IWGIA is an international, non-governmental, membership organisation, which supports indigenous peoples worldwide in their struggle for self-determination. IWGIA’s activities focus on human rights work, research, documentation and dissemination of information and project work in co-operation with indigenous organisations and communities.

Since its foundation in 1968, IWGIA has followed the indigenous movement and continuously increased its activities and expanded its network with indigenous peoples worldwide. Today, IWGIA has an established global network of researchers and human rights activists concerned and engaged in indigenous peoples’ affairs.

The world’s indigenous peoples account for more than 350 million individuals, divided into at least 5000 peoples.

Indigenous peoples are the disadvantaged descendants of those peoples that inhabited a territory prior to the formation of a state. The term indigenous may be defined as a characteristic relating the identity of a particular people to a particular area and distinguishing them culturally from other people or peoples. When, for example, immigrants from Europe settled in the Americas and Oceania, or when new states were created after colonialism was abolished in Africa and Asia, certain peoples became marginalised and discriminated against, because their language, their religion, their culture and their whole way of life were different and perceived by the dominant society as being inferior. Insisting on their right to self-determination is indigenous peoples’ way of overcoming these obstacles.

Today many indigenous peoples are still excluded from society and often even deprived of their rights as equal citizens of a state. Nevertheless they are determined to preserve, develop and transmit to future generations their ancestral territories and their ethnic identity. Self-identification as an indigenous individual and acceptance as such by the group is an essential component of indigenous peoples’ sense of identity. Their continued existence as peoples is closely connected to their possibility to influence their own fate and to live in accordance with their own cultural patterns, social institutions and legal systems.

Indigenous peoples face other serious difficulties such as the constant threat of territorial invasion and murder, the plundering of their resources, cultural and legal discrimination, as well as a lack of recognition suffered by indigenous institutions.

IWGIA co-operates with indigenous peoples all over the world and supports their fight for human rights, self-determination, their right to territory, control of land and resources, cultural integrity, and the right to development.

Through publications, human rights work, networking, conferences, campaigns and projects, IWGIA aims to support indigenous peoples in their struggle to improve general life conditions, to improve relationships with the nation states of which they are part, and to increase control of the global economic and political forces that affect their lives.

IWGIA aims to give indigenous peoples the possibility of organising themselves and opens up channels for indigenous peoples’ own organisations to claim their rights.
THE INTERNATIONAL BOARD
Espen Wæhle (Chair)
Diana Vinding
Mark Nuttall
Maria Teresa Quispe
Robert K. Hitchcock
Thomas Skielboe

Staff representatives:
Kathrin Wessendorf

THE ADVISORY BOARD
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Administrator: Anni Hammerlund

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- South and Central America: Alejandro Parellada
  Asia: Christian Erni and Mille Lund
- Africa: Marianne Wiben Jensen, Dina Berenstein and Geneviève Rose (from Nov. 2008)
- Human Rights: Lola García-Alix, Kathrin Wessendorf and Käthe Jepsen
- Communications: Kathrin Wessendorf
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- English documents: Programme coordinators
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# IWGIA’S ACTIVITIES

## 2008

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2008 was an eventful year for us. As IWGIA was established in 1968, 2008 marked our 40th anniversary. We used the occasion to reflect on our achievements over the years, and to discuss the main challenges facing indigenous peoples today with some of our key indigenous partners. It was also an opportunity to consider how we, as an organization dedicated to supporting their cause, can best operate within the specific circumstances of our time. Much has changed since IWGIA started working in 1968. Indigenous peoples have gained far greater recognition of their vulnerable situation and the need to constantly promote and protect their rights in the context of all kinds of other developments at the national and international levels. And yet some of IWGIA’s core activities still remain the same, and will probably continue to do so in the years to come: documenting cases and situations relating to indigenous peoples and disseminating information to the wider world as to what is going on. And nurturing a vast international network of dedicated organizations and individuals. From day one, IWGIA was - and made great efforts to be - a network organisation. During the organisation’s early years, we were also encouraged by the fact that we were increasingly able to establish cooperation with a number of other NGOs working on the same issues and, gradually, we were able to attract the attention of the media, governments and international agencies. Despite the increasing strength of the global indigenous movement, as well as regional and local indigenous organisations, IWGIA’s partners believe that organisations such as ours are still much needed as advocacy and lobbying partners, as information and resource bases, and for accessing much-needed funding for local initiatives.

So what are the circumstances in today’s world that we must keep an eye on to make sure the focus of our support and cooperation with indigenous peoples remains up-to-date? It now seems obvious that climate change and its implications for indigenous peoples’ rights is one such issue, and a burning one to address. At the national level, indigenous peoples are now advocating for adaptation and mitigation policies to take special measures to address indigenous peoples’ specific needs and not only address mainstream population groups. At the level of international policy-making under the Climate Change Convention, where the framework for national actions is currently being negotiated, indigenous peoples are demanding that references to the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples be used as a framework for all climate change-related actions, nationally and internationally. In early 2008, when IWGIA held an international seminar on Indigenous Peoples and Climate Change, however, these issues had not yet received much attention at the international level. Our seminar thus fed into the Permanent Forum session in 2008, and was submitted as a background document for the discussions on climate change. It also resulted in an issue of Indigenous Affairs with Climate Change and Indigenous Peoples as its theme, published in mid-2008. In our cooperation with indigenous partner organizations in the regions, the seminar was followed-up by support to regional seminars in Latin America and Asia, both of which served as preparatory meetings for the 2008 session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

The next highlight of the year was the launch of *The Indigenous World 2008* at the UN Headquarters in May, alongside the Permanent Forum session. As is usually the case, the launch attracted quite a number of people, and hundreds of copies of the book were handed out to indigenous peoples, governmental delegations and international institutions. Other important publications in 2008 included *The Concept of Indigenous Peoples in Asia. A Resource Book*, which presents background material and solid information to assist in addressing the practical question of how the concept of indigenous peoples can be applied in the particular context of Asian nations.

Erica-Irene A. Daes’ book *Indigenous Peoples: Keepers of our past, custodians of our future* is the author’s personal record of more than 20 years of efforts to promote the cause of indige-
nous peoples and obtain recognition of their fundamental rights by the United Nations. The book was published in connection with IWGIA’s 40th Anniversary, and launched at the UN General Assembly in October 2008.

