

ANNUAL REPORT 1995



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by Inger Sjørlev and the IWGIA Secretariat

1. INTRODUCTION

1995 has been a busy year for IWGIA. The year-long contacts with organisations in Latin America, and the project works in Peru and other Latin American countries have continued. In Africa IWGIA has followed up on the 1993 conference on indigenous peoples in Africa, the network with new contacts in West Africa has been expanded, and we have further developed the contacts established in recent years with indigenous peoples in Eastern and Southern Africa.

However, Asia was the main priority area for IWGIA in 1995. The South-South Communication Program, initiated in 1993, completed its second phase with extensive networking in Asia. The new contacts established made it possible to hold a conference, *Indigenous Peoples in Asia*, in co-operation with Asia Indigenous Peoples' Pact, based in Bangkok, and IMPECT, a local organisation in Thailand. In October 1995, some fifty participants gathered in Chiang Mai, Thailand, and for three days discussed the present situation of indigenous peoples in Asia and future strategies for co-operation and international work. It was a very encouraging event, and IWGIA's international board has profited greatly from the many new contacts established on this occasion.

The Asian Development Bank was represented at the meeting, and the Chairman of the IWGIA board later participated in a conference in The Philippines, organised by the ADB to discuss their policy on indigenous issues.

In March Copenhagen hosted the World Summit for Social Development, and at the concurrent NGO Forum IWGIA held a conference with participants from 15 different organisations. This conference on *Indigenous Peoples and Self Determination as a Means for Combating Social Injustice* was very well attended, and a number of important statements and analyses came out of it. They are currently being published in *Indigenous Affairs*.

Within the program *Empowerment and the Promotion of Indigenous Peoples' Human Rights*, a special session on landrights was included in the conference at the NGO Forum. The issues discussed were questions of territoriality, problems of encroachment upon indigenous peoples' land, the specific problems of the Bushmen in Botswana and the experiences gained recently from the IWGIA monitored project of land titling in Peru. Participants were indigenous representatives as well as experts on indigenous culture and on international law.

IWGIA has continued its publication work with the regular publication of *Indigenous Affairs/Asuntos Indigenas*, the yearbook *The Indigenous World/El Mundo Indigena*, and a number of documents on special subjects. The proceedings from the Asia conference will be published in 1996.

The activities of project monitoring and co-operation with indigenous organisations have expanded and intensified, with three larger new projects in Latin America and a great number of smaller projects within the so-called miniframe agreement with Danida, which

allows IWGIA to act with greater flexibility and to support smaller projects with organisations with whom we are already co-operating. IWGIA continuously aims to integrate our contacts in the indigenous world in our many different activities. Co-operators on projects thus often contribute to our publications and are also represented in the human rights work that goes on in the international fora.

An important new step was taken in the United Nations work with indigenous peoples, when in November 1995 the first meeting in a new working group was held. This is an intersessional working group, to work on the Draft Declaration on Indigenous Rights, directly under The Commission on Human Rights. IWGIA follows the UN work very closely. We have also expanded our co-operation with other European organisations to raise money within the Human Rights Fund for Indigenous Peoples to enable indigenous representatives to take part in the UN work.

The Working Group on Indigenous Populations held its meeting in July as usual, and IWGIA was present, in order both to follow the discussions and to maintain the indigenous contacts established over the many years of participation in the meetings of the working group. In June, when the Danish government and the Greenland Home Rule government hosted a workshop on the establishment of a permanent forum within the UN, IWGIA closely followed the development of the negotiations.

The work in the United Nations in 1995 was also marked by the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing in the beginning of September. IWGIA participated both in the conference and the NGO Forum and kept close contacts with the representatives of the Greenland Home Rule as well as with the co-ordinators of the workshop and caucus of indigenous women. A Beijing Declaration of Indigenous Women was put together through eight days of intensive work at the NGO Forum and with participation of indigenous women from all continents. For the presentation of the declaration at the UN conference IWGIA could help by acting as an intermediary between the indigenous women's caucus and the UN delegations.

IWGIA's International Board has held its bi-annual meetings and discussed current affairs. The first meeting was held in connection with the conference *Indigenous Peoples and Self Determination as a Means for Combating Social Injustice*, and the second in connection with the Asia initiative and thus focused on the situation of indigenous peoples in Asia. At the board meetings this year, the board also began discussions on a work program, *IWGIA 1996-2000*.

From IWGIA's internal world:

We note with regret that **Finn Lynge** has found it necessary to resign from IWGIA's board due to numerous other commitments in connection with his work in Brussels. Fortunately he is willing to continue as a member of the Advisory Board.

Marianne Jensen, a cultural sociologist, has been hired in the secretariat as a new member of the permanent staff. She is the project co-ordinator for Asia and Africa and co-editor of our publications.

It came as a great shock for IWGIA to learn about the death of **Alexander Pika** (Sasha) in September 1995. Alexander Pika, a graduate in history from Moscow University, board member of IWGIA and one of the founding members of IWGIA-Moscow, passed away in September 1995 when two skin boats vanished off the Far Eastern Russian

coast of Chukotka, and 14 people disappeared. Alexander Pika was on a scientific expedition, travelling from the Yupik Eskimo (Inuit) settlement of Sireniki to Provideniya. Their walrus skin boat was heavily loaded, and a fishing boat offered them help. Since they had travelled some distance and the weather was fine they must have judged that there was no need to change plans. What happened is unknown, except for the fact that this and another skin boat travelling in the same area disappeared.

Sasha was a courageous person. As a member of a small group he campaigned tirelessly to raise awareness of the situation of indigenous peoples in the Soviet Union, at the same time that Gorbachov made his famous speech at Murmansk. From our very first meeting with Sasha we knew him to be dedicated to his task and never looking for personal reward. He was energetic and hard-working - always with a smile and a laugh. At serious meetings his enthusiasm, kind appearance and good humour always made their impact.

Alexander Pika had a number of publications behind him. He published the notebooks of the Russian engineer Evladov, who travelled across the Yasmal Peninsula in the late 1920s, he was co-publisher of a book on neo-traditionalism and indigenous peoples in Russia, and he was co-editor of an IWGIA document to be published early next year.

