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ANNUAL REPORT 1990



IWGIA

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ANNUAL
REPORT
1990

by
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INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS

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I W G I A ANNUAL REPORT

by Teresa Aparicio

Introduction

This annual report gives an overview of IWGIA's work and activities during the year that has passed. Several of the issues that IWGIA has been working with for a long time, crystallized during 1990. The most important achievement has been that the Independent Commission to investigate human rights violations in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) of Bangladesh could finally visit the CHT after four years of coordinated efforts. The idea to establish an independent Commission started in 1985 by members of the Bangladesh International Action Group (BIAG) and IWGIA. Both organisations have participated in the work of the Commission and assisted the Commission during the trip to CHT. The report of the findings will be officially launched approximately in May 1991.

In following closely the events in the indigenous world, IWGIA has centred many of its activities on the relationship between indigenous peoples and the environment. During 1990 alone, several important indigenous conferences on environmental issues have been held. Through these activities, international society is developing a growing interest in indigenous models for the conservation and management of natural resources. As a result, participation of indigenous peoples in international conferences dealing with the environment has increased considerably during 1990.

The following international meetings on ecological themes have been held in the past year. GLOBO 90' Conference took place in March, in Vancouver, Canada. Two months later there was a meeting in Penang, Malaysia, co-ordinated by the World Rainforest Movement, an alliance between indigenous peoples, other groups who also live in the rainforest, environmental organisations, and indigenous support organisations. At the same time, the Coordinadora of Indigenous Organisations of the Amazon Basin (COICA), started a very important dialogue with environmental organisations from different countries. To this end, COICA organised a World Conference on the Environment in Iquitos, Peru, with the participation of ecologists, environmentalists, and indigenous peoples which resulted in the Iquitos Declaration. During the summer the Conferences held by the World Council of Indigenous Peoples (WCIP), and the International Committee of Indigenous Women, both in Samiland, focused on the World Environmental Crisis and Sustainable Development.

During 1990, many organisations, both indigenous and non-indigenous have started to co-ordinate their efforts towards the United Nations

Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) -also known as ECO'92- to be held in Brazil in June 1992. So far, the Preparatory Committee for ECO'92, has decided that NGOs, including indigenous NGOs and organizations, may neither fully participate in the preparations for the Conference nor in the Conference itself. The question is whether ECO'92 can really afford to exclude the vast socio-environmental knowledge and experience of indigenous peoples throughout the world, as well as turning its back to the work of a large number of NGOs which have been working for decades on these issues.

Major events in the indigenous world relate to the opening towards Western Europe of many East European countries. A positive outcome of this opening is that indigenous peoples from the USSR have started to relate regularly to other indigenous nations, first of all with the neighbouring Sami people from the Nordic countries, as well as with Inuit from other Arctic regions.

IWGIA's Yearbook 1990 reflects these new trends and developments in the indigenous world. One of the sections of the Yearbook is entirely devoted to environmental issues from the perspective of indigenous peoples.

While there have been positive developments in the indigenous world during 1990, indigenous peoples still are being discriminated and oppressed; and some nations are also facing the threat of extinction. This is the case of the Jumma nations of the CHT on whom reports of tortures and murders have been reported throughout the year. Also in El Salvador and Guatemala, in Central America, as well as in many Asian countries, such as, Tibet, Burma, Philippines, and Thailand, there has been reported harassment and oppression of indigenous peoples.

Targeted harassment and killings of specific indigenous groups took place in Canada and in Africa. In West Africa, governmental troops have massacred, as well as severely repressed and persecuted the Tuareg people in north-eastern Mali and Niger. The massacres followed a more or less forced relocation of thousands of Tuaregs who had been illegal residents in Algeria and Libya. According to reliable sources, the situation in Mali is still alarming as killings and persecutions continue to be reported. In Canada, one of the leading democracies in the western hemisphere, the Government misused grossly its political and military power against the Mohawk nation. The issue was that the Mohawks opposed the governmental project of building a golf course on their traditional lands. In retaliation, the Canadian military attacked the Mohawks who had barricaded themselves. European parliamentarians, as well as NGOs, and support organisations protested against these measures. Eventually a compromise solution was reached acceptable to both parties.

During 1990, IWGIA has documented and published the achievements and the situation of indigenous peoples. Despite their sufferings,

indigenous nations all over the world have succeeded in taking a stand and in defending their rights as peoples. This report reflects their situation through IWGIA's work and activities during the year that has passed.

Acknowledgments

The International Board of IWGIA, members of the International Secretariat, and IWGIA National Groups from Denmark, Sweden, Norway, and Switzerland, wish to express our gratitude to the University of Copenhagen in general, and to the Rector of the University, **Ove Nathan**, in particular, for supporting the work of IWGIA for many years, most specially for providing IWGIA with premises in similar conditions as other institutions connected to the University. Likewise, we wish to thank the Institute of Eskimology, Copenhagen University, for a good and long co-operation on indigenous issues in the Arctic regions.