At the regional level, our support to various indigenous organizations continued in 2008, with projects and activities focusing on land rights, self-organizing/capacity building and communication as a priority. As in previous years, we made a special effort to create linkages between the activities and issues our partners are working on locally and nationally, and international processes and fora. In Russia we supported the preparation of a shadow report to the UN Committee for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) on indigenous peoples’ concerns with regard to the construction of the giant Turukhansk hydroelectric dam, which, if implemented, will lead to the flooding of one of Russia’s most pristine forest regions, and the involuntary resettlement of many indigenous Evenki people. In South America we supported the process of recovering territory for the Guaraní communities living in captivity. This situation has been taken before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights in Washington, and subsequently monitored via the visit of a special committee of this institution to Bolivia. Networking and facilitation of indigenous organizations’ exchange of experiences is also an important part of our working strategy, and so we organized a workshop to exchange experiences on cases before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. Different organizations and support institutions discussed progress in their cases before the Commission at this workshop, held in Bolivia. In Asia, the Chittagong Hill Tracts Commission was re-established with the mandate to promote respect for human rights, democracy, and restoration of civil and political rights, participatory development, and land rights in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) in Bangladesh. Being an international Commission consisting of a number of outstanding international indigenous rights advocates who visit the country and talk to indigenous organizations, policy-makers and the media in order to promote a fair implementation of the 1997 Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Accord, this was another example of how we support indigenous peoples’ human rights struggles by actively promoting international engagement in the implementation of indigenous peoples’ rights.

This approach to supporting our partners is at the very heart of our work, so we were deeply satisfied to note that the joint Danida-Norad review of our work carried out towards the end of the year concluded that this was a meaningful and efficient strategy for supporting indigenous peoples in their struggle for promotion and protection of their human rights.

The review undertaken by Danida and Norad was aimed at assessing IWGIA’s current partnerships and other activities within the existing framework agreements with Danida, Denmark and Norad, Norway. Hopefully, this will assist IWGIA to further develop its activities within its framework agreements. The review included an assessment of internal organisational and capacity development, project implementation, networking and partnerships as well as publication and information activities. The review team visited various countries to assess IWGIA’s work. In Kenya, the review team assessed projects and key aspects of IWGIA’s Africa programme; in Ethiopia, our work with the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights (ACHPR) was reviewed; in Thailand and Cambodia both local projects as well as the overall Asia Programme were assessed. IWGIA’s work to promote indigenous peoples’ rights internationally was assessed through meetings with the Secretariat, and through participation in international fora. An organisational and management capacity analysis of IWGIA was also undertaken. The review will provide an input to the next round of framework negotiations with Norad and Danida.

The review further concluded that IWGIA was a well-managed organization with clear strategies for our work, highly professional staff, and a good network of strategic partners in each country in which we work. The review further concluded that the kind of support we give indigenous peoples is much needed, and it recommended that donors increase their funding to the organization.
In 2008, the Board held four meetings, one of which was a tele-conference in September. The three regular meetings—in February, May and October—all took place in Copenhagen.

At its February meeting, which was held in conjunction with a seminar on climate change and indigenous peoples convened by IWGIA (read more about the seminar on p. 7), the Board welcomed Thomas Skielboe as a new member. A Social Anthropologist and Director of the Nordic Agency for Development and Ecology, NORDECO, Thomas Skielboe was elected in our 2007 Board elections. Indigenous peoples and local development are the main focus areas of his professional work, and he works with several indigenous organizations and communities around the world. We also congratulated Maria Teresa Quispe for having been re-elected to a new three-year term. The Board now consists of Robert K. Hitchcock, Mark Nuttall, Maria Teresa Quispe, Thomas Skielboe, Diana Vinding and Espen Waehle and it was agreed to continue with Espen Waehle as chair and Diana Vinding as vice-chair.

Board meetings follow a standard agenda and a recurrent item is IWGIA’s finances. The Board monitors IWGIA’s financial situation closely through regular briefings from our Administrator, Anni Hammerslund, and a yearly meeting with our auditor. This year, this meeting took place at the May meeting. Besides giving us an overview of the annual audit results, the auditor usually takes the opportunity to discuss important issues and new donor demands with the Board. This year, focus was on the importance of risk management and fraud prevention, fortunately not a major problem for IWGIA but something that the Board and IWGIA’s Director should—and do—keep an eye on.

During 2008, the “Guidelines for IWGIA’s Local Groups” were reviewed, revised and circulated to the local groups. The Board has also followed and discussed an on-going process of reviewing and optimizing the structure and division of work in IWGIA’s Secretariat.

Apart from strategy and management discussions, Board meetings are also used for receiving updates from the Secretariat in general and from the various coordinators in particular, so that Board members are kept abreast of the situation in the regions in which IWGIA works and the challenges and opportunities that are being dealt with. At our February meeting, we had a visit from one of our main partners in Kenya, Josef Ole Simmel, who briefed us on the situation in Kenya—in particular the tense political situation following the December 2007 elections—and how this had impacted on indigenous peoples. The Board was also briefed regularly about the political developments in Bolivia up to the referendum in August. During 2008, the Board also received briefings and updates on the situation of indigenous peoples in Russia and Nepal and the re-launching of the Chittagong Hill Tracts Commission. Board meetings also covered processes and developments linked to the new UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human right and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people, the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights.
At the end of 2008 our two main donors, Danida and Norad, carried out a joint review of IWGIA’s work. The Board was happy to note that the findings of the review team were very positive, and that the final report recommended that core funding to IWGIA from both Danida and Norad be continued, and that grants are increased if possible. The findings and recommendations from the joint review are of utmost importance to the Board, and we are confident that they will help the organisation to strengthen and develop its work.

Much attention has been paid to preparing the celebrations for IWGIA’s 40th anniversary, and the October Board meeting coincided with these celebrations. All the Board members participated actively in the Seminar “Being Indigenous in Today’s World”, organised for this occasion on 6 October 2008 in Copenhagen. Attended by over 100 people, and with a number of indigenous speakers from our partner organisations, the conference considered issues facing indigenous peoples around the world. As Inuit lawyer and political science professor Dalee Sambo Dorough said at the conference, the adoption of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples by the United Nations General Assembly on 13 September 2007 “redefines the terms of our survival in international law”. She went on to point out that, while it is a declaration and not a convention, and therefore not binding on states, the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples has the potential to become customary international law and, as such, will henceforth have significant implications for the ways in which states behave towards indigenous peoples, and their deliberations and decision-making regarding indigenous concerns. Other discussions focused on: land rights and customary law in Africa and the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights (ACHPR) (Albert Barume from the Democratic Republic of
Congo, Member of the African Commission’s Working Group on Indigenous Populations / Communities,); the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the role of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people and the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the international support of indigenous peoples’ rights; and the implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (Bartolomé Clavero, a Spanish professor of law and member of the UNFPII). A discussion on land titling and territorial defense in Peru took place along with a consideration of broader indigenous issues in Latin America. The challenges and struggles of indigenous peoples in Africa were addressed by Joseph Ole Simmel of Kenya. There were also presentations and discussions of the Self-Rule process in Greenland; the roles of the European Union and the World Bank vis-à-vis indigenous peoples; climate change; protecting the human rights of indigenous peoples in Bolivia; capacity building of indigenous organizations at the local, regional and national levels; social movements of indigenous peoples; and the varied problems and opportunities that indigenous peoples are dealing with around the world. The conference was closed by Madame Erica Daes, who spoke vividly of the process leading up to the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and how crucial it is that the Declaration be implemented by governments, organizations and indigenous communities.