His tragic death is a blow to the sciences of history and ethnography, to IWGIA, and to us, his friends and colleagues.

Line Læssøe Stephensen, born February 26 1964, died on the 2nd of August 1995 while she was on a mission in Chile. Line was an anthropologist specialized in Latin America and a long time friend of IWGIA. She had worked with the Danish National Group as a student, and after her graduation she co-operated with the International Secretariat on project work in Peru and Chile. She also organised seminars at the University of Copenhagen on anthropological theory and indigenous peoples. Line was a very energetic person, sincerely devoted to her task. She worked hard and with enthusiasm, always engaged in many different activities, and always with good humour and that special determined energy that was so characteristic of her. Her sudden death was a great loss to the Danish IWGIA group.

2. THE STRUCTURE OF IWGIA

IWGIA is an international organisation founded in 1968 on the initiative of a group of anthropologists reacting to information about massacres on Indians in the Amazon region. From the beginning the IWGIA international secretariat has been situated in Copenhagen. It is presently employing 5 full time and 4 part time people. IWGIA is directed by an international board. The organisation is represented through voluntary national groups in six countries: Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Russia and Spain. Since 1989 IWGIA has held consultative status with ECOSOC.

The members of the International Board are:

Georg Henriksen (Norway), Chairperson; René Fuerst (Switzerland), Vice Chairperson; Espen Wæhle (Norway); Dan Rosengren (Sweden); Andrew Gray (Britain); Jens Dahl (Denmark); Karen B. Andersen (International Secretariat); Inger Sjørslev (International Secretariat) and representatives of the IWGIA National Groups in Norway, Sweden,

Denmark, Switzerland, Spain and Russia.

The members of the Advisory Board are:

Finn Lyngø; Gudmundur Alfredson; Howard Berman; Julian Berger; Peter Jull; Sharon Venne.

Working in the International Secretariat in 1995 were:

Permanent Staff:

Inger Sjørslev (director)
 Karen B. Andersen (administrator)
 Lola García-Alix (secretary)
 Marianne Jensen (projects and publications)
 Alejandro Parellada (projects and publications)
 Mario Di Lucci (publications)
 Andrew Gray (researcher)
 Jorge Monrás (graphics)
 Inger Dühring (administration assistant)

Part-time and temporary staff: Jørgen Abelsen, Sheila Aikman, Maribel Blasco, David Ssezibwa, Birgit Stephenson, Peter Bengtsson, Marianne Lipka Hansen, Poula Pedersen, Hanne Willert and Keld Jensen.

National groups are functioning in Oslo (Norway), Gothenburg and Lund (Sweden), Zürich and Basel (Switzerland), Copenhagen (Denmark) Moscow (Russia) and Madrid (Spain).

3. FINANCES

The backbone of IWGIA's economy has for many years been the core funding granted by the Nordic Foreign Ministries. The contributions from the Danish, Finnish, Norwegian and Swedish Foreign Ministries are essential for the running of the international secretariat.

The accounts for 1995, like in 1994, show a small surplus, which we note with great satisfaction, since it means that the economy of the organisation will "survive" until the new grants for 1996 arrive.

The positive balance of the accounts is partly due to 3-year programs of co-operation with both DANIDA and NORAD, which allows IWGIA to foresee and budget more precisely than otherwise. The programs are the Danida miniframe agreement, which includes development projects, information, networking etc. Danida also sponsors the second phase of our so-called South-South Project, in this phase dedicated to work with indigenous peoples in Asia through information, networking and conferences. NORAD is funding a 3 year program on indigenous peoples and human rights.

However, the secretariat is still using a comparatively large amount of its time on fund-raising. Many special activities, including the publishing of documents, have to be applied for separately, since the budget only allows for current expenses.

In 1995 IWGIA continued its efforts to obtain funding from the EU and did receive

special funding for the conference in connection with the UN Social Summit in March in Copenhagen. We also applied to the EU for funds for a program on awareness raising, but this was turned down.

4. IWGIA's NATIONAL GROUPS

Oslo, Norway: The group has its base in the Anthropology Department of the University of Oslo. There are about seven active members. In 1995 the group continued to hold regular seminars and lectures on indigenous issues at Oslo University. The second major endeavour of the group has been information activities, in order to recruit students interested in indigenous issues.

Sweden:

Gothenburg: The level of activity of the group has been limited in 1995. The group consists of a small core group of five-six committed people. The main activity has been the promotion of indigenous issues and of acquaintance with the work of IWGIA at the Institute for Social Anthropology in Gothenburg. Among the activities of the group were the organisation of a public lecture by the president of ONIC (Organización Nacional Indígena de Colombia) about the Indian situation and their representation in the National Parliament, and some film evenings where several films on indigenous issues were shown.

Lund: In 1995, IWGIA Lund moved to new premises, and they were able to hire an office assistant paid by the state. The group has managed to consolidate an active and stable core group and has organized many valuable activities during the year. Much effort was given to informing about IWGIA and about issues of concern to indigenous peoples. The group arranged regular seminars and lectures on indigenous matters. In the autumn they conducted a series of seminars on indigenous peoples and environmental issues that was very well attended.

Copenhagen, Denmark: The Danish group has done extensive educational work on indigenous peoples in general, producing programs on a local radio station in Copenhagen, delivering lectures and instructing school pupils at all levels.

At the NGO Forum during the World Social Summit IWGIA DK had a stand where the national group collected signatures to support the Lubicon Cree Indians and their territorial claims.

At the Labour Day gathering in Fælledparken in Copenhagen on May 1st the group had a stand with information about indigenous peoples and continued to collect signatures in support of the Lubicon Cree Indians.

The Danish group has the following subgroups:

The Arctic subgroup: Claus Oreskov participated as an observer in a hunters' convention in Ilulisat, Greenland. He has published articles and interviews from the occasion in various periodicals.

The Arctic group has been lobbying Danish as well as EU politicians to urge them to extend the time limit of an EU directive against the import of fur from countries allowing

the use of leg hold traps.