Most members of IWGIA National Groups are students at the Institutes of Anthropology of the Universities of Copenhagen, Oslo, Stockholm, Lund, and Zurich. IWGIA appreciates the valuable support which these academic institutions have extended to the work and activities of the members of IWGIA National Groups.

Finally, we also wish to thank all those who support us financially such that it is possible for us to continue working with indigenous peoples, especially in documenting and publishing so as to inform on the fights and achievements of indigenous peoples for land rights and self-determination all over the world.

1. THE STRUCTURE OF IWGIA

The structure of IWGIA is composed of four bodies: the International Board, the Executive Committee, the International Secretariat in Copenhagen, and representatives of IWGIA National Groups. IWGIA held as scheduled two Board Meetings during 1990. The first one was held in Nordmarka (Norway) between April 20-22; and the second at the International Secretariat in Copenhagen, between 4-6 October. All four IWGIA bodies participated at the meetings. The composition and members of IWGIA is as follows:

International Board:

René Fuerst (President 1989/91): Anthropologist, he is the Asia/Pacific curator at the Ethnographic Museum in Geneva, Switzerland; **Georg Henriksen** (Vice-

President): Anthropology Professor at 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; **Andrew Gray:** Anthropologist, he is working on a three-year research project on development in England; **Espen Wæhle:**, Anthropologist, he works at the Norwegian Agency for Development Co-operation (NORAD) in Oslo, Norway; **Teresa Aparicio and Jens Dahl:** Anthropologists and Executive Directors of the International Secretariat in Copenhagen; **Karen Bundgaard Andersen:** Administrator of IWGIA.

Executive Committee:

René Fuerst, Georg Henriksen, Jens Dahl, Karen Bundgaard Andersen, and Teresa Aparicio.

International Secretariat:

Executive Directors: Teresa Aparicio and Jens Dahl.

Secretary to the Directors: Lola García-Alix.

Administrator: Karen Bundgaard Andersen.

Publications: Filomenita Mongaya Høgsholm, Mario Di Lucci.

Staff: Sheila Aikman, Ahmed Bouhadi, Leena Christensen, Karen Degnbol, Solveig Lindenstrom, Claus Oreskov, Peter Forsing, Bodil Prieme, Susanne Ejdesgaard Jeppesen.

National Groups in:

Denmark, Norway, Sweden (Gothenburg and Lund), and Switzerland.

2. ACTIVITIES OF IWGIA NATIONAL GROUPS

IWGIA national groups work mainly at a national level in their respective countries in order to promote indigenous peoples' issues at schools, information-centres, NGOs, and the mass media. Most of National Group members are anthropologists or students of anthropology, but increasingly students of law, biology, and social sciences in general are joining the activities of the IWGIA national groups.

Sweden. There is a newly-established group in Lund (Sweden), which participated for the first time at IWGIA's Board Meeting in October 1990. According to IWGIA statutes, national groups become official one year after their formal application to IWGIA.

The Sweden-Gothenburg Group has organized five seminars on the situation of indigenous peoples' in Asia, Europe, and in the Amazon region. The seminars dealt with: 1) the Moro people from Mindanao, in the Philippines; 2) the situation of indigenous groups in East Timor; 3) the genocide which the indigenous peoples of the Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh have been suffering for nearly a decade; 4) the situation of the Yanomami Indians from northern Brazil who are seeing their lands invaded and destroyed by gold prospectors ; and 5) the situation of the Sami people in Sweden. All these seminars have been held at the Institute of Social Anthropology in the University of Gothenburg. The Gothenburg group has also been able to raise funds through grassroots activities for a small development project in India, and to help the Yanomami health project in Brazil.

Switzerland. The national group in Zurich has been organizing seminars, lectures, and a film-seminar at the University of Zurich which formed part of the students' curriculum there. This group also made an exhibition on tropical forests and the indigenous peoples inhabiting them, which has been very successful. The film-seminar dealt with the Yanomami Indians in Brazil. The co-ordinated activities on tropical forests resulted in an action day where group members went into the shops and pointed out which products were made of tropical wood to the press and the public. The Zurich group has also helped co-ordinate a European tour for indigenous representatives from the Philippines. They have succeeded in correlating the issue of indigenous peoples with human rights at the UN through a seminar on anthropology in Zurich. Professor Lofler who is a member of the group, has been the *primus motor* behind this idea and he has introduced it as a course in Anthropology.

Norway. The Norwegian national group has been especially active on American issues. One of their activities consisted in handling a shipment of "Submuloc" T-shirts (to mark the Columbus celebrations) for sale in Norway, the proceeds of which will benefit North American Indian groups. The group held an exhibition in Oslo on indigenous issues and the underlying reasons to trouble spots in the indigenous world during 1990. The exhibition has been travelling throughout the country and is enjoying great success. Finally, the Oslo group has co-ordinated with the group in Denmark on the Mohawk case, and in connection herewith, has written articles and produced radio-programmes informing on the Mohawk situation.