The Board has also been involved in planning various publications that have and will mark our 40th anniversary. This includes the forthcoming IWGIA – a history, by Jens Dahl, the book on the Aché (Los Aché del Paraguay: Discusión de un Genocide) and the anniversary issue of Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA 40 years on, nr. 3-4 / 2008), as well as Ms Erica-Irene A. Daes’ book Indigenous Peoples. Keepers of our past – custodians of our future. The latter was launched in the presence of the author in connection with the anniversary celebrations.

In 2008, Robert K. Hitchcock and Diana Vinding were up for election. They had both agreed to volunteer for another term and since the election was uncontested, they will continue as Board members. During 2008, the Board was represented on IWGIA’s project and publications committees by Robert K. Hitchcock and Diana Vinding respectively. The chair of the Board is in close contact with the secretariat and, along with the vice-chair, he discusses management and policy issues with the Director on a frequent basis.
In February, IWGIA organised a two-day conference on “Indigenous Peoples and Climate Change” attended by 60 indigenous peoples’ representatives, Danish Foreign Ministry staff, Greenland Home Rule representatives, development practitioners and members of IWGIA. The conference focused on the key issues facing indigenous peoples in the context of climate change, including its human rights aspects. The discussions went beyond the impacts of climate change and looked at how global mitigation policies, political processes and regulations facilitate or prevent indigenous peoples from responding and adapting to climate change.

The conference was considered a preparation for the 7th session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues as well as the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 15) in Copenhagen in 2009. The conference report was submitted to the Permanent Forum and an issue of Indigenous Affairs was devoted to indigenous peoples and climate change and used as a lobbying tool in the international climate change negotiations.

IWGIA follows discussions and developments in the indigenous Arctic region through its extensive network of individuals and indigenous organisations and through its participation in meetings of the Arctic Council and other regional and international activities. As IWGIA does not receive funding for project work in the Arctic, its work is limited and depends to a large extent on the voluntary contributions and participation of its members and affiliates. In 2008, IWGIA decided to close down its Arctic programme and continue only with a Russia country programme. The limited work in the Arctic is covered by an Arctic focal person.

In 2008, IWGIA participated in one session of the Sustainable Development Working Group of the Arctic Council. The meeting took place in Tromsø, Norway, and focused on issues of climate change, health and natural resource development. The Arctic Council is an intergovernmental body focusing primarily on environmental issues of interest to Arctic states and their inhabitants.
Summary of IWGIA’s Russia Programme Strategy

Thematic priorities include:

- Land and resource rights
- Impact of extractive industries
- Organizational empowerment and capacity building, especially for indigenous youth
- Communication and Information Centres’ network
- Legal rights advocacy
- International human rights mechanisms
- Political participation

Geographically, activities supported through the Russia Programme take place in small indigenous communities in the Far East and Siberia, as well as in the capital, where most of the legal advocacy work is centred.

In 2008, IWGIA continued to work with RAIPON, the national umbrella organisation of indigenous peoples, as well as with several regional indigenous information centres. The principal issue which IWGIA and its partners in Russia address remained unchanged from previous years: the lack of legal recognition of indigenous peoples’ right to land and resources, which translates into a lack of protection from unmitigated exploitation of indigenous territories by extractive industries. While three federal framework laws adopted between 1999 and 2001 enshrine basic rights in a declarative manner, their full implementation has been blocked ever since, and the Russian government has since watered down many legal guarantees, including most notably the right of indigenous communities to use their traditional lands and resources without being charged for doing so, and also the right to preferential access to that land, i.e. the legal norm by which, for example, the right of an indigenous community to fish in order to maintain their traditional way of life took precedence over the interests of commercial fishing companies. While these rights always remained largely theoretical, they have now officially been removed from a number of laws.

Combined with this, the revision of the forest and water legislation in the spirit of market liberalism in recent years began to show its impact in 2008 when, in various regions, regional administrations announced tenders for fishing rights on territories which have been used by indigenous peoples since time immemorial. In most cases, the successful bidders were commercial enterprises, while indigenous communities (obshchiny) lost out.

Another worrisome development was the effort to revive the giant Turukhansk hydroelectric dam, a project to create the world’s largest artificial lake on the Lower Tunguska River in the former Evenki autonomous region which, by 2007, had been merged into Krasnoyarsk Province. This project, now called “Evenkiiskaya GES”, was first proposed in the 1970s but, with the advent of Perestroika,
environmentalists managed to stop it, pointing to the uncontrollable environmental risk involved. Nevertheless, the revived project currently enjoys strong backing from the Russian government. If implemented, it would lead to the flooding of one of Russia’s most pristine forest regions, and the involuntary resettlement of many of the Evenki population of Evenkia. One of the strategies used by IWGIA and RAIPON to address this issue has been an increased effort to bring this to the attention of international human rights mechanisms. In August 2008, RAIPON’s vice president Pavel Sulyandziga and IWGIA’s Russia coordinator jointly presented a shadow report to the UN Committee for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD). CERD included the main concerns into its concluding observations and recommended, among other things, that Russia should cease support to the Evenkiiskaya dam. This recommendation has since been instrumental in backing up RAIPON’s position. Building on these results, in September 2008 IWGIA and RAIPON jointly prepared a stakeholder report to the UN Human Rights Council’s Universal Periodic Review of Russia, which took place in February 2009.

April 2008 marked the start of a new two-year EU-sponsored project within IWGIA’s Russia Programme entitled “indigenous peoples’ youth network”. This has added a new quality to the ongoing work with the regional information centres, which have already been supported by IWGIA since 2004. The centres have started to employ youth coordinators which, in turn, attempt to attract and involve indigenous youth from their regions into their activities. These youth often come from an urban background and have attended higher education. However, indigenous rights activism is not the likeliest activity for youth in contemporary Russian society. The centres therefore deserve great credit for introducing them to this field of activity with the very modest resources which are at their disposal. In their work, the centres reflect the diversity of the regional contexts within which they operate. One of the centres with a strong advocacy agenda is “Lach”, based in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatski, the capital of Kamchatka. It has been instrumental in giving indige-
Fishing rights

Guaranteed access to traditional lands and the natural resources therein is a fundamental right of indigenous communities in Russia to feed themselves in accordance with their customs and traditions. This is important for indigenous communities, not only in terms of nutrition or economy but because fishing forms part of their traditional livelihood and social practice. In recent years, the indigenous communities’ right to fish in their own territories has been threatened by competing legislation and the interests of large fishing companies. IWGIA supports legal advocacy on this issue both at the federal level, where national laws are formulated, and in the regions, where information centres give indigenous peoples a voice in their struggle to maintain access to their traditional waters and the fish therein.