The group arranged a press conference with Peter Williamson from the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada and Jim Sinclair from the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples, about the rights and conditions of Arctic hunters. IWGIA DK is currently collaborating with Greenlandic students in Denmark on issues of the arctic regions and of indigenous peoples in general. The arctic group has contributed to the IWGIA Yearbook and to *Indigenous Affairs*.

The South/Central America subgroup and the International Secretariat contributed together to the preparation of an exhibition at the National Museum in Copenhagen about IWGIA's work and the Asháninka Indians. The group arranged a press conference with Marcelino López, representative for the Enxet Indians in Paraguay.

The North America subgroup has worked for and arranged protest campaigns and lobby work to support the Lubicon Indian Nation (Alberta, Canada) the Innu Nation (Labrador, Canada), The Western Shoshone (Nevada, USA), the Pikuni Blackfeet (Montana, USA), and the San Carlos Apache (Arizona, USA) Indians, and for Leonard Peltier (indigenous political prisoner in USA). Andreas Knudsen from the group has published several articles in German newspapers.

The North America subgroup has also contributed to *Indigenous World* and *Indigenous Affairs*.

Moscow, Russia: Through 1995 the Moscow group continued to spread information on the rights of indigenous peoples, to Moscow as well as to towns and native villages in the Russian North, Siberia and the Far East. They started to publish the bulletin "Living Arctic" about indigenous rights and ecological problems. The bulletin is distributed free of charge to indigenous leaders and communities.

Two members of the Moscow group function as consultants to members of the Russian Parliament, in an attempt to secure the rights of indigenous peoples in laws concerning natural resources.

In 1995 they succeeded to include paragraphs about the rights of indigenous peoples in a law about mineral resources and also in a law about the animal world.

Three members of the Moscow group participated in the Russia-USA project "Social Transitions in the North". The project studied the health and demography of indigenous communities at Chukotka and Kamchatka. The expedition in 1995 was the third one. It ended in deep tragedy, four members of the project and five Eskimos drowning in a boat accident in the Provideniya bay.

Switzerland:

Zürich: A Conference on "Indigenous Peoples, Environment and Development" was prepared during 1994 and early 1995. It took place May 15-18, 1995 in Maennedorf, Zürich (for more information see the chapter on Conferences and Meetings).

The recommendations, "Criteria and Principles for Co-operation between Government Agencies, Development and Environment Organisations and Indigenous Peoples", drawn up at the conference in May, were presented at a conference for all NGOs in Switzerland on June 30 1995, "NGOs shape the future", which was part of the Swiss celebrations of the United Nations 50 year anniversary.

As a major result of the conference different Swiss support groups for indigenous peoples (IWGIA, Society for Threatened Peoples, Incomindios Switzerland, Bruno Manser Fond, Nouvelle Plante, Traditions pour Demain, DOCIP, Infoe Switzerland) agreed to coordinate their individual efforts in a joint lobbying to urge the Swiss government to draw

up a coherent policy on indigenous peoples. Several preparatory meetings took place in Bern, and a first meeting with high ranking representatives from the Swiss Government Development Agency is scheduled for February 1996.

An action alert was organized to support the initiatives of the "Network of the Farmers in the North" (NFN), a regional peoples' organisation in Northern Thailand, consisting mainly of indigenous communities struggling for the right of indigenous peoples to remain on their lands in the face of plans for the land to be turned into conservation areas. The action called for support letters/letters of concern to the Prime Minister of Thailand, asking the Prime Minister to resume the dialogue with and to support the NFN.

Basel: During the first months of 1995 the group continued their school project, elaborating a new concept and collecting pictures and slides of indigenous peoples.

In May 1995 they attended the international conference on "Indigenous Peoples, Environment and Development" organised by the Zürich group. They also assisted the organisers and took part in all the practical arrangements in connection with the conference.

Like in 1994 some members worked along with DOCIP at the UN Working Group of Indigenous Populations in July. Some members also participated in the session of the Working Group on the Draft Declaration in November. During the year the group had contacts with other European support groups and also with indigenous organisations.

During the last months of 1995 the Basel group started to prepare a lecture course for summer term 1996 entitled "Unerhörte stimmen". The aim of the lectures is to present and discuss the different problems that confront indigenous peoples to-day. The lectures will deal with such different areas as culture, ethnicity, traditional knowledge, environment, politics and law.

Spain: The IWGIA national group in Spain was officially established at the IWGIA board meeting in March 1995 in Copenhagen. The group has its base in Madrid. During 1995 all efforts of the group have been put into the consolidation of an active and stable core group, and they have succeeded in establishing a small office attended by two volunteers. Many efforts were put into the promotion of IWGIA's publications as well as informing about IWGIA and about issues of indigenous peoples in Spain. The group has started lobbying the Spanish Co-operation Agency and has tried to raise funds for publications and for projects on indigenous issues. The group participated in several meetings/conferences where indigenous issues were discussed, e.g. the Conference on Intellectual Property Rights organised by University "Menéndez Pelayo" in Madrid, and a meeting on the Biodiversity Convention also held in Madrid.

5. HUMAN RIGHTS WORK

United Nations

During 1995 IWGIA closely followed the discussion on indigenous issues in the UN system. Representatives from IWGIA attended the following meetings:

52nd session of the UN Commission on Human Rights (February - March 1995).

IWGIA's international board has decided to keep close watch on the whole process around

the draft declaration on indigenous peoples' rights. Accordingly Georg Henriksen, Jens Dahl and Inger Sjørsløv all attended the meeting of the Commission, at different times. The wording of the draft declaration was not negotiated at this meeting. But important discussions on procedure took place, i.e. how the text is going to be dealt with further on. Also the so-called "Open-ended intersessional Working Group on a Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples" was established directly under the Human Rights Commission.

As usual IWGIA took part in the **UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations**. Inger Sjørsløv, Andrew Gray and Lola García-Alix attended the meeting in Geneva July 24-28.