Denmark. This group has concentrated on four different regions and in order to be more effective, small groups have been formed around the specific regions. **The Arctic group** has been active on the trapping issue and has developed new contacts in the European Parliament in this connection. Various persons in the Arctic group have joined the newly-established network

on Siberian issues which includes persons from both inside and outside IWGIA. Furthermore, the group was involved in the IWGIA-ICC activities under the Parallel Conference of the Copenhagen Conference on the Human Dimension - the CSCE Process- last June.

The **North America** group has been active in the Leonard Peltier case, as well as on the Mohawk issue. The group hosted the visit of one of Leonard Peltier's lawyers and Frank Dreaver (a Cree) who is the leader of the Leonard Peltier Defence Committee in Canada. Together with these two personages, the group formed a common working strategy for future activities. The two visitors were introduced to Greenlandic politicians and Aqqaluk Lynge who is Vice-president of the Inuit Circumpolar Conference. During the yearly Roskilde Music Festival, the group arranged an exhibition on Leonard Peltier which reached a lot of people, and had good coverage by 2 local TV stations and the major Danish newspapers. The case of the Mohawk people was presented at the **Land og Folk Festival**, a large popular gathering in Copenhagen where the group gave information on the actual situation. Furthermore, during the Mohawk controversy, IWGIA-DK National Group held a 24-hour vigil outside the Canadian Ambassador's Residence in Copenhagen. The Mohawk issue was presented to Danish politicians and the Bishop of Copenhagen. This resulted in letters of protest to the Canadian government from the Danish Government, certain political parties from the Parliament and from the Bishop of Copenhagen.

The **Asia** group has been especially active in following the case of the indigenous peoples in the Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh and in Burma. Dr Em Marta, Secretary of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Democratic Alliance of Burma, visited IWGIA in summer, and the interview with him by Frank Ringsted from the National Group has been published in Boletín vol.10 3&4/Newsletter 62 published in December '90.

The **South America** group is participating in a co-ordination network among Danish NGOs working towards making a significant input in the 1992 activities in South and Central America.

3. FINANCES

IWGIA'S budget shows a minor deficit for 1990. However, had IWGIA published all its publications on schedule, the deficit would have been slightly higher. In order not to strain unnecessarily this year's budget, IWGIA decided to delay some of the 1989 publications until the beginning of 1990. In this way, we did not have the problems as in other years when, owing to shortage of funds, we were not able to publish as many publications as scheduled.

The 1990 deficit was due to the fact that some of our applications for 1990 were granted only in part. In addition, our most important and permanent financial sources have not raised their contributions during the last few years whereas fixed expenses, such as printers, postage, telephones, etc., have been increasing every year.

As in other years, we have sent applications to potential new funding sources but we have had success in only a few cases. The most important one was a small grant from the Greenlandic Home Rule; this marks the first time that indigenous peoples themselves are supporting IWGIA's work directly.

Increasingly, more of IWGIA's funds, outside of running expenses, are being earmarked for specific activities. Obviously, the more activities we are engaged in, the more pressure on the existing infrastructure such as computers, printers, phones, etc.; hence the need to receive non earmarked funds in order to be able to maintain, and when necessary, to renew the necessary material structure and equipment at the Secretariat in order to be able to develop and to smoothly run IWGIA's activities.

It has been necessary in 1990 to renew (regenerate) part of our production units because of the volume of production work being carried out at IWGIA. It is worth remembering here that IWGIA publishes approximately 12 publications per year (in both English and Spanish), making it the international NGO that publishes the most on indigenous issues, on a regular basis. The new investments in 1990 of four computers with hard disks and a laser-printer will enable us to do the setting and typography work in-house. Carrying out this part of the production process enables us to exercise some degree of control and flexibility over production schedules. Aside from this, we expect that these new production units will decrease part of our over-all printing costs.

4. VISITORS

During 1990, IWGIA was pleased to host the visits of important indigenous leaders, and of well-known supporters of indigenous rights. They came from as far away places as the Arctic region, including Siberia, from Asia, and from Central and South America. Their visits gave IWGIA valuable and first hand information on the situation of indigenous peoples in their respective countries.

The Arctic. Mary Simon from Canada who is President of the ICC (Inuit Circumpolar Conference), and Aqqaluk Lynge from Greenland, who is Vice-President of the ICC (for Greenland), visited IWGIA in the beginning of the year. The purpose of their visit was to discuss relationships and future co-operation with IWGIA, as well as to co-ordinate joint activities for the Parallel Activities during the CSCCE -Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe-

also known as the Conference on the Human Dimension. During the meeting, ICC and IWGIA agreed to co-operate more closely on issues concerning information on indigenous peoples generally, and on issues relating to indigenous peoples in the USSR, specifically.

USSR. Yuri Rytkeu, is a member of the Chukchi people, from the Soviet Union. He is a well-known indigenous leader, and has written a book on the problems of indigenous peoples in the USSR. For many years, he has been the official spokesman of indigenous peoples of Siberia. During his visit to IWGIA we discussed the situation of the different indigenous peoples in the Soviet Union. He also explained their plan to create a nationwide umbrella organisation for the so-called "Small Peoples of the North", later that year. During his visit, agreements were made for IWGIA to regularly publish on issues about indigenous groups from the USSR.