Itelmen and Kamchadal fishermen near Ust-Bolsheretsk, South-Western Kamchatka. Photo: Johannes Rohr

Funding for projects in Russia remains a problem given that it is not considered a developing country and therefore not eligible for development aid. During 2008, a new application for a project from January 2009 through April 2010 was submitted to the Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and eventually approved. However, IWGIA was also notified that the Ministry has decided to drastically decrease the funding to indigenous peoples in Russia to a level which would put the continuation of the Russia programme at risk. IWGIA has developed a lobbying strategy to address this issue, which will be pursued further over the coming year.

compensation and social (“ethnological”) impact assessments of industrial projects affecting indigenous communities. No breakthrough was reached during 2008, and efforts are to be continued over the coming year. In addition, RAIPON has made efforts to influence various other legislative initiatives, particularly to prevent the further watering down of existing legal safeguards.

In a highly centralised political system like the Russian, the national capital is the place where most of the fundamentals, governing relations in the regions, are negotiated. IWGIA is therefore continuing to support legal advocacy work at the federal level, coordinated by RAIPON in Moscow. In 2008, efforts were undertaken to revive a draft law which is designed to introduce binding procedures regulating relationships between indigenous communities and corporations, mandatory
Summary of IWGIA’s Latin America Strategy

The IWGIA Latin America program strategy was adopted in 2005, and will be revised in 2009-2010.

Its thematic priorities are:

- Communication
- Organisational empowerment
- Land rights
- Youth
- Awareness Raising

The geographical priorities are:

- Peru, Colombia, Chile, Argentina, Bolivia, Venezuela Brazil, and Mexico

The current key partners are:

Indigenous partner organizations:
- The national indigenous organisation of the Peruvian Amazon - AIDESEP (Peru)
- Servindi (Peru)
- FENAMAD (Peru)
- Lhaka Honhat (Argentina)
- Indigenous Youth Organisation – AJI (Brazil)

Non-indigenous support NGOs:
- Observatory for Indigenous Rights (Chile)
- Centre for Legal and Social Studies (CEJIS)
- Jenzera (Colombia)
- Wataniba (Venezuela)

The situation of indigenous rights in Latin America has had its ups and downs over the past year. Progress in the Bolivian constitutional process contrasted sharply with aggressive policies aimed at subjugating indigenous territories in other countries. IWGIA continues to work in a number of critical areas, primarily in the south of the continent, combining support to local projects, linkages with international processes and dissemination of information.

In Peru, Alan García’s government has unleashed a harsh policy of intervention in the Amazonian indigenous territories, enacting a series of decrees that open the door for the intrusion of extraction companies. The threat of dispossession and loss of their ancestral territories has mobilised the indigenous peoples affiliated to AIDESEP. The Amazonian organisations have initiated various forms of protest that have resulted in the persecution and assassination of many of their leaders. In the north of
Alongside the work of Servindi, we are continuing to work in Salta Province, northern Argentina, supporting the struggles of the Wichí, Guaraní, Chorote and Toba peoples to recover their traditional lands. Support has been provided to a recently-created radio station based in Tartagal, which broadcasts daily programmes produced by young indigenous people. Alongside this radio programme, we are supporting the "Route 86" communities with regard to their territorial demands.

IWGIA is also focusing on communications work with young people in Brazil. In the Dourados Reserve in Mato Grosso do Sul, a programme of work is being conducted with the AJI association of indigenous youth. These young people are working on a bimonthly magazine, photo exhibitions, video production and a web page. The Dourados Reserve is the most overpopulated indigenous area in the country and so there have been serious conflicts caused by a lack of sufficient land for people's survival and a racist environment that places indigenous youth, who are trying to connect with the nearby non-indigenous urban world, in a particularly difficult situation.

In the Peruvian Amazon, IWGIA is supporting the organisation Odecofroc to organise in the struggle against the oil and mining companies that are entering their lands without any consultation. The project is providing specific support with regard to strengthening Awajún women. Meanwhile, further south in the Amazonian region, IWGIA is continuing to work with the Native Federation of Madre de Dios, FENAMAD, which is also actively involved in the struggle against the anti-indigenist policy of the current Peruvian government. Our work with FENAMAD also includes defending groups of indigenous peoples living in voluntary isolation or initial contact.

One of the most important channels of communication for indigenous resistance is the news information service, Servindi, based in Lima, which also trains indigenous communicators from different regional organisations around the country. Servindi provides news via its web page and, in fact, this has become one of the most important sources of indigenous information throughout the continent, IWGIA being one of its main supporters.

Communications work forms one of IWGIA’s main priorities in Latin America. Alongside the work of Servindi, we are continuing to work in Salta Province, northern Argentina, supporting the struggles of the Wichí, Guaraní, Chorote and Toba peoples to recover their traditional lands. Support has been provided to a recently-created radio station based in Tartagal, which broadcasts daily programmes produced by young indigenous people. Alongside this radio programme, we are supporting the "Route 86" communities with regard to their territorial demands.

IWGIA is also focusing on communications work with young people in Brazil. In the Dourados Reserve in Mato Grosso do Sul, a programme of work is being conducted with the AJI association of indigenous youth. These young people are working on a bimonthly magazine, photo exhibitions, video production and a web page. The Dourados Reserve is the most overpopulated indigenous area in the country and so there have been serious conflicts caused by a lack of sufficient land for people's survival and a racist environment that places indigenous youth, who are trying to connect with the nearby non-indigenous urban world, in a particularly difficult situation.

Indigenous media

IWGIA has been supporting the indigenous news information service, Servindi, in Peru since 2000. Servindi has successfully built up a very efficient indigenous media centre, working primarily with radio and Internet-based communication. Their website is now recognized as one of the most important sources of indigenous information in the continent. In recent years, Servindi has played an important role training indigenous communicators from regional organizations in Peru. Their work is a very important contribution to the indigenous movement around the country and in the region. Based on the experience of working with Servindi in Peru, IWGIA has given increasing priority to supporting indigenous media in other countries of the region. These various communication activities serve the dual purpose of mobilizing communities and building a stronger basis for the movement, on the one hand, and informing the broader society of the abuses suffered and the general situation of indigenous communities, on the other.
During 2008, the efforts of Evo Morales’ government to approve the new State Constitution in Bolivia came up against fierce opposition from business sectors in the east of the country, making the year one of the most violent since democracy was restored to the country in 1982. IWGIA has devoted great efforts to supporting and monitoring the situation in Bolivia. Through the Centre for Legal and Social Studies, CEJIS, a number of different indigenous organisations have been supported. A technical assistance programme was designed for the indigenous bloc involved in the discussions around a new constitution. Alongside this, and together with the Oré visual documentation group, two videos were produced on the constitutional process and on the visit of the UN Special Rapporteur to Bolivia. Both videos have served as a basis for encouraging discussions on the scope of the new Constitution and the role of the United Nations. With CEJIS, a detailed account of the Constituent Assembly process was also produced, and this will be reflected in a publication in 2009.