IWGIA's representatives Andrew Gray, Inger Sjørsløv and Lola García-Alix (administrator of the HRFIP) also attended the **1st session of the UN Commission on Human Rights open-ended intersessional Working Group on a Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples** in Geneva from November 20 to December 1st. Approx. 100 indigenous representatives from all over the world took part in the meeting, in order to defend the draft declaration of their rights, elaborated by the Working Group on Indigenous Populations. It is difficult to say how long the new working group will meet. Estimates vary from five to ten years.

The Human Rights Fund for Indigenous Peoples

Established in 1984 the Human Rights Fund for Indigenous Peoples (HRFIP) is a federation of five European NGOs working on Indigenous Affairs: **Anti-Slavery International** - ASI - (United Kingdom), the **International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs** - IWGIA - (Denmark), the **Co-ordinating Group on Indigenous Affairs** - KWIA - (Belgium), the **Dutch Centre for Indigenous Peoples** - NCIV - (Holland). And it is with pleasure we can announce that in 1995 the Human Rights Fund for Indigenous Peoples was joined by the **Society for Threatened Peoples** (Germany).

The main purpose of the HRFIP is to support indigenous representation in inter-governmental meetings and to promote indigenous interests in an international and European context. The primary activity is to give financial support to indigenous participation at United Nations bodies. The HRFIP encourages indigenous representatives to make their voices heard and their cases known, particularly at the UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations, the UN Commission on Human Rights and now at the newly established UN Working Group on the Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which held its first meeting from November 20 till December 1st, 1995. The meetings take place at the United Nations headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland.

In 1995 the HRFIP procured the necessary financial support for 22 indigenous representatives to participate in three different meetings in the UN system, where crucial discussions on indigenous issues took place. The diversification of the debate on indigenous questions and the need to follow the debate on the draft declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples have resulted in a reduction this year of the number of indigenous representatives financed to participate in the Working Group on Indigenous Populations - whereas the financing for these meetings had hitherto been the principal aim of the HRFIP.

At the 52nd session of the UN Commission on Human Rights (February - March 1995) the HRFIP covered the costs of three indigenous representatives from the following organisations: Asian Indigenous Peoples Pact, The Bougainville Interim Government and the International Indian Treaty Council.

Representatives from the Philippines, Ecuador, Chile, Paraguay, Peru and Mali

received the necessary support to attend the 13th session of the UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations.

For the 1st session of the UN Commission on Human Rights open-ended intersessional Working Group on a Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (November - December 1995) the indigenous representatives supported were from Alaska, Canada, New Zealand, Ecuador, Panama, India, the Philippines, Malaysia, Peru and Costa Rica .

The HRFIP is now widely known, and indigenous peoples are contacting the Fund in ever increasing numbers.

The European Alliance with Indigenous Peoples (EAIP)

1995 has been a hard year for the Alliance, with a severe financial crisis. Consequently, by the end of the year it became necessary to cut down staff, so by January 1st 1996 only one person is employed, on a part time basis, and only for a limited period.

The Alliance concluded its big project with the EU commission by the end of 1995 and presented the final reports.

It is very hard to obtain core funding for the work of the Alliance, so the member organisations have had to contribute financially to the running of the organisation.

The Alliance is presently quite well known both within the EU system, and with many of the indigenous organisations. The feedback from the indigenous representatives who have been to Brussels has been very positive, and the Alliance is definitely doing a much needed job, helping the indigenous representatives to find their way around in the EU. For IWGIA it is important to have an office in Brussels, which can assist indigenous peoples when they go to meet the Commission.

However, the difficult economic situation and the resulting uncertainty about staff means that unless a more permanent solution is found we might be forced to close down the Alliance.

6. RESEARCH

As part of the comparative research project on "Indigenous Peoples' Self Determination, Identity and Development" Jens Dahl spent two months in Alaska. The project in Alaska has its focus on the Alutiiq people in the South Central part of the State.

In the 18th century the Alutiiq were brutally colonised by the Russians, by a system of servitude which uprooted all villages. Those who survived were relocated along the North Pacific coast. The result of this and of a harsh assimilation policy by the Americans who bought Alaska in the middle of the 19th century, was that the Alutiiq culture has come under severe pressure. Today only few Alutiit speak their own language. The Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act initiated in 1971 had strong assimilationist consequences, but a growing cultural awareness among the various indigenous groups did follow in its wake. This cultural revitalization has added to the discussion of the common history of the Alutiiq people.

The Alutiiq homeland is the coastal region of the Alaska Peninsula, Kodiak Island and Prince William Sound. In a dozen or more villages they make up the majority of the population, but most of the Alutiit now live in the major cities of the region and in Anchorage. During 1994 and 1995 most of the Alutiiq villages were visited by Jens Dahl

and two native research assistants from the area. In 1995 villages in Kodiak, Kenai and on the Alaska Peninsula were visited by Jens Dahl and Mark Rusk, a native Alutiiq research assistant.

The Resource Center

The resource and documentation center is still being used by a large number of people, students as well as researchers and activists. In 1995 we have been fortunate enough to have a skilled temporary staff member to take care of the documentation center, but it is becoming increasingly clear that IWGIA is in dire need of funding to organise and computerize the extensive information gathered through 27 years of active work. It is a unique collection of material, which probably does not exist anywhere else in the world, and IWGIA has in 1995 put some effort into writing applications for funds to organise and expand the resource material.

Networking

Networking trips are an important means for IWGIA to obtain first-hand information on indigenous issues as well as to strengthen relations with indigenous groups and organisations. These trips provide IWGIA with essential background information enabling the organisation to deal with indigenous issues with the necessary sensitivity and understanding. An increasing part of IWGIA's documentation is being written by indigenous leaders from all over the world, and through networking new groups become aware of IWGIA's work and publications.

The networking trips are also useful for getting acquainted with and obtaining the information of the situation of indigenous peoples which forms the base of IWGIA's support activities and development work. Also IWGIA can thus inform new contacts about the possibilities of project support within our miniframe program.

Finally, the direct contact with new organisations also means that IWGIA may facilitate indigenous peoples' introduction to and participation in international meetings, like the Conference on Indigenous Peoples in Asia or the UN meetings in Geneva.

