Confederation of Indians in Ecuador (CONAIE), the national umbrella organization for highland, jungle and coastal Indians in Ecuador. We talked about CONAIE's activities in connection with the 500 years' campaign for 1992, and the role Indian organizations wish IWGIA to take during their 500 years' campaign. CONAIE has started its own editorial house and has already published two volumes on indigenous nations in Ecuador.

Mrs. Kesang Y. Takla

Mrs. Takla is the Representative of the exiled Government of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, in London. She visited IWGIA in connection with a Hearing on Tibet which took place in Copenhagen on November 19th. Mrs. Takla informed IWGIA on the human rights violations in Tibet during the last two years, and the increasing militarization of Tibet which has led to an increase in violence and repression of the civilian population. We talked about IWGIA's support of the Tibetan people through the publication of information material on the situation in Tibet today.

Jimid Mansayagan

Accompanied by other indigenous representatives, Jimid Mansayagan, from the Indigenous People's Research Center-Mindanao, Inc. in the Philippines, visited IWGIA in August. During this visit, Mansayagan talked about the continuing massive and indiscriminate violations of human rights of the Lumad indigenous peoples. The indigenous leader asked IWGIA to follow the specific case and related events closely, and to protest on the situation of the Lumad people before the Aquino Government.

## 5. Networking trips and Conferences

IWGIA also collects information on indigenous issues, and get acquainted with the indigenous reality, through field networking trips to indigenous areas. This year IWGIA visited indigenous peoples and organisations in Mexico, Belize, Guatemala and Costa Rica.

Andrew Gray, together with Miguel Alfonso Martinez, member of the UNWGIP and special rapporteur of an independent UN study on the nature of treaties and agreements between indigenous nations and nation states, participated at an historical meeting held in Onion Lake, Canada. There, a sacred stone pipe ceremony was performed for the first time since the treaty negotiations in 1876.

Under the theme "Finding Common Ground", indigenous women from all over the world met for the first time in Adelaide, South Australia. IWGIA was one of the few NGOs which participated in this historical meeting. Teresa Aparicio who represented IWGIA at the meeting, was commissioned by the Women's Conference Assembly to bring to the UNWGIP, the Declaration of Unity formulated at the closing ceremony of the Conference. The Declaration was unanimously supported by the close to 1 500 participants of the Conference. An interim Womens's Committee was formed in order to co-ordinate the Second International Indigenous Women's Conference, to be held in Karasjok, Samiland, in August 1990. The Committee has asked IWGIA to give practical and logistic support to the International Indigenous Women's Committee in the future.

IWGIA has regularly begun to publish detailed and reliable information on the situation and the organization of indigenous peoples in the Soviet Union. The opening up of

information channels as well as availability of travel possibilities now granted by the Soviet Government to its nationals, has been an extremely positive incentive for the indigenous peoples of the north. The Inuit people from Greenland, Alaska, and Canada, and the Sami people from Samiland can now see the fulfillment of many years' efforts towards bringing together Inuits and Samis living on both sides of the frontiers. Jens Dahl visited the Soviet Union, including Siberia, in the summer of 1989. It is expected that an indigenous organization will be established in the Soviet Union during 1990.

IWGIA's recent status as an international NGO has increased IWGIA's participation in the international arena. During 1989 IWGIA continued to follow the revision process of ILO Convention 107 in Geneva. The Convention has been passed, although not all indigenous peoples and indigenous organizations agree on the revision. IWGIA has taken the position of supporting the presence of indigenous representatives at ILO and accommodating their inputs into the revision process; and at IWGIA, we have documented the different positions in our reports and publications as accurately as possible.

IWGIA has continued to participate in the annual sessions of the United Nations Working Group on Indigenous Peoples (UNWGIP). This year IWGIA has also supported the participation of indigenous peoples in ILO meetings and at the UNWGIP sessions through the Human Rights Fund, of which IWGIA is a member.

IWGIA has likewise participated in other indigenous gatherings, such as the General Assemblies of the Inuit Circumpolar Conference (ICC) and the Nordic Sami Council, held in Greenland and Samiland respectively. Claus Oreskov

from the Danish National Group represented IWGIA in both meetings.