In addition, and via an agreement between the Guaraní organisations and CEJIS, the process of recovering territory for the Guaraní communities living in captivity continued. This situation has been taken before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights in Washington, and subsequently monitored via the visit of a special committee of this institution to Bolivia. This process has also been supported by IWGIA.

It should be noted that CEJIS itself has formed the object of violence from the opposition, with its offices in Santa Cruz being raided and set alight.

For its part, Colombia again experienced a year of violence caused by the paramilitary groups – closely linked to sectors of the national government – and the FARC guerrillas, with the indigenous communities often finding themselves in the crossfire. In 2008, the indigenous people again mobilised against this violence, demanding protection of their communities’ territorial rights, threatened by the extraction companies and biofuel plantations being promoted by the government. This situ-
ation applies particularly to the Colombian Pacific region, home to indigenous Emberá and Afro-Colombian communities. Here, IWGIA is supporting a process of inter-ethnic organisational strengthening, along with the systematisation and dissemination of information on the situation of this Colombian region. One product of this work was an IWGIA Human Rights Report, which was widely distributed in Colombia and subsequently presented at Geneva, with the participation of an Afro-Colombian and indigenous delegation.

In Chile, the government finally ratified ILO Convention 169 although its policies still fail to recognise the fundamental demands of indigenous peoples, or to reverse the effects of the investment projects being imposed on indigenous territories against the wishes of the communities. The government continues to ignore the recommendations on indigenous rights coming from institutions such as the UN Human Rights Committee. IWGIA’s main partner in Chile is the Indigenous Rights Observatory, which is implementing different research and assistance programmes with a number of the country’s communities. During 2008, studies and consultancies were conducted into the impact of mining and water rights. While the work on mining culminated in 2008 with the launch of a publication co-edited with IWGIA, the water programme will continue throughout 2009 and is focusing on the northern region of the country, home to Atacameño and Aymara communities, amongst others. The appropriation of their scarce water resources by gold extraction companies and others is seriously affecting their means of subsistence.

Although IWGIA does not currently have any specific projects in Paraguay, we have been conducting a study into the Aché people for IWGIA’s 40th anniversary. It was, in fact, reporting on the genocide of this people that led to IWGIA’s very first international campaign, which had widespread international repercussions. The study culminated in a publication that was launched in Asunción with the participation of representatives of the Aché people.

The programme for peoples in voluntary isolation, primarily supported through the indigenous coordinating body, CIPICAI, conducted a series of activities co-financed by IWGIA in 2008. Particularly noteworthy were the verification missions to assess the existence of peoples in isolation in Paraguay and Peru, and CIPICAI’s regional congress, held in Asunción, Paraguay, in November. IWGIA also participated in producing guides for the protection of peoples in voluntary isolation, along with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

One-off projects in each country have resulted in exchanges of experience between, for example, the project in the north of Argentina and that being implemented in Bolivia through CEJIS. Events have also been organised, such as the regional preparatory meeting in Bolivia for the UN Permanent Forum’s session. A workshop to exchange experiences on cases before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights was also organised. In a workshop held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Bolivia, different organisations and support institutions discussed progress in their cases (already or soon to be lodged) before the Commission. Some of these cases, such as in Argentina, Bolivia and Chile, are receiving financial support from IWGIA.

There has also been significant publications work in this region. Most projects include a systematisation and dissemination component which results in different kinds of publications being produced and distributed locally. Lastly, audiovisual documentation work has taken on greater importance and a number of projects of this kind were initiated over the course of the year, in Brazil, Bolivia and Peru.
Summary of IWGIA’s Asia Strategy

IWGIA has adopted a new regional strategy for Asia in 2006. It will be revised in 2009-2010.

Its thematic priorities are:

- Self-organizing and Empowerment
- Self-determination and Constructive Agreements with the States
- Land and Resource Rights
- Policy Advocacy and Public Awareness Raising
- Publishing in local languages

The geographical priorities are:

Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia, Cambodia, Thailand, India, Bangladesh, Laos

The current key partners are:

Indigenous partner organizations:
- Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP; regional alliance of indigenous peoples’ organizations)
- Cordillera Peoples Alliance (CPA; Philippines)
- Partners of Community Organizations (PACOS Trust, Malaysia)
- Inter Mountain Peoples Education and Culture in Thailand (IMPECT, Thailand)
- Bindrai Institute for Research, Study and Action (BIRSA; India)
- Aliansi Masyarakat Adat Nusantara (AMAN, Indonesia)

Non-indigenous support NGOs:
- Anthropology Watch (Philippines)
- Global Association for People and Environment (GAPE, Laos)

With the Japanese government’s recognition of the Ainu as an indigenous people in June 2008, there are now five Asian governments officially recognizing the presence of indigenous peoples in their countries. In Taiwan, Philippines and Nepal this recognition remains fairly unambiguous, while the government of Cambodia now appears to be backtracking. It seems to be worried about the increasing self-assertion of indigenous peoples, and Prime Minister Hun Sen has allegedly stated that people should stop self-identifying as Khmer doem (indigenous Khmer). The situation in Cambodia and the government’s response is perhaps symptomatic of the region: as the indigenous peoples’ movement gains strength, the region’s governments are becoming more wary. They also face increasing moral pressure from the international community following the adoption of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in September 2007. Consequently, most Asian governments remain reluctant to recognize indigenous peoples.
In Southeast Asia, the proposed establishment of a human rights body within the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is seen as an opportunity to promote the recognition of indigenous peoples and their rights in the region. Indigenous organisations from the region, along with other civil society organizations, used the ASEAN Summit in Thailand in 2008 as an opportunity to engage in lobbying for the inclusion of their Indigenous Peoples’ Resolution in the Terms of Reference of the ASEAN Human Rights Body (AHRB), using the UNDRIP as the framework for the promotion and protection of the rights of indigenous peoples.

Such initiatives are badly needed as the overall human rights situation of indigenous peoples in the region remains dismal. Many human rights defenders fear that climate change and, above all, the various mitigations schemes presently being devised by governments and multilateral organisations will make it even worse. IWGIA’s focus on land and resource rights, self-organising and empowerment in the region therefore remains as relevant as ever.

A review of IWGIA’s work conducted by the Danish and Norwegian Ministries of Foreign Affairs in 2008 concluded that IWGIA had been successful in implementing its Asia Programme and that the portfolio of projects in the region covered a wide and relevant range of partners and thematic issues. It found the work of IWGIA in the region to be well thought-out and based on good strategic thinking. The impact of projects was assessed to be both strategically important and to be creating real impacts in relation to the specific sites and initiatives.