Networking trips to Asia

During 1995 IWGIA carried out a total of three networking trips to Asia. The trips concluded the Asian component of the so-called South-South Communication Program funded by Danida, which attempts to assess the status of indigenous self organisation in three continental areas: Africa, Asia and Oceania. The Africa component was concluded in 1994.

Both Inger Sjørnslev and Andrew Gray have been networking in India.

The **first networking trip to India** was accomplished by Inger Sjørnslev from April 9 to May 3, 1995. The journey, aside from a visit to contacts in New Delhi, covered the following areas: Bihar, Andra Pradesh, Kerala and Karnataka (Wayanard), Maharastra (Bombay-Thane). It was not possible to cover the Eastern Ghats and the so-called tribal belt: Orissa, Madya Pradesh and Gujarat. The purpose of the trip was not only to widen IWGIA's web of contacts, but also to acquire a better understanding of the general situation of indigenous peoples in India.

Inger met with many indigenous organisations and experts on indigenous issues and also visited some indigenous communities, like the Munda community in the Chottanagpur district, communities in the Oraon-belt, a tribal area to the North of Ranchi, and in the

Wayanard Wildlife area and the Nagarahole National Park.

The whole situation of indigenous peoples in India is very complex, and much more could and ought to be done by IWGIA in India. More networking to begin with, first of all in those areas not covered by Inger's and Andrew's trips.

A networking trip to Northern India and Nepal was carried out by Andrew Gray from June 11 to June 25. The trip to the North was delayed because of visa problems and had to be curtailed by a week.

In Delhi Andrew Gray visited several organisations like the Indian Social Institute, the Indian Confederation of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples, Other Media etc. and discussed further possibilities of collaboration. Andrew went to Dehra Dun to meet with the Rural Litigation and Entitlement Kendra (RLEK) to talk about the Van Gujjars and he also visited them in the Rajaji National Park. During his stay in Delhi he participated in the National Consultation on Tribal Self Rule. This meeting was arranged by the Delhi based organisation *Other media* and included a discussion between about fifty indigenous representatives, NGOs, voluntary organisations and experts, to examine the constitutional provisions relating to indigenous peoples in India, and the extension of Village Councils to tribal areas. The meeting lasted three days and on the final day there was a public meeting to present the findings. IWGIA was the only non-Indian organisation present.

In Nepal Andrew visited the Nepal Federation of Nationalities Federal Council (NEFEN), which is a federation of 23 peoples throughout the country and a member of the Asian Indigenous Peoples Pact and the International Institute for Human Rights, Environment and Development.

Networking trip to Indonesia and the Philippines

Danilo Geiger undertook this networking trip from August 12 to October 19, 1995. IWGIA has so far had no institutional contacts with indigenous or indeed any other groups in Indonesia. So the purpose of the trip was to find out what kind of indigenous movements existed there at all. Also to get a grasp of the political conditions as well as of the broader NGO movement, and to visit a few key organisations that we could co-operate with in the future.

In contrast to Indonesia the Philippines are well known terrain to IWGIA. Relations with key organisations are well established, with several of them regularly participating in the UNWGIP sessions in Geneva, contributing to IWGIA publications and submitting project proposals. Consequently the emphasis of the networking was different there, focusing more on an assesment of the present internal relations in the indigenous movement and a re-evaluation of IWGIA's alliances, but also exploring possible links with newly established groups.

Networking trip to Namibia and South Africa

Marianne Jensen, our new project coordinator, made a short networking trip to Namibia and South Africa in March - April 1995. The networking was done in connection with the project visit to the First Peoples of Kalahari project in Botswana. The purpose of the networking trip in Namibia was to follow up on contacts with the Nyae Nyae organisation in Windhoek, engaged in Bushmen issues, and to meet with government representatives who work on the subject. Also to learn about the latest developments in the Himba peoples' situation in northern Namibia. The purpose of the networking trip in South Africa was to visit the !XU and Khwe foundation in Kimberley from which IWGIA had received

a project application.

Networking trip to West Africa was conducted by Anne Hege Simonsen (then IWGIA's external consultant on Africa) from June 23 to July 30, 1995, and covered the following countries: Cameroon, Nigeria, Mali, The Gambia and Senegal.

In Cameroon she visited the Mbororo Association Mboscuda and discussed further co-operation with them. The purpose of her visit to Nigeria was to establish further contact with MOSOP (Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People), to gather general information about the plight of the Ogoni people, and about their organisation and the prospects for further co-operation with IWGIA. In Mali she tried to get in touch with some of IWGIA's contacts in the Tuareg community, but due to the violent situation in the country communication with the relevant people was not possible. In Senegal she became acquainted with the situation of the Mauritanian refugees. In The Gambia she met the African Commission on Human and People's Rights and discussed the possibilities of co-operation between IWGIA and the Commission around a possible conference on minority rights/indigenous peoples on the African continent.

7. CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

Conference on Indigenous Peoples and Self Determination as a Means for Combating Social Injustice.

The conference was held under the auspices of the NGO Forum convening at the same time as the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen, from March 3 to March 12, 1995.

IWGIA had purposely invited a very broad regional coverage. The aim was also to have indigenous participants from some of the world's "hot spots" for indigenous peoples, such as *the Karens from Burma* and *the Mayas from Chiapas*. The conference programs were printed in 3 languages: Danish, English and Spanish. Some of the activities were co-ordinated with ICC (Inuit Circumpolar Conference) and the Greenlanders in Copenhagen.

The IWGIA conference was extremely well attended, and unlike many other NGOs we had succeeded in securing meeting space for two full days. The first day we had a conference room big enough for 400, which all the time was almost full. The second day we had to accept a smaller room, since all the big rooms were booked for women NGOs, as this was the Women's Day (March 8). So all day long we had a queue of about 25 people outside the conference room, waiting to get in.

During the days of the conference IWGIA held a reception in co-operation with the Greenland House, and an official press meeting with all the indigenous participants. Both events were well attended.

The conference participants made a final declaration from the meeting, called "Final Declaration from the Second Assembly of the Indigenous Peace Initiative", which was printed in the Short News section in "Indigenous Affairs", no.1, 1995.