In addition, IWGIA has carried out evaluation work of development projects undertaken by indigenous peoples themselves and financed by Scandinavian State Aid Agencies.

## 6. Publications

IWGIA's publications have both English and Spanish editions. Each Document/Documento treats a special theme concerning the situation of a particular indigenous people. The Newsletters/Boletines contain latest news and articles, while the IWGIA Yearbook provides a global view of events in the indigenous world and accounts of developments, as well as comments and analyses.

Through information given directly to us by indigenous peoples, and through reports from the field by scholars working in the relevant areas, IWGIA seeks to inform and to exert influence on governments, international organizations and public opinion, thereby furthering understanding and knowledge of, as well as involvement in the cause of indigenous peoples.

All IWGIA publications are sent free of charge to indigenous groups and organizations around the world. Materials that see print in IWGIA's publications are often written by indigenous and non-indigenous researchers and by persons concerned with the indigenous cause.

In 1989, IWGIA publications came out almost as scheduled. The 1988 Yearbook was published in April and one of its themes was the 20th Anniversary of the founding of

IWGIA. It devoted a special section on IWGIA's history from its founding in 1968 to the present. The second section of the Yearbook presented a global overview of the main events in the indigenous world during that year. The third section contained international issues such as the revision process of ILO Convention 107. It also included statements made by indigenous peoples on the draft Declaration of Indigenous Rights at the United Nations. Finally, The Yearbook focused on four indigenous issues: Deforestation and World Bank policies; Human Rights and Development in Southern Africa; Indigenous Peoples in Paraguay; and the situation of the Yanomami Indians in northern Brazil. The Yearbook ends with an useful cumulative Newsletter Index covering the period 1976-1988.

IWGIA Document No. 63, also published in Spanish as Documento No.9, contains the Proceedings of the IWGIA Symposium at the Congress of Americanists, held in Amsterdam, in July 1988 entitled Indigenous Self-development in the Americas. All the articles in the Document were written by the indigenous representatives who attended the IWGIA Symposium. The articles deal with self-development, self-determination, and the value of indigenous knowledge.

Document No. 64 on Paraguay, is written by Ticio Escobar. Trained as a lawyer, the author of this Document is a Professor of Philosophical Anthropology at the Universidad Catolica of Asuncion, Paraguay. His many years' commitment to Human Rights generally, and indigenous rights in particular, is well known. The document has already been published in Spanish in Paraguay. Therefore, IWGIA has published the English Version only. Under the tittle Ethnocide: Mission Accomplished?, the document describes the cultural genocide committed on the indigenous peoples of Paraguay by the fundamentalist missionaries of the New Tribes Mission.



Two short Documents were published in Spanish in 1989: Documento No. 8: A la Sombra del Dique Srisailàmico, is a study on the construction of an hydroelectric power dam which caused the forced removal of 150 000 people. The dam was built in Andhra Pradesh, south India. The document is the result of a research made by K.R. Crowsry, D.V. Subba Rao, G. Krishnamurty, and G. Narendranath.

Documento No. 9 gives a global overview of the situation of indigenous peoples in the Pacific region. This Document has been very much welcome among our Spanish-speaking readers since there is little information in Spanish on the Pacific. The author of this Documento is Susana B.C. Devalle, Professor of Anthropology in the Center for African and Asian Studies, the Colegio de Mexico, Mexico City.

IWGIA Newsletters (nos. 57 and 58) came out in May and August while Volume 9 of IWGIA Boletines appeared in two double numbers, 1&2 and 3&4, published in June and December respectively.

In addition, IWGIA has published several articles on indigenous issues in the Scandinavian media.

### 7. IWGIA's Programmes

IWGIA's work has been manifested through IWGIA's programmes that have been developing over the last few years. Although individually independent, IWGIA's programmes are nevertheless interrelated and deal with human rights, research, and development issues. This coordinated work structure permits the support of specific indigenous issues from several angles. At the same time, IWGIA's publications form the framework upon which all these activities are displayed.

### 7.1 Human rights programme.

#### International work.

A way by which IWGIA supports indigenous participation in international events where indigenous issues are discussed, as well as further support indigenous political organization at the local, regional, national, and inter-regional levels, is by channeling funds directly to the indigenous peoples. In co-operation with support organisations from Holland and Belgium, IWGIA established the Human Rights Fund, a few years ago. The objective of the Fund is to ensure indigenous participation in international meetings, such as the UNWGIP, the ILO, and the UN Human Rights Commission, where indigenous issues are discussed.

#### Commissions & Hearings.

After several years' work, IWGIA has also succeeded in establishing in 1989 an independent international Commission to investigate human rights violations in the Chittagong Hill Tracts in Bangladesh. The Commission was formally established as an IWGIA-supported independent Commission in Copenhagen, on October 15th. The members of the Commission are: Hans Pavia Rosing, an Inuit member of the Danish Parliament as well as member of the Greenlandic Parliament; Leif Dunfjeel, a Sami international lawyer; Wilfred Tilkamper, a German Vice-President of the European Parliament; Rose Murray, Coordinator of the Pilbara Aboriginal Language Center, in Port Hedland, Australia; and, Douglas Sanders, Professor in international law from Canada.

One of IWGIA's major concerns during 1989 has been the issue of human rights' violations in Tibet. The awareness and responsibility of the international community regarding the seriousness of the situation in Tibet, and the threat which the Tibetan people are facing, have clearly been expressed at

many levels by the international community during 1989. Human rights NGOs, as well as other international institutions, have formulated recommendations in order to promote democracy and respect for basic human rights in Tibet. IWGIA supported a Human Rights Hearing on Tibet held in Copenhagen on November 19th.

Actions.

During 1989 IWGIA has undertaken different actions in connection with indigenous issues which have required IWGIA's written expression of its concerns before the relevant authorities when indigenous rights have not been taken into consideration or openly violated.

1. Mexico. IWGIA protested before the Mexican Government, on the assassination of Elpidio Dominguez Castro, a Purhepecha Indian leader. IWGIA asked the Mexican authorities to exert all possible efforts to find and judge the perpetrators of the crime.
2. Paraguay. A cable expressing IWGIA's concern over the situation of the Myba who, despite governmental promises, have yet to see their communities legally titled, was sent to the relevant organs of the Paraguayan authorities. Since the communities of the Myba people live within the Caazapa project which has been supported by the World Bank, and which the accepted the project on condition that the indigenous rights of the peoples in the region were respected, IWGIA has also expressed its concern before the World Bank.
3. Canada. IWGIA protested to Canada's Prime Minister and other Canadian authorities, on the decision to penalise the communities which hosted the Onion Lake meeting.

4. Burma. Letters of concern on the situation of the Karen people living in the border areas between Burma and Thailand, in connection with an expected military offensive which would cause tremendous casualties among the Karens, were sent to the Burmese authorities, and to various international human rights groups and institutions such as the UNWGIP. IWGIA also sent out a press release on the subject.
5. Sri Lanka. IWGIA, through the Human Rights Fund of which IWGIA is a member, has made known to the public media our concern about the reports on human rights violations on the Vedda people.
6. Philippines. IWGIA sent a letter to President Corazon Aquino, expressing our concern on the situation of the Lumad people in the Davao-Cotabato provinces in Mindanao. The counter-insurgency operations conducted by the Philippines military forces have brought great suffering on the Lumad people. IWGIA asked the Aquino Government to stop the counter-insurgency operations and to put an end to the human rights violations of the Lumad people by military units supposedly engaged in fighting rebels.

Other actions taken by IWGIA during 1989, have been directed to greet indigenous peoples' during historical moments when their fight for self-determination have had a positive and pragmatic outcome. Among these are a cable sent to H.H. the Dalai Lama congratulating him on his Nobel Peace Prize Nomination. Another greeting-cable was sent to the newly established Sami Parliament in the Norwegian part of Samiland. IWGIA has also congratulated the Brazilian Indian leader David Yanomami, for the Livehood Foundation peace prize which he received on behalf of Survival International.

## 7.2 Development programme.

IWGIA has increased its involvement in supporting indigenous-controlled projects in 1989, and we have been able to channel funds from Scandinavian funding agencies to indigenous peoples.

IWGIA has a long record in trying to persuade funding agencies that, indigenous peoples' who normally are not included in any of the group-criteria used by funding agencies, should be made the specific target groups for development aid. Equally important, development aid directed to indigenous peoples should aim to further indigenous self-organizing as well as to secure indigenous land-rights as the primary and necessary basis for indigenous self-development.

Crucial to the development of indigenous self-organization is that the indigenous peoples themselves interpret and codify events through their participation in the political process. IWGIA has therefore regarded it as a major task to further political participation and self-organization by finding ways of funding travels for indigenous peoples' participation in political meetings, of providing infrastructure such as offices, typewriters, transportation (boats and trucks), etc. The funds are provided by the various Nordic agencies for International Development, first and foremost the Norwegian Agency for International Development Cooperation (NORAD). DANIDA, the Danish counterpart of NORAD, has also extended its help to indigenous organizations during 1989 through IWGIA.

### Funding agencies & Development projects.

Since 1987, IWGIA has had a working contract with NORAD to formalize the already existing cooperation on indigenous development projects between the two organizations. The

contract involves IWGIA providing assistance to NORAD on indigenous projects. Occasionally, IWGIA, in co-operation with the indigenous peoples involved, has carried out evaluation of projects financed by NORAD.

Up to 1987, IWGIA's role was to act as the go-between between the indigenous groups and development aid agencies by providing the former with information about the possibilities for funding, and by assisting them in getting the application papers sent in the proper format required by the funding agencies, etc.

As IWGIA succeeded in channelling funds for such activities and other projects as well, the organization started to receive an enormous amount of applications from various indigenous peoples and groups. After a series of meetings, NORAD agreed to accept the applications from indigenous organizations directly without coursing it through IWGIA. Yet, in order to be able to process the applications in a defensible way, NORAD still requested the assistance of IWGIA. For IWGIA this implied some amount of work with the applications in consultations with the indigenous applicants. Hence, IWGIA came to function more as consultant in the process. Since NORAD insisted on the usefulness of this input, IWGIA in co-operation with the Nordic Sami Council, negotiated an agreement with NORAD concerning the conditions of this consultative work. However, as the Nordic Sami Council do not at the moment have the necessary personnel to carry out the job, they let IWGIA do the job alone until such a time that the Nordic Sami Council will have at its disposal the necessary trained people to put in effect the contract between NORAD and IWGIA.

A major point for an organization like IWGIA is that it can assist indigenous peoples in their own process of self-

organization by helping them to finance infrastructure, travels, projects, etc. Yet, it is also an overreaching principle for IWGIA not to interfere in indigenous peoples decision-making, nor in the processes of codification through which people come to attach meanings to particular acts and events.

It may be impossible to participate in the handling of project applications without some interfering or influencing indigenous political affairs. Nevertheless, in our opinion, IWGIA like other support organizations, has a right and a duty to participate in the dialogue that is taking place in the international community about indigenous - state relations, and indigenous affairs in general.

On behalf of the Inter-ethnic Association of the Peruvian Amazon (AIDSESEP), IWGIA in 1989 obtained financial support from DANIDA for a project dealing with the titling and demarcation of over one hundred indigenous communities. It is a three-year project based on a formal agreement between AIDSESEP and the Peruvian Ministry of Agriculture. An IWGIA evaluation team, composed of Andrew Gray and Søren Hvalkoff, which visited the area of the project together with members of AIDSESEP, indicated the possibility of extending the demarcation and titling to another hundred or more communities.

Teresa Aparicio made an evaluation trip to Peru at the end of the year, arranged by the indigenous organizations involved in projects. The evaluation dealt with several developmental projects in the Peruvian Amazon by the Aguaruna and Huambisa Council (CAH) and financed by NORAD. The visits to the communities where the projects are located, and the evaluation on the running of the projects so far, were made together with the members of the communities involved and

with members of CAH's leadership.

### 7.3 Research Programme.

#### Research project.

During 1989 IWGIA laid the foundations of a research project at IWGIA. The project deals with the concepts of development and self-determination seen from different perspectives. Its aim is to contribute to development theory through the analysis of indigenous peoples' political and cultural manifestations in the fields of land-rights, ethnic identity, and political systems. The project includes both indigenous and non-indigenous researchers.

#### The Resource Centre.

During 1989 IWGIA's Resource Centre has received several important research material, sent by indigenous organisations and support institutions, on Brazil, Tibet, and the Cordillera region in the Philippines. In similar fashion, IWGIA has been able to enlarge its video collection, and the research material now available to the general public has increased considerably.

IWGIA continues to be the center of the European Information Network on the Chittagong Hill Tracts, which provides a number of European support groups with relevant and up-to-date information on the situation of the indigenous peoples' in the CHT of Bangladesh.

The Resource Center provides research facilities for scholars who study specific subjects. In addition, IWGIA's International Secretariat, as well as members of IWGIA's national groups, organize seminars and lectures in universities and public schools in order to increase understanding on indigenous affairs.



### Indigenous Women's Programme.

Patricia Jorquera and Teresa Aparicio have continued gathering research material on indigenous women, and compiling and editing the indigenous women's document which has been underway for nearly three years. The document is nearly completed and we expect to be able to publish it in connection with the Second International Indigenous Women's Conference, to be held in Samiland, in August 1990.

### Conclusions

During 1989 IWGIA has consolidated its work at various levels. Unlike the previous years, we have been able to publish all IWGIA publications as scheduled. The opening of the two new positions as Documentalists will ensure a more coordinated and regular stream of publications.

IWGIA's new structure has resulted in a wider and more dynamic representativeness of the organization. The International Board, still headed by IWGIA's President and Vice-President, now includes representatives from the national groups, as well as members from the International Secretariat.

IWGIA's work and activities are now firmly canalized into our programmes on Human Rights, on Development, and on Research. Some of the activities that have been underway for a number of years, were finally completed in 1989. Among others, establishing officially an independent Commission to investigate human rights violations in the Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh.

IWGIA's research programme includes a newly-established research project which is the result of a coordination

process between IWGIA's researchers and other research institutions. The project deals with an analysis of the concepts of development and self-determination from different perspectives. The project aims to undertake a revision of, and make a contribution to, development theory.

IWGIA's commitment to the indigenous cause during the last 20 years has now culminated in the United Nations granting the organisation consultative, NGO status under the Economic and Social Council of the UN. This new position will help IWGIA to augment indigenous presence in international gatherings, where issues concerning the lives and well being of indigenous peoples' are discussed.

#### 1990 and the work ahead

IWGIA is planning several documents for 1990. Among them, Volume Two of the Indigenous Women's Document which will be a compilation of the papers presented at the Second International Indigenous Women's Conference scheduled for August 1990. An indigenous researcher from Canada, Winona La Duke, has volunteered to compile and edit this second volume. Mauro Leonel from Brazil, has now completed his manuscript on the consequences of road building for Brazilian Indians, and we expect to be able to publish the document next year. A long overdue Document compiled by Robert R. Hitchcock, on the situation of the Basarwa people in Botswana, is also underway.

With the help of IWGIA's Documentalists, we are planning to improve the format of our Newsletters and Boletines which will appear simultaneously, and with identical content, from next year on. In this manner we hope

to ensure a better coordination of IWGIA's publications in the future.

IWGIA will continue participating in, and contributing to, the work of the UN Work Group on Indigenous Peoples. Furthermore, IWGIA's NGO status will permit our organisation to participate regularly at the UN Commission of Human Rights.

In order for IWGIA to be able to carry out the activities programmed for next year, and continue with our human rights initiatives, our work on development issues, and our research programme, we depend on the funding agencies' continuing support to IWGIA. We wish to thank all our financial supporters for the help granted in previous years, and we appeal to them to look favourably on our applications for 1990.

Teresa Aparicio  
Executive Director