For the past nine years, IWGIA has supported a project aimed at securing indigenous peoples’ rights to control and manage their forests in Jharkhand state, India. Since the project was initiated, and with the assistance of Bindrai Institute for Research Study and Action, IWGIA’s partner Jharkhand Save the Forest Movement (JJBA) has undergone an enormous expansion. JJBA has emerged as a strong popular movement and is increasingly recognized and respected by the government. The indigenous peoples of Jharkhand have become conscious of their rights as well as of the importance of forest conservation. They have started to act and make demands, to confront and challenge forest officials, contractors and the timber mafia, and they have filed a case at the High Court to restore the Mundari Khunkati villages’ rights over their communal forests. In many areas throughout Jharkhand, the officials of the Forest Department have virtually relinquished their authority for all practical purposes, and villagers have again taken over the management of their forests.

In the Philippines, the Ancestral Domain Support Program (ADSP) continued to focus on two critical elements contributing both to the mitigation of climate change and the promotion of the well-being of indigenous communities: continuing support to ensuring tenurial security for the ancestral domains of indigenous communities and collaboration with the state agency mandated to serve indigenous peoples. So far, the project has helped indigenous communities in nine areas to obtain a Certificate of Ancestral Domain while eight more communities are expected to obtain their certificates in 2009. Complementing the work carried out by the ADSP, one of the project partners assisted communities that have already acquired their certificate to formulate their community development plans, which also include forest management.

In Malaysia, IWGIA supported organisations working on land rights in the Malaysian states of Sabah and Sarawak. In Sabah, IWGIA’s partner PACOS complet-
ed the second three-year phase of a land rights project. The external monitoring conducted at the end of 2008 concluded that the project had undoubtedly made important strategic gains towards the legal recognition of the land rights of indigenous peoples in Sabah and that the objectives of the project had been achieved. These gains and achievements included two successful court cases on the recognition of land rights under the Native Customary Rights (NCR) that Malaysian law provides for; widespread awareness among indigenous peoples of indigenous rights and the NCR; increased capacity of at least 12 indigenous communities to defend their territories; and the invaluable experiences, lessons and information gained by the local leaders and villagers from the exposure/study tours.

In Sarawak, IWGIA supported the Sarawak Dayak Iban Association (SADIA) with a programme to deliver legal and paralegal services to indigenous Dayak communities. Although the Dayaks are constitutionally and legally entitled to their native customary land, these areas have yet to be demarcated and titled by the government and vast tracts of traditional communally protected rainforest have been steadily converted by the government into concession areas for large corporations with strong patronage links to the ruling elite. With its mobile legal clinic, SADIA raises awareness about the rights of indigenous peoples and assists indigenous communities in taking legal measures to protect their land.

Over the last couple of years, the question of land concessions being granted to Lao and foreign companies to plant trees and other crops has become one of the most important and contentious issues for indigenous peoples in Laos. Despite the difficulties of working in the politically highly sensitive environment of Laos, IW-
GIA’s partner Global Association for People and the Environment (GAPE) has been able to raise awareness of existing legal rights among indigenous communities and to sensitize the local government to the situation and rights of indigenous communities in Bachieng District of Champasak Province. GAPE’s work has also contributed to drawing the attention of the Prime Minister’s Office to land issues in Bachieng.

In Cambodia, indigenous communities continue to lose their lands at an alarming rate. It has been estimated that, over the past 15 years, 45% of the country’s land has been purchased by individuals and private companies. Although the 2001 Cambodian Land Law enshrines the state’s legal recognition of the collective land rights of indigenous communities, the law has still not been implemented given that the Sub-Decree on Procedures for the Registration of Indigenous Peoples’ Communal Land was still being drafted at the end of 2008. Consequently, not a single indigenous community has received the title to its land. To assist indigenous communities in asserting their rights to their land and development on their own terms, IWGIA’s partner, the Indigenous Community Support Organization (ICSO), is implementing a community organizers’ training (both generally and specifically for women’s empowerment). The project has shown good results so far: there has been a noticeable decrease in the number of land sales in the communities that form part of the ICSO network areas, as well as a decline in the number of land sales approved by the District Governor. The communities have also identified and built relationships with local authorities not involved in land sales and illegal business, and this has acted as a deterrent for other, less fair, state representatives.

The community organizers’ training in Cambodia builds on the regional Indigenous Community Organizers and Leaders Training (ICOLT) programme being implemented by Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP) in close cooperation with Cordillera Peoples Alliance (CPA) in the Philippines and PACOS in Malaysia. In 2008, the programme was implemented in Malaysia, the Philippines, India and Indonesia. Although the ICOLT programme has shown remarkable results over the past four years, it has been a challenge for the local partner organisations to raise funds for the local training and IWGIA has recently approved additional funding for the programme in the expectation that, with the successful completion of two program phases, more donors will be willing to come on board. The recently conducted review of IWGIA’s work in Asia by the Norwegian and Danish governments also commented positively on the ICOLT, highlighting its potential for facilitating regional exchanges and capacity building. The report concludes: “At the regional level ICOLT represents a relevant example for more systematic sharing of these pilot experiences, but it will need continued and possibly increased support in order to be able to play this role.”

While many projects supported by IWGIA in 2008 focused on indigenous peoples’ land and forests rights, a number of IWGIA’s partners focused on addressing indigenous peoples’ human rights more broadly.

Both in Thailand and the Philippines, indigenous peoples’ rights monitors have been established: the Highland Peoples Taskforce in the former and the Indigenous Peoples Rights Monitor in the latter. Both are partially supported by IWGIA. They are providing human rights training for indigenous leaders and local institutions, and legal assistance and paralegal training to indigenous human rights defenders. They also document the widespread human rights violations committed against indigenous peoples in the countries and
raise awareness of indigenous peoples’ human rights.

In Nepal, the government ratified ILO Convention 169 on the rights of indigenous peoples in 2007, and in 2008 it was in the process of drafting a new constitution. This offers indigenous peoples an historic opportunity to further reinforce the recognition of their rights. IWGIA is currently supporting an initiative aimed at giving indigenous peoples a stronger voice in the process. This is being achieved through a national ad-hoc coalition committee of indigenous organisations coordinated by the Lawyers’ Association for Human Rights of Nepalese Indigenous Peoples (LAHURNIP). A draft Constitution prepared from the perspective of indigenous peoples has recently been completed based on consultations in several regions.

In mid-2008, the Chittagong Hill Tracts Commission (CHT Commission) was re-established with the mandate to promote respect for human rights, democracy, and restoration of civil and political rights, participatory development and land rights in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) in Bangladesh. The CHT Commission has 11 members from Bangladesh and abroad and, in August, it carried out its first mission to Bangladesh with the aim of becoming familiar with the situation in the CHT, holding initial meetings with concerned parties and seeking their input into possible actions to be taken and recommendations to be made by the CHT Commission.