International Conference on Indigenous Peoples, Environment & Development.

More than a dozen indigenous representatives from Africa, Latin America, Asia, the Philippines, New Zealand and Australia followed the invitation by IWGIA Switzerland to

participate in the International Conference on "Indigenous Peoples, Environment & Development", held in Zürich from May 15 to 18, 1995.

This conference for the first time brought together in one common project all Swiss NGOs supporting indigenous peoples, with the commitment of making use of the drive and the achieved results from the conference. Their work will be better coordinated in the future, aiming to formulate a coherent and binding policy paper for Switzerland on indigenous peoples.

UN Workshop on the Permanent Forum, held in Copenhagen June 26-28, 1995.

IWGIA followed this workshop closely and held a reception for all participants, around 25 indigenous representatives and as many government representatives, plus a few observers and independent experts.

IWGIA has taken an active part in the follow-up to the workshop, in co-operation with the hosts: The Danish Foreign Ministry and the Greenland Home Rule.

The Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, September 1995.

The Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing was the largest women conference ever held. IWGIA was represented by the director Inger Sjørnslev, who divided her time between the NGO Forum and the official conference.

The purposes of IWGIA's participation were:

- to follow the negotiations on the UN Platform for Action and on the Declaration on Women's Rights, and to lobby for the inclusion of indigenous women's issues in both,
- to follow the workshop on indigenous women,
- to expand IWGIA's network,
- to focus on the problems and concerns of women in indigenous societies and to investigate the possibilities for publishing a document on indigenous women.

The lobbying for indigenous issues at the conference was successful, in the sense that at the NGO Forum a substantial alternative declaration on indigenous women's concerns was created. This declaration was distributed at the official conference as a UN NGO paper. The proceedings at the NGO Forum were very successful, and new networks were created among the indigenous women. Asian, Pacific, North American and Latin American women worked together in a very constructive way, and much was accomplished in the week preceding the official UN conference.

Asia Conference

In co-operation with Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP) and the association, Inter Mountain Peoples Education and Culture in Thailand (IMPECT), IWGIA organised a conference on indigenous peoples in Asia. The conference took place in Chiang Mai, Thailand from October 9-11, 1995. Indigenous peoples from all over Asia participated and also a number of government representatives from Thailand and the Philippines and some international experts. The total number of participants was around 90.

The major themes of the conference were:

- Indigenous peoples' legal rights in modern Asian states and their relation to the state and to the non-indigenous population,
- Movements and forms of organisation among Asian indigenous peoples.

The topic of definitions of the concept of indigenous peoples was also addressed. On the last day future strategies and initiatives were discussed, and a resolution was adopted.

The atmosphere during the conference was very positive, and the participants agreed that the conference provided a useful and much needed forum for bringing indigenous peoples from all parts of Asia together, and for promoting discussion of common problems and shared experiences. IWGIA will publish a book with the proceedings from the conference in 1996.

The conference has been an important stepping stone for the further development of IWGIA's contacts and co-operation with indigenous organisations in Asia. As a direct effect of the conference a number of new project partnerships have been established.

8. DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.

In 1995, as before, development projects have been an important part of IWGIA's work.

The largest projects are:

The Land titling project in Ucayali, Peru. The project will secure demarcation and titling of more than 100 native communities and the establishment of 7 Communal Reserves (communal hunting and fishing areas). June 1996 will mark the end of this program of land entitlement begun in 1989 in which some 2,000,000 hectares have been demarcated. In the last phase of the project the proposal for the establishment of 7 Communal Reserves was also worked out. It is administrated from the regional AIDSESEP office in Pucallpa.

A press for COICA, Ecuador. An offset press has been installed in the central office of COICA in Quito, with the object of producing publications for the member organisations. So far work has been slow and production is less than expected. The project will end in 1997 and has cost approx. 200,000 US\$.

Support for the Mayan newspaper El Regional. El Regional is a Maya newspaper in Guatemala, published in Spanish, Quiché, Jakalteko, Katchikel and Mam. With the support of IWGIA, the paper is now publishing a bilingual journal in each of the four regions where it is distributed.

The First Peoples of Kalahari project, Botswana.

The project supports the establishment of an indigenous Kwe (Bushman) organisation in Botswana. The project started in April 1994 and expires in April 1997. An IWGIA project visit was carried out in March - April 1995 by Arthur Krasilnikoff (external consultant to the project) and Marianne Jensen, IWGIA's project coordinator. The conclusions of the report of this visit are that the project has come quite a long way in awareness raising among the Kwe communities, in human rights work and in international networking. However, they do have problems with accounting, administration and reporting, and a number of recommendations were made to redress the situation. By the end of 1995 it was clear however, that the situation is still not satisfactory, and an IWGIA review mission is scheduled for the beginning of 1996.

During 1995 the First Peoples of Kalahari also applied for funds to buy a plot and build an office of their own, in order to have permanent office space. Part of the funds for this purpose was granted by IWGIA, MS and Solhvervsfonden.

The Miniframe agreement with Danida

Activities under the so-called Miniframe program developed further in 1995. The Miniframe program runs from April 1994 to March 1996 and is funded by Danida. The main function of the Miniframe program has been to fund a range of small projects managed by indigenous organisations in South America, Asia and Africa. The main sectors supported are organisation building, communication and information, land rights, and education. Furthermore three networking trips have been carried out, to South America and to Southern and Western Africa. Parts of these trips were combined with project identification and project monitoring. The Miniframe program has provided definite support for IWGIA's integrative approach aiming to combine project work, publications, and networking. The first progress report on the Miniframe program was made for Danida in March 1995.

Some projects under the miniframe agreement with DANIDA:

Peru: Legal assistance to the Asháninka organisation OIRA. OIRA has carried out two small projects to support indigenous peoples in a series of lawsuits against the illegal extraction of wood from their land. They also supplied legal assistance after the municipal elections when the local "patrones" tried to challenge the first indigenous victory ever. Both projects have been successful, and the region now has 4 indigenous mayors.