Jevdokija Gajer, member of the Peoples Congress in Moscow, together with members from IWGIA met at the Greenlandic Home Rule Office in Copenhagen, and discussed the concept of Greenlandic Home Rule. She is supportive of the new indigenous move in the USSR to gather different ethnic groups together under an umbrella organisation.

Central America. Rodolfo Stavenhagen, from Mexico, is an internationally well-known anthropologist who has been supporting indigenous rights during many years. He visited IWGIA during a European lecture tour on Human Rights in Latin America. We discussed future co-publications, as well as IWGIA's possibilities to co-operate on the "Ethnic Minority Project" which is a database based in Mexico and dealing with information on indigenous peoples all over the world.

South America. Evaristo Nugkuag, President of the Coordinating Committee of Indigenous Organisations from the Amazon Basin (COICA), visited IWGIA in order to discuss the current situation in the Amazon and the threats Amazonian Indians are facing due, mainly, to governmental or government-supported development programmes on the extraction of natural resources. Furthermore, COICA and IWGIA discussed a land-titling project which is being implemented in the central Peruvian jungle. The project is co-ordinated jointly by AIDSESEP and IWGIA.

South East Asia. Em Marta, Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Karen National Union, as well as Secretary of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Democratic Alliance of Burma, visited IWGIA in the course of his visit to Europe where he participated at the sessions of the UN Work Group on Indigenous Populations. During the discussions at IWGIA, Dr. Em Marta stressed the serious consequences which governmental timber concessions on Karen and Kachin territories have for the indigenous peoples of the region. The Burmese military are also engaged directly in the logging business to procure the necessary financing for continuing the civil war against

the indigenous peoples of the country.

The oppression of the indigenous peoples of Burma by state military and police forces, which includes killing, shooting, looting, raping of women, and restriction of movements, have forced thousands of persons to flee to the bordering country of Thailand. Dr. Em Marta, will participate at the UN Human Rights Commission at the beginning of next year in Geneva, under IWGIA auspices, where, once again, he will put forward the situation and the demands of the indigenous peoples from Burma.

South Asia. Dr. N.K.Nayak, is a co-ordinator of the National Institute of Social Work and Social Sciences (NISWASS) in Bhubaneswar, Orissa, India. He belongs to the Kondh people. He visited IWGIA in order to inform us about the situation of the more than 50 ethnic groups in Orissa. Agreements on information exchange between the two organisations were made.

East Asia. From Tibet, Lhakpa Tsering, Mr. Sangyal, and Dhukar Tsering, Tibetans on exile in India visited the International Secretariat during their visit to Europe to inform on the situation of the Tibetan people. The Tibetan representatives explained that conditions in Tibet today are far more critical than during the cultural revolution. Population transfers are increasing and the Tibetan people are becoming a minority in their own land. Furthermore, the Chinese so-called "Family planning Policy" which has drastically reduced birth permits to the Tibetan women, is having devastating effects on the Tibetan people.

5. NETWORKING TRIPS

An important way by which IWGIA obtains first-hand information on indigenous issues as well as strengthen its relations with indigenous groups and organisations, is through networking trips. These trips are scheduled annually for the two Executive Directors to different regions, in order to provide them with the necessary background information to deal with indigenous issues at different levels. First of all, at the level of documentation and publication; as is known, IWGIA sends its publications free of charge to indigenous organisations and groups. In addition, an increasing part of IWGIA's documentation is being written by indigenous leaders from all over the world.

The networking trips are also useful in getting acquainted with, and in obtaining information on, the situation of indigenous peoples upon which IWGIA's support activities and development work is based. Thirdly, they are a means of helping indigenous groups and organisations who wish to participate at international meetings, for instance at the United Nations and at the European Parliament. Finally, the networking trips are also necessary in order to share experiences between IWGIA and the organized movement of the indigenous

world which is fighting for their rights and self-determination.

As in previous years, there were two networking trips scheduled for 1990, one of them to south and west India and the other one to South America. Unfortunately, and due to lack of funds, the visit to India had to be cancelled. However, that will be one of the priorities in the future. Between the months of June and July, Teresa Aparicio visited several indigenous groups and organisations in Bolivia, Ecuador, and Brazil.

In Bolivia she visited the Co-ordinating body of Indigenous Peoples' from Western Bolivia (CIDOB). And later on, accompanied by CIDOB leaders, she also visited several indigenous communities of Guaranis, Ayoreos, and Chiquitanos, of the region. In Ecuador, it was the first time that an IWGIA member visited the Shuar Federation which is very well-known throughout South America, especially for its radio-education programme which reaches all Amazonian Indian groups affiliated to the Federation. In the small aircraft of the Federation, and accompanied the President of the Shuar Federation, IWGIA's representative made several visits to different Shuar and Achuar communities. In Brazil, the main visit was to the Xavante people, in the Matto Grosso region. Afterwards, meetings were held with representatives of the Surui people and the Tukano nation and their respective organizations. A visit to the Tukano people in northern Brazil, had to be cancelled because of the heavy militarisation of the area making the trip to the communities unsafe.