The human rights situation in the CHT continues to be deplorable and internal divisions among the indigenous peoples in the area still run deep. There are, however, some rays of hope, with the newly-elected government (December 2008) having committed itself to fully implementing the CHT Peace Accord signed in 1997 between the government and the indigenous party Parbatya Chattagram Jana Samhati Samiti (PCJSS). The Accord addresses the underlying causes of the conflict in the CHT, i.e. land grabbing, Bengali settlers, self-governance and the heavy militarization of the area.

The Chittagong Hill Tracts Commission

In 1997, the Chittagong Hill Tracts Peace Accord was signed between the Government of Bangladesh and the indigenous Parbatya Chattagram Jana Samhati Samiti (PCJSS), ending a 25-year-long armed struggle. The Peace Accord recognises the Chittagong Hill Tracts as a “tribal inhabited” region, its traditional governance system and the role of its chiefs, and it provides building blocks for indigenous autonomy. During the 10 years that have passed since the Accord was signed, implementation of its provisions has been very poor. IWGIA and a number of outstanding international advocates for indigenous rights therefore revived the Chittagong Hill Tracts Commission in mid-2008, in order to scrutinize the situation and promote a fair implementation of the Accord.

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Summary of IWGIA’s Africa Strategy

The IWGIA Africa program strategy was adopted in April 2004. It will be revised in 2009-2010.

Its thematic priorities are:

a. Human rights
b. Land rights
c. Indigenous women’s rights
d. Self-organization and empowerment

The geographical priorities are:

Eastern Africa (mainly Kenya, Tanzania) and Central Africa (mainly Rwanda, Burundi, Republic of Congo)

The current key partners are:

Indigenous partner organizations:
Mainyoito Pastoralist Integrated Development Organization (MPIDO, Kenya)
Indigenous Movement for Peace Advancement and Conflict Transformation (IMPACT, Kenya)
Arid Lands Institute (Kenya)
Parakuiyo Pastoralists Indigenous Community Development Organization (PAICODEO, Tanzania)
Unissons-Nous pour la Promotion des Batwa (UNIPROBA, Burundi)
Communauté des Potiers du Rwanda (COPORWA)

Non-indigenous support NGOs:
Association pour les droits de l’homme et l’univers carcéral (ADHUC, Republic of Congo)

The situation of indigenous peoples in Africa remains highly precarious and the livelihoods, culture and future existence of indigenous peoples are threatened all over the African continent. No major improvements took place in 2008, and constitutional and legal frameworks protecting the rights of indigenous peoples remain weak, if not virtually non-existent. One of the main threats to African indigenous peoples continues to be land dispossession caused by logging, conservation initiatives, encroachment of agriculture, individualization of tenure and state policies unfavourable to nomadic pastoralism. In 2008, IWGIA continued its support to indigenous
and non-indigenous partner organizations in terms of undertaking advocacy around the cause and basic rights of indigenous peoples and addressing the issue of land dispossession in particular. The focus of IWGIA’s project support in 2008 continued to be on Kenya, while projects were also supported in Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi and the Republic of Congo.

In Kenya, land dispossession continues to be a major threat to the livelihoods and survival of indigenous peoples, and land rights advocacy thus continued to be the focus of IWGIA’s support in 2008. IWGIA’s main partner in this respect is the Mainyoito Pastoralist Integrated Development Organization (MPIDO) with whom IWGIA supported the second phase of a land rights programme in 2008. The main focus of this program is lobbying for policy reform with regard to land matters and other key human rights issues, capacity building of local communities to defend their land rights and legal action to challenge land dispossession. MPIDO has developed into a strong voice for pastoralists in Kenya, especially the Maasai, and its assistance is increasingly requested by pastoralist communities in Kenya as well as in northern Tanzania.

Women in indigenous communities in Kenya suffer from a range of serious abuses. These include violence, forced marriage, economic deprivation, lack of participation in decision-making, lack of access to education, etc. The situation is particularly serious in northern Kenya and, in 2008, IWGIA continued to provide support to a women’s rights project being implemented by the Indigenous Movement for Peace Advancement and Conflict Transformation (IMPACT), aimed at raising awareness and addressing cases of rights violations against women in the districts of Laikipia, Isiolo, Samburu and Marsabit. This project came to an end in 2008, and an external end-of-project evaluation was undertaken in July 2008. The findings and conclusions of the evaluation report were positive and IWGIA’s continued support of IMPACT and its work to empower pastoralist women in northern Kenya was recommended. A scaling-up of support for the capacity building of IMPACT was also recommended. As a follow-up to the evaluation, there have been discussions between IWGIA, IMPACT and the consultant who undertook the evaluation with regard to the way forward.

In 2008, indigenous organizations continued to follow up on the 2006 visit to Kenya of the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people. The Special Rapporteur’s visit contributed to focusing on the situation of indigenous peoples in Kenya – even though the government of Kenya did not agree with many of the findings and recommendations of the report. With financial support from IWGIA, and organized by the research institute Arid Lands Institute, a large number of indigenous communities mobilized around the visit and developed memoranda on the situation of their communities,
which they submitted to the Special Rapporteur. These memoranda captured a great deal of important information that was otherwise unknown/undocumented in Kenya and, as a follow-up to this process, in 2008 IWGIA supported the Arid Lands Institute to further develop some of the memoranda with the aim of publishing and widely distributing them in Kenya and using them as advocacy tools.

In 2008, IWGIA supported a representative of MPIDO and a representative of the Yiaku organization, Yiaku Peoples Association, to participate in the May 2008 session of the ACHPR where they had an opportunity to make public statements about the situation of indigenous peoples in Kenya.

In Tanzania, the situation of pastoralists and hunter-gatherers is extremely serious and seems to be deteriorating. The government of Tanzania is demonstrating a very negative attitude towards pastoralism as a livelihood system and an increasing number of policies and development interventions that are negatively biased towards pastoralism can be observed. Forceful evictions of pastoralists are increasingly taking place in Tanzania, resulting in land dispossession and impoverishment of pastoralists. In 2008, IWGIA supported the Parakuiyo Pastoralists Indigenous Community Development Organization (PAICODEO), which is a small organization based in Morogoro region in southern Tanzania, to build their capacity to advocate for the rights of pastoralists, with a specific focus on the forceful evictions of pastoralists from the Kilosa district of Morogoro region. IWGIA also issued an urgent alert concerning the situation in Kilosa and forwarded this to a number of embassies and international institutions in Dar Es Salaam encouraging them to discuss the serious situation of human rights violations with the government of Tanzania. IWGIA like-
wise informed the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people about the situation and encouraged him to address the issue.

In 2008, IWGIA funded two representatives from the organization Community Research and Development Services (CORDS) to participate in the May 2008 session of the ACHPR where they presented a shadow report to the Tanzania government’s report and made a public statement about the situation of pastoralists in Tanzania.

In Burundi, the government recognizes the marginalized situation of the indigenous Batwa population, and special representation of the Batwa is provided in the Senate and Parliament. Burundi has been characterized by cycles of armed conflict between the two dominant ethnic groups, the Tutsis and the Hutus, and this has negatively affected the highly marginalized Batwa population, whose access to public office, education, health care, land and other fundamental rights remains well below the national average. In 2008, IWGIA continued its support to the Batwa organization Unissons-Nous pour la Promotion des Batwa (UNIPROBA) to carry out a survey into the land rights situation of the Batwa people in Burundi as a basis for lobbying for a fairer distribution of land to the Batwa. This project was completed in 2008 and resulted in a high quality survey report which was published and launched at an event attended by government representatives, civil society, the media etc. Through the project and the publication of the survey report, UNIPROBA has established good contacts with the authorities responsible for land matters, and was invited to collaborate with them to ensure distribution of land to all landless Batwa in Burundi through the national land distribution process. Towards the end of 2008,
UNIPROBA submitted a new proposal to IWGIA aimed at enabling the organization to engage in this process. This was approved in 2009 following an external assessment of the proposal and a review of the completed project.

In Rwanda, the government has continued to show some willingness to address the serious problems facing the Batwa population and, in 2008, IWGIA continued to support the organization Communauté des Potiers du Rwanda (COPORWA) with a radio project aimed at raising the awareness of the general population in Rwanda around the situation of the Batwa and creating dialogue.

The Republic of Congo is the first country in Africa to have initiated a process to draft a specific law for the protection of indigenous peoples’ rights. The law was not adopted in 2008 but human rights organizations continued to lobby for its adoption. The government of the Republic of Congo was also the first government in Africa to host an international conference on indigenous peoples – thematically focusing on indigenous peoples in Central Africa. The aim of the conference was to contribute to the empowerment of indigenous peoples in Central Africa by encouraging the governments of the region to initiate actions to promote the active involvement of indigenous communities in their own future development. The conference was organized in collaboration with various NGOs and international agencies such as the World Bank. In 2008, IWGIA continued its support to the Association pour les Droits de l’Homme et l’Univers Carcéral (ADHUC) with a project aimed at building the human rights monitoring capacity of the indigenous Pygmy population in the Republic of Congo. Despite notable progress in the Republic of Congo on an overall policy level, the Pygmy population still suffers from numerous human rights abuses, including slavery, and they need to be able to effectively document these and pursue their cases.

The situation of pastoralists in Niger is of great concern. The conflict in northern Niger has serious implications for the Tuareg civilian population, and impoverishment is increasing. The situation seems to be in a deadlock and is not discussed or addressed either in Niger or internationally. Other pastoralist groups such as the Peul are often the victims of violent attacks and massacres, which are committed with impunity and with minimal attention from the government and mainstream civil society. In 2008, IWGIA issued an urgent alert concerning the situation in northern Niger and called on the Nordic and French embassies as well as the EU delegation to take up the matter with the government of Niger.

In 2008 IWGIA supported a representative from the pastoralist organization Association pour la redynamisation de l’élevage au Niger (AREN) and a representative from the Woodabe organization Djingo to participate in the November 2008 session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights where they had an opportunity to make a public statement about the dire situation of pastoralists in Niger.

In 2008, DANIDA and NORAD carried out a review of IWGIA with a specific focus on its work in Africa and Asia. In Africa, the review focussed on Kenya and gave a positive assessment, concluding that the focus on land rights was well chosen, that there was good collaboration with partners built on mutual trust and respect, and that important results had been achieved with modest means – including the empowerment of women in land matters. The review further concluded that the work in Kenya, as well as in other regions of Africa, should be further expanded and it recommended that additional financial resource be granted to IWGIA to enable such expansion.
During 2008, the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights (ACHPR or African Commission) continued its work to protect and promote the human rights of indigenous peoples in Africa. As in previous years, IWGIA was actively involved in this process, particularly via the African Commission’s Working Group on Indigenous Populations/Communities (Working Group), of which IWGIA’s Africa Coordinator is a member, and by assisting indigenous peoples’ representatives to attend the ACHPR sessions.

In 2008, the key activities carried out by the Working Group, with IWGIA’s support, were:

- Two meetings held prior to the ACHPR Ordinary session (Manzini, Swaziland and Abuja, Nigeria)
- Summary version in Arabic of the Working Group’s expert report (see publications).
- Publication of reports from visits to the Republic of Niger, Republic of Botswana and Republic of Namibia.

- Country visit to Rwanda: during the visit, the Working Group held meetings with government officials, civil society organisations, indigenous communities and other relevant stakeholders in order to gather information about the situation of indigenous peoples’ human rights in the country and also sought to raise awareness of the African Commission’s work on indigenous issues among all stakeholders and to engage in a debate on how indigenous peoples’ rights can be strengthened.

- The African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights (ACHPR) organised a Sensitisation and Consultative Seminar on the Rights of Indigenous Populations/Communities in Africa in Addis Ababa, the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, from 13 – 16 October 2008. The seminar was attended by 63 participants, including Member States of the African Union, international organisations, national human rights institutions, Regional Economic Communities,
observers and resource persons. The overall objective of the Seminar was to create conditions for constructive dialogue on indigenous issues in Africa.

- Research on African constitutions and legislation: in cooperation with the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Working Group has continued the joint research project on the extent to which African constitutions and legislation protect the rights of indigenous populations. Some 25 African countries have been selected as the focus for this research, and 10 of these have been selected for in-depth research. The report was finalized in 2008 and will be presented at the 45th ordinary session of the ACHPR in May 2009.

The 2008 sessions of the African Commission

In 2008, IWGIA facilitated the participation of 20 indigenous peoples’ representatives from Africa at the 43rd and 44th sessions of the African Commission. The 43rd session took place in May 2008 in Manzini, Swaziland, whilst the 44th session took place in November 2008 in Abuja, Nigeria.

During each session, the ACHPR also examines the periodic reports of African states, in accordance with Article 62 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights. The periodic reports of Tanzania and Sudan were presented at the 43rd session and the Nigeria report was examined at the 44th session. During the different state report examinations, Commissioner Bitaye, chairperson of the Working Group, made sure that the issue of indigenous peoples’ rights was raised and clarified.

Community Research and Development Services (CORDS), an indigenous organization from Tanzania, produced a shadow report relating to Tanzania, in collaboration with other local NGOs and IWGIA, in order to bring indigenous peoples’ concerns to the attention of the ACHPR. The main issues raised in the shadow report for Tanzania were:

- Land and natural resources rights: principally on the impending eviction of the Maasai pastoralists from the Ngorongoro Conservation area, the eviction of the Barbaig pastoralists from Hanang district, and the land alienation of the Hadzabe hunter/gatherer communities;
- Right to movement: forcible evictions of