Financial support for **the meeting of the FENAMAD Assembly in Madre de Dios, Peru.**

In Loreto, in the northern part of the Peruvian Amazon region, the local branch of AIDSESEP carried out two projects **to inform the indigenous communities about the activities of the oil companies and to strengthen their organisation.** At present, there is a significant increase in the number of oil concessions in the whole of the Amazon region, which is creating serious ecological and social damage.

The Sironós indigenous peoples in Bolivia and CIDDEBENI, an NGO, suggested together a **territorial defense program** based on the strengthening of indigenous organization through educational courses and discussions around the economic alternatives for indigenous peoples. The project proposal is almost complete.

The Guaranés living on the outskirts of the city of Santa Cruz in Bolivia decided to initiate an **organizational process**, which in the course of a year has brought together 22 communities, approx. 5,000 people. It was decided to continue supporting this initiative until the middle of 1997.

The purchase of a **radio station for CONFENIAE, Ecuador.**

Miniframe program evaluation

An evaluation of the Miniframe program was initiated in 1995. IWGIA made the terms of reference, subsequently approved by Danida, and Diana Vinding, anthropologist and an independent consultant, was contracted to do the evaluation. The main purpose was to evaluate the experiences so far acquired by IWGIA through the Miniframe program, and to provide recommendations for the application for a subsequent Miniframe program. The evaluation report is available in the beginning of 1996.

9. PUBLICATIONS

IWGIA's publications are sent free of charge to hundreds of indigenous organisations all over the world. The increasing number of organisations who request our publications have considerably raised the distribution costs, which we try to cover through the sale of subscriptions. IWGIA also has exchange agreements with a large number of NGOs.

The Indigenous Affairs/Asuntos Indígenas contain various material that is compiled, edited and processed by the secretariat, whereas the *Documents/Documentos* are written exclusively for IWGIA publication, but also edited and processed by the secretariat.

As in former years IWGIA has published four issues of *Indigenous Affairs/Asuntos Indígenas*. The first issue focused on the experiences of indigenous self determination, through cases like Greenland and Nunavut in Canada. The second issue dealt mainly with the situation of indigenous women, while the contents of the third issue have been more diversified. The political organisation of the Bushmen of the Kalahari desert, the Wanniya-Laeti case from Sri Lanka, the threats from the oil companies in Peru and the 13th session of the UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations are all dealt with in that issue. The last issue of the year will contribute to the discussion on indigenous knowledge and indigenous property rights.

Failure to gain publication support has unfortunately necessitated a reduction of IWGIA's document program. During 1995 we have published two documents: "The Explosion of Communities in Chiapas" in both Spanish and English, an anthology of articles about the indigenous rebellion in the South of Mexico, "Territorios Indígenas y la Nueva Legislación Agraria en el Perú" in Spanish, edited by Pedro García Hierro together with Racimos de Ungurahui, a working group from Peru.

10. VISITORS

In 1995 IWGIA was pleased to be host to several indigenous leaders and to many good supporters of indigenous rights. Their visits gave IWGIA valuable and first hand information on the situation of indigenous peoples in their respective countries.

In connection with the UN Social Summit in March IWGIA was hosting:

Sharon Venne, Anishabe, representative for Treaty Six Chiefs, Canada

Claude Marere, French Polynesia

Ratnakar Bhengra, Adivasi, representative for Jharkadis Organisation for Human Rights India

Andrew Gray, anthropologist, specialist on indigenous peoples

Julian Burger, researcher, representative for United Nations Center for Human Rights, Geneva.

Bernardo Silva, Asháninka, representative for AIDSESEP in Peru

Pedro García, lawyer, representative for AIDSESEP, Peru

Howard Berman, professor in international law, USA

John Hardbattle, Nóakwe, representative for First Peoples of Kalahari, Botswana

Yawnghwe Harn, Karen, representative for Karen National Union, Burma
Louise Black Elk, Lakota Indian, USA
Mililani Trask, Kanaka Maoli, representative for Kia'aina, Hawaii
Henriette Rasmussen, Kalaaleq/Inuit, Social Minister, representative for the Greenland Home Rule
Juan López, Maya-Tojobal, Representative for Frente Independiente de Pueblos Indios, Mexico
Gloria Simeon, Inuit, Vicepresident for ICC Alaska
Rita Means, Rosebud Sioux Tribe, Economic Development Commission, USA
Delbert J. Rexford, Inupiat, The Mayors Office, North Slope Borough
Jimmy Onalik, Inuit, Inuit Tapirisat of Canada
Lars Anders Baer, Saami, Nordisk Sameråd
Tønnes Bertelsen, Kalaaleq/Inuit, Greenland
Geodisio Castillo, Kuna, Permaski, Panama
Charlotte Black Elk, Lakota, USA
Jose Morales, Maya, Costa Rica
Henry Minde, Same, Tromsø Universitet

In 1995 IWGIA was also visited by:

Vicente Poeso, CIDOB, Guarani, Bolivia
Atencio López, Asociación Napguana, Kuna, Panama
Vladimir Santos, Academia de Lenguas Mayas, Maya, Guatemala
Aucan Huilcaman, Consejo de Todas las Tierras, Mapuche, Chile
Juan Chávez, AIDSESP, Shipibo, Peru
Dr. Thaung Htun, National Coalition Union of Burma
Juan Reatequi, Aguaruna, Peru
Cindy Bull, The Bank Information Center (USA)
Hjalmar Dahl, IIC, Inuit, Greenland
Aqualuk Lyngé, ICC, Inuit, Greenland
Mrs. Ashton, Bolivia's Embassy
Minnie Degawan, Cordillera Peoples Alliance, Kankanaey, Philippines
Jannie Lasimban, PACOS, Sabah Malaysia
Luingam Luithui, Asian Indigenous Peoples Pact, Naga, Nagaland
Marcelino López, Enxet, Paraguay
Stephen Kidd, Tierraviva, Researcher, Paraguay
Marianne Lykke Thomsen, Greenland Home Rule
Tove Søvndahl, Greenland Home Rule
Jack Hicks, Nunavut, Canada
Alejandro Arcomedo, Survival International, Canada
Jorge Nahuel, Mapuche, Argentina
Aron Johannes, Bushman, Botswana
Richard Howitt, researcher, Australia
Allan Moreau, researcher, Brazil
Ole Gaub, Saami, Arctic Environment Office
Oleg Visokulan, anthropologist, Paraguay
Abadio Green, Kuna, president ONIC, Colombia
Evaristo Nugkuag, Aguaruna, President Consejo Aguaruna-Huambisa
Marcos Pérez, Maya, Chiapas, Mexico

Liz Hoskins, Gaia Foundation London
Martin von Hildebrandt, Gaia Foundation London

11. ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

In this section IWGIA must repeat, what we have stated in all our annual reports for the last many, many years: That our most important support has come from the Nordic Foreign Ministries, and that we are immensely grateful for that support. We have also been granted core funding from the Greenland Home Rule Government, which we value very much.