6. CONFERENCES

There were two main international indigenous conferences held during 1990. The 6th General Assembly of the World Council of Indigenous Peoples (WCIP) was held in August, in the town of Tromsø, Norway. The Second International Indigenous Women's Conference, was held one week earlier in Karasjokka, a small Sami town some 500 kms from Tromsø. The agenda of the two Conferences had some similarities. The WCIP Conference dealt with two major issues: 1) The 1992 celebrations planned by the Europeans and Euro-Americans, and 2) Environmental issues. The working title of the Indigenous Women's Conference was "The World Environmental Crisis and Perspectives on Sustainable Development", issues which were examined from the perspective of indigenous women. Georg Henriksen, IWGIA's vice-President participated at the WCIP Conference, and Teresa Aparicio attended the Second International Indigenous Women's gathering. Reports on both Conferences are being published in IWGIA Yearbook for 1990.

In the last days of March 1990, the indigenous peoples of the Soviet Union held a Congress in the Kremlin in Moscow. They came from the Arctic and Sub-Arctic regions, their homelands stretching from the Kola Peninsula in the west to the Bering Strait in the east. The meeting resulted in

the establishment of the First National Association of Indigenous Peoples of the Soviet Union. During the sessions of the Congress, indigenous delegates expounded on the destruction of their homelands in the Arctic and Sub-Arctic regions; they demanded control of the land and return of land management to indigenous peoples. Jens Dahl participated in this historical event on behalf of IWGIA.

In order to document this indigenous milestone and to make it widely known to indigenous peoples all over the world, as well as to governments, NGOs, and support institutions, IWGIA embarked on translating, editing and publishing the proceedings of the Indigenous Congress in Moscow, only three months later. IWGIA Document (No.67), "Indigenous Peoples of the Soviet North", was introduced during the sessions of the UN Work Group on Indigenous Populations, in Geneva, Switzerland in late July. It was later published in Spanish as Documento no. 12, "Pueblos Indigenas del Norte Sovietico."

The Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) was held in the month of June, in Copenhagen. All Foreign Ministers from Europe, except Albania, as well as Ministers from Canada, USA, and the Soviet Union, gathered in the Danish capital, and as a part of the CSCE Conference, they discussed the Human Dimension within the framework of the Conference. European NGOs organized parallel activities during the Conference. IWGIA, in co-operation with the Inuit Circumpolar Conference (ICC) held four activities under the common title of **Indigenous Rights**: 1) the Danish premiere of the Canadian film "Where the Spirit Lives"; 2) a seminar on indigenous peoples and the increasing militarisation in the Arctic regions; 3) a seminar on the indigenous peoples' rights to use living resources versus the Euro-American opposition to the use of those resources; and 4) the Danish premiere of **Tupilak**, a theatre act performed by the Greenlandic theatre group **Silamiut**. The end statements from seminars 2) and 3) have been published in IWGIA's Newsletter 60/61, and in IWGIA Boletín No. 10, vol. 1/2, both from September 1990.

From IWGIA, Jens Dahl and members of the Danish Arctic group, in co-operation with ICC leaders, co-operated on the above activities which was co-ordinated by anthropologist Mads Fægteborg of the Arctic Information Centre. Arrangements between ICC and IWGIA for the next CSCE Conference to be celebrated in Moscow, are already under way.

IWGIA participated also this year at UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations (WGIP), celebrated between July and August, at the UN Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland. From this year on, the WGIP has extended its usual one week session to two weeks. It was done in order for the Working Group to speed up the process of drafting the Declaration on the Human Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Jens Dahl from the International Secretariat in Copenhagen, and Andrew Gray from London participated at the meetings. For the first time, the indigenous peoples of the USSR attended the WGIP; the representative was Vladimir Sangi, the first President of the newly-

established **Association of the Small Peoples of the Soviet North**. An IWGIA report on the WGIP meeting will also be published in IWGIA's Yearbook 1990.

Indigenous Survival International (ISI) held its annual meeting during the last days of August, in Anchorage, Alaska. Jens Dahl represented IWGIA at the meeting where one of the main issues discussed was fur- and trapping indigenous activities versus environmental organisations. The programmes opposing indigenous hunting and trapping rights coming from environmental NGOs from Europe and the Northern Hemisphere, were closely examined. Hemmo Muntingh, a socialist member of the European Parliament, outlined the difference between Northern Europe where the environmental organisations are strong, and Southern Europe where hunting organisations are much more influential than environmental organisations. The opposition between indigenous peoples fighting for their hunting and trapping rights, and those who oppose those rights, were clearly expressed by the participant Vernita Cassidy from Alaska. Indigenous people, Vernita Cassidy said, will never be able to satisfy the Environmental and Animal Rights Movement as long as animal rights have precedence over Native Rights.

The UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), also known as **ECO '92**, is scheduled to be held in June 1992 in Brazil. The aim of the Conference is to adopt an Earth Charter stating a set of basic principles for the conduct of nations and peoples in relation to environmental and development issues. The Conference does not include the full participation of indigenous nations nor that of NGOs. According to the UNCED, the NGOs will not have any negotiating role either at the UNCED Preparatory Committee, or at the Conference itself. The role of the NGOs has been reduced by the UNCED to the possibility of presenting written statements in the preparatory process of the Conference. In connection herewith, a co-ordination of European NGOs with regional groups of NGOs, is already in progress. During 1990, a Nordic co-ordination meeting was held in Stockholm, followed by a larger meeting in Copenhagen among NGOs of the ECE region. Claus Oreskov, from IWGIA National Group in Denmark, participated at both meetings.

7. PUBLICATIONS

All IWGIA publications are sent free of charge to indigenous groups and organisations all over the world. In addition, free copies of the publications are also sent to governments, financial bodies, and international institutions dealing with indigenous issues. IWGIA also has exchange agreements with a large number of NGOs and support organizations in many countries.

The English-language **Newsletters** and the Spanish-language **Boletines** are compiled, edited, and processed at the IWGIA Secretariat, whereas

the **Documents** series are written especially for IWGIA by leading social scientists who, in that way, make a valuable contribution to IWGIA's publications. One of IWGIA's achievements in 1990 has been the publishing of a Spanish-language **Anuario** (yearbook) for the first time - an objective IWGIA has been pursuing since the first IWGIA Yearbook was published in 1986. It is positive to note that increasingly, indigenous leaders are contributing to IWGIA publications, and their writings are an essential part of IWGIA's documentation work.

IWGIA's publications are the backbone of IWGIA's work and as such, all efforts are directed towards strengthening our research and documentation activities, as well as the production process, which are at the basis of all of our publications. Due to economic reasons, part of the 1989 output were published at the beginning of 1990. In this way, IWGIA has been able to keep up with all scheduled publications in 1989, as well as in 1990.

Nos. 60/61 (double issue), and No. 62 of the **IWGIA Newsletter** were published together with Volume 10 of the Spanish **Boletines**. The volume was published in two double issues, Nos. 1/2 and 3/4. During 1990 we began simultaneous English and Spanish editions of the Newsletters and Boletines. Aside from these, five **Documents** -two of them bilingual editions in English and Spanish- and the first **Yearbook/Anuario** in both languages, were also published. The three new IWGIA Documents deal with indigenous issues in the Pacific, in the Soviet Union, as well as with indigenous women issues in different regions.

Document No. 65 "People in Between" by Daniela Renner, deals with a so-called "development project" in Madang Province, Papua New Guinea -an area of tropical rainforest. In contrast to other areas of tropical rainforest, land and resources are incorporated into the law of the country; and these land and natural resources belong to the indigenous peoples. However, factors like ethnic diversity and cultural values are seldom taken into consideration by the planners of such "development projects". Daniela Renner examines the consequences of the Kumil Timber Project for the indigenous peoples affected by the project.

"Indigenous Women on the Move" is the title of Document No. 66, also published in Spanish as Documento No. 11. It is an IWGIA-compiled Document written by indigenous women from South America, Asia, Australia, USA, Canada, Samiland (Europe), and the Arctic region. In their articles, the indigenous women show their different realities in their different areas of the world. The writings of the contributors show that despite their differences, indigenous women share a common situation: that of being the object of a threefold oppression: the oppression by gender which is shared by all women in a fundamentally patriarchal world, the oppression by class experienced by the rural and urban poor, and finally the ethnic oppression directed to them as members of indigenous nations. Indigenous women react differently against these three types of oppression and in their articles they explain how they

organise themselves, how they fight, and how they are succeeding to establish their presence at all levels in the society, in short, how indigenous women are on the move.

The establishment of the first indigenous organisation ever in the Soviet Union is documented in IWGIA Documents No. 67 in English, and Documento No. 12 in Spanish. In the last few days of March 1990, indigenous peoples from the Arctic and Sub-Arctic regions of the Russian Socialist Federal Soviet Republic, met in the Kremlin to establish their first National Association. IWGIA's Documents deal with this historical meeting and the establishment of the "association of the Small Indigenous Peoples of the Soviet North".

8. WORKING PROGRAMMES

In addition to the documentation and publication activities which, as mentioned above, are the main and most important tasks of our organisation, IWGIA has three working programmes which relate to IWGIA publications at different levels. These programmes deal with human rights, with development, and with research. The objective of these mutually interdependent programmes is to support indigenous peoples from different angles.

8.1 Human rights

Commissions & Hearings

In co-ordination with the Bangladesh International Action Group (BIAG), IWGIA has been co-ordinating the establishment of an independent Commission to investigate human rights violations in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) of Bangladesh since 1985. The Commission was finally established in 1989, and in 1990, permits were granted and BIAG and IWGIA obtained the necessary funding.

The Commission travelled between the months of November and December to India and to Bangladesh. First, visits were made to the refugee camps in Tripura (India), where indigenous people from the CHT have fled to the last ten years. Afterwards, the Commission travelled to the Chittagong Hill Tracts. This is the first time that the Bangladesh Government has granted free and unrestricted travelling throughout the Chittagong Hill Tracts to an independent Human Rights Commission.