In 1995 we received a small not earmarked amount from the Danish Lotto funds.

IWGIA has received DANIDA money for new development projects in Peru, Ecuador and Guatemala, and continued working on DANIDA granted projects in Botswana and Peru.

The miniframe agreement with DANIDA secured funds for numerous projects in many different regions in Asia as well as Africa and Latin America.

Special activities were funded by various earmarked grants. The EU provided funds for the conference in connection with the UN Social Summit, the Danish State Lottery Funds (Tipsmidlerne) funded various smaller activities, and DANIDA and NORAD both financed yet other programs.

For the Human Rights Fund for Indigenous Peoples, IWGIA in co-operation with Anti-Slavery International, KWIA and NCIV raised money from The Danish Church Aid, The Swedish Church Aid, The Danish Foreign Ministry, Christian Aid (UK), Cafod (UK), Stichting Algemene Loterij Nederland (Holland) and ICCO (Holland).

Without the ongoing help of our financial supporters, IWGIA would not be able to continue and improve its work in co-operation with and in support of the world's indigenous populations. We thank all our supporters and remain hopeful that we may count on them in the future as well.

12. CONCLUSIONS AND WORK AHEAD

1995 has been a year of consolidation of previous activities as well as embarking upon new areas of concern and going into new geographical regions with which we have previously had only sporadic contact.

The year has been substantially marked by UN work, which is taking up more and more time, due to the expansion of activities and to the recognition of IWGIA's role as a main source of information for many indigenous peoples, on the work process in the UN. IWGIA intends to continue being a valuable information source for indigenous peoples

involved in international work. We hope also to be able to expand our network yet further and to intensify co-operation with our present contacts.

Project work expanded considerably in 1995 with four major new projects in Latin America and the completion of the miniframe program, which was successfully evaluated.

In 1995 IWGIA's International Board started a discussion about the internal strategy for our work in the next five years. The priorities for the coming years have been specified as follows

- to promote indigenous viewpoints on self determination, to inspire a political dialogue and to facilitate the access of indigenous peoples to international fora. Special emphasis will be given to the establishment of a permanent forum for indigenous peoples within the United Nations and to the adoption of the Declaration on Indigenous Peoples' Rights by the United Nations,
- to lobby for the implementation of IWGIA's Strategy Paper in relation to governments and international bodies; to support indigenous endeavours to lobby European governments to adopt their own strategy papers based on the IWGIA Strategy Paper,
- in relation to the UN Decade on indigenous peoples to raise awareness in the non-indigenous world on the problems and special conditions of indigenous peoples,
- with the help of indigenous and other experts to analyse the situation of indigenous peoples globally, in their relation to states and to the international community, and concerning legal rights and current cultural and social conditions,
- to support specific initiatives to develop indigenous institutions and to facilitate the co-operation between indigenous groups. Emphasis will be on the grassroots level and one method will be to go from smaller regional meetings between indigenous community leaders and representatives to meetings on a larger scale with representatives from different countries. Special attention will be given to the representation of indigenous women,
- to support indigenous peoples in becoming better aware of their own situation in relation to states and to the global economic and political forces that effect them on the local level,
- through publications, seminars and contacts with the press and other mass media to inform about world-wide political processes concerning indigenous peoples and their relationship with states and the international community.

Specific aims in relation to ongoing activities are

- to create policy papers for each of the regions where IWGIA is involved. Although indigenous peoples have major problems in common, the conditions they live under differ considerably. IWGIA aims at developing different strategies for different regions,
- to publish general information on indigenous issues in one or more non-European languages spoken by a large number of indigenous peoples, like Tagalog (the Philippines), Thai or Vietnamese,
- to continue the expansion of IWGIA's network so it may more adequately reflect the distribution of indigenous peoples in the world. The Pacific will be covered through networking trips, as the last component of the South-South communication program, and follow-up programs on current activities in Africa and Asia will be established,
- to make an evaluation of the results of the program "Empowerment and Promotion of Indigenous Peoples' Human Rights" and to follow up on this program,
- to establish a network of researchers on indigenous issues, and in co-operation with

research institutes to hold a seminar with indigenous leaders and experts as well as non-indigenous academics, on the latest developments in research on indigenous peoples and their relationships with states and non-indigenous communities,

- to lobby among environment organisations and to co-operate with the more progressive environment organisations and individuals for designing and adopting a clear policy on indigenous peoples,
- to follow and lobby the international finance institutions (World Bank, International Monetary Fund, Asian Development Bank etc.) on their policies on indigenous issues.

Indigenous peoples to-day stand at an important juncture in their ongoing struggle, but in a negative as well as in a positive sense. On the positive side the indigenous movement as such is stronger internationally than it has been, and some advances are also seen at the UN, as well as in the attitude of the World Bank and other international organizations. At the same time however, we have seen a worsening of daily life conditions for indigenous peoples, and their continuing struggle to preserve their cultural integrity and their dignity in the face of discrimination and of threats of various kinds to their territorial and other rights is becoming harder.

IWGIA's work is as important as ever, and we would not be able to continue this work without the continuous help of our financial supporters which have provided the economic basis for IWGIA's endeavours right from the start of international work for indigenous peoples' human rights.

We are very grateful to all our supporters and send them our thanks, hoping that we may continue this fruitful co-operation in the future.