Andrew Gray and Teresa Aparicio from the International Board of IWGIA, joined the Commission as resource persons. The launching of the Commission's report is scheduled for May 1991. Wolfgang Mey, the author of IWGIA Document no. 51: "Genocide in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, Bangladesh"

(1984), who also accompanied the Commission, will write a full report of his findings for the IWGIA Document series.

Human Rights Fund

The Human Rights Fund is formed by five European NGOs, including IWGIA. The Fund has been working since 1985. Its main task is to raise funds to make possible the participation of indigenous people at the annual sessions of the UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations, in Geneva. Aid Church institutions in Scandinavia have been particularly helpful in providing funds for the presence of indigenous representatives at the United Nations.

During 1990, the Fund was able to support 16 indigenous representatives from different countries. From Asia came indigenous leaders from the Philippines, Burma, India, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka. From South America there were representatives from Peru, Chile, Ecuador, and Bolivia. An Indian Maya leader came from Belize, in Central America. Furthermore, financial contributions were given to representatives of the Cree and Mohawk people from Canada.

Finally, the Fund was also able to support the participation of Sanghi Wladimir Michailowitsch, the President of the newly-established Association of the Small Peoples of the Soviet North. This was the first time that indigenous peoples from the Soviet Union attended the UN Working Group.

Actions

Mali (West Africa). IWGIA reported in Newsletter 62, and in Boletin no. 10, vol.3/4, how governmental troops have repressed and massacred Tuareg pastoralists in north-eastern Mali and Niger during the month of September. While the incidents have included Tuareg attacks on the military forces, the response has been retaliation against innocent civilians including children, women and old people. The massacres followed a more or less forced relocation of thousands of Tuaregs who had been illegal residents of Algeria and Libya early in 1990. In Niger, the dead were estimated to be between 600 and 1 700 while in Mali, 277 Tuaregs were estimated to have been killed.

In this connection IWGIA sent a cable to the President of the Republic of Mali, President Moussa Traori and President Ali Saibou of the Republic of Niger, urgently requesting their respective governments to investigate and immediately stop the killings of the Tuareg people, as well as to negotiate with them for proper rehabilitation of their returning migrants such that human rights standards are ensured and giving them the foreign aid intended for them.

Canada. On September 27, 11 weeks of armed confrontation between the Mohawk people and the Canadian army and police came to an end. Since July 11, the communities of Kanasatake and Kahwanake had been deprived of food in varying degrees, as a means of coercing the Mohawks to give up their lands for governmental so-called development programmes. This confrontation was the turning point of years of repression, it made that repression visible and it forced all involved parties to take a position on the conflict. The situation of the Mohawk people was brought up at the UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations, as well as before the European Parliament. IWGIA has since followed the issue and supported the demands of the Mohawk people. An extensive report has been published in our December publications. In addition, cables were sent to the Prime Minister of Canada, Mr. Brian Mulroney, requesting, first, for an immediate withdrawal of troops from the Mohawk territories, and afterwards, to initiate peaceful negotiations with the Mohawk people.

8.2 Development work

From 1987 to 1990, IWGIA has had a work contract with the Norwegian State Agency for Development Aid (NORAD), as advisers on indigenous issues and development projects. This work was based on NORAD's aid programme on indigenous peoples which, up to now, was the only governmental programme specifically aimed at indigenous peoples throughout Scandinavia. Meanwhile, and due to changes in NORAD's structure, the indigenous programme has been temporarily stopped. Therefore, only on-going projects have received continued financing, and no new ones could be processed.

The programme will be re-opened at the beginning of 1991 under the auspices of other Norwegian institutions. However, NORAD will still be the funding institution, and it is expected that IWGIA will continue its advisory role to NORAD.

A large quantity of indigenous projects have reached IWGIA throughout the year. Unfortunately, with very few exceptions, we have not been able to channel them further. A small funding institution in Denmark, Solveig Fonden, has contributed to two indigenous projects located in the Philippines and South America, respectively. Furthermore, and for the first time, the Finnish State Agency for Development Aid (FINNIDA) has financed through IWGIA, community-based development projects in Brazil and in the Philippines, respectively. It is IWGIA's hope that FINNIDA will go on supporting indigenous peoples in the future.

IWGIA's development work during 1990 has concentrated mainly on one particular project. The project deals with the land-titling of indigenous communities in the central Peruvian jungle. The Project is wholly financed by the Danish State Agency for Development Aid (DANIDA). It is a three-year project with a total budget of approximately one million US dollars. The Project

is being co-ordinated jointly by the Inter-Ethnic Development Association of the Peruvian jungle (AIDSESEP) and IWGIA.

The Project is being implemented in a heavily militarised border region with active para-military groups, and an increasing traffic in narcotics. However, the main threats to the Project come from the local economic elite with strong economic interests in the region. AIDSESEP and IWGIA has jointly undertaken a mid-term evaluation of the Project. The main conclusion of the evaluation is that the Project is working effectively, and the objectives of the land-titling have been largely accomplished.

It goes without saying that the project has had difficulties and shortcomings; these, however, should be viewed within the framework of a pioneering work within land-rights and indigenous peoples. It is namely the first time than an indigenous organisation in South America has succeeded in co-ordinating a land-titling project of such a magnitude.

8.3 Research programme

The research programme is composed of three different projects: a resource centre, a research project, and an indigenous women's programme.

Resource Centre. The Resource Centre provides research facilities on different indigenous issues for scholars, researchers, and the general public. The documentation material of the Resource Centre deals with indigenous peoples throughout the world. It includes, for instance, general works on indigenous peoples, studies on their actual situation, Newsletters produced by indigenous peoples themselves and their support organizations, as well as occasional papers and the proceedings of conferences and seminars dealing with indigenous issues. In addition, the Centre has received several important documentation sent by indigenous organisations and support institutions. Likewise, the video collection of IWGIA has been augmented during 1990; now we have about 50 different videos from different parts of the world. IWGIA continues to be the information centre of the International Information Network on the Chittagong Hill Tracts which regularly provides CHT support groups with relevant information on the situation of the indigenous peoples in the hill tracts.

Research project. This research Project deals with the concepts of self-determination, development, and indigenous peoples. The aim of the Project 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 research. In connection with IWGIA's research project, both Jens Dahl and Teresa Aparicio from the International Secretariat will have sabbatical leaves from IWGIA. Jens Dahl will be away from IWGIA in the period October/December 1991, and between September/October 1992. Teresa Aparicio will participate in the research Project between June/91 and October/92.

Indigenous Women's Programme. The first volume on indigenous women was published in connection with the Second International Indigenous Women's Conference, held in Norway in August 1991. This first volume represents the efforts of three years of work where IWGIA got in touch with indigenous women and their organisations all over the world in order to get their contributions. IWGIA supported the Second Women's Conference during its preparatory phases. To this effect, IWGIA engaged Ann Fenger Benwell, student of Anthropology, who provided logistical support to the Co-ordinators of the Women's Conference for three months. Furthermore, during 1990 we have started an archive and filing project on indigenous women's issues in IWGIA's library. Due to lack of funds, however, this project is proceeding slowly. The commitment and volunteer work of Patricia Jorquera has made possible setting up this new card index.

8. CONCLUSIONS AND THE WORK AHEAD

The work and activities of IWGIA have increased in several aspects, and we have been able to accomplish some of the objectives we have been working on for a long time.

During 1990, IWGIA has been present at more Conferences and Seminars than in previous years, and has also co-ordinated some international seminars on indigenous issues.

Within the Human Rights programme, IWGIA has been closely following the aggressive policies of the Canadian government towards the Mohawk nation, as well as the massacres of hundreds of Tuaregs in West Africa by governmental military troops from Mali and Niger. IWGIA has protested to the authorities of the two Governments for violating the basic human rights of these indigenous nations. It is appalling to find that indigenous peoples today are still being prosecuted and grossly harassed, most especially by Western democratic governments such as Canada.

The Independent Commission to investigate human rights violations in the Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh, towards which, IWGIA together with BIAG, has dedicated great efforts during the last few years, has finally succeeded in obtaining the necessary permits and enough funding to get started. In December, members of IWGIA accompanied the Commission as a part of IWGIA's human rights activities and publication work on the CHT.

Another issue which has also been one of IWGIA's main tasks during 1990 has been the project on the land-titling of over 90 indigenous communities in the Peruvian jungle which AIDSESEP and IWGIA are co-ordinating jointly. Both organisations undertook a joint mid-term evaluation of

the project, which, though started at the end of the year, first crystallised in January 1991. This project is proving to be one of the most important development activities within the area of land rights and indigenous peoples throughout South America.

In connection with IWGIA's publications, we have been able to publish all the publications scheduled for 1990 in both English and Spanish. However, some of them were delayed partly due to economic reasons but also due to the introduction of new technology at IWGIA. One of the major achievements in this connection has been the publication, for the first time, of a Yearbook in Spanish, an objective we have been striving for since IWGIA published its first Yearbook in 1986.

The activities scheduled for 1991 are many, and these deal with different indigenous topics in many different countries. Our publication schedule includes Documents on indigenous peoples in South America (Brazil), in Asia (CHT), in New Zealand, and in Africa. IWGIA has planned a seminar on Africa with the participation of indigenous and non-indigenous researchers, for 1991. On-going programmes and Conferences will continue, most especially the co-ordination of activities for the 500 Years or Fifth Centenary of the European invasion of the Americas, as well as for the next CSCE Conference to be held in Moscow, and for the parallel activities relating to ECO 92.

In order to be able to carry on with these and other human rights activities, IWGIA needs the support of our financial contributors. It is therefore our hope that IWGIA's commitment to the indigenous cause will continue to have the necessary economic resources so as to make our work possible.

Copenhagen, February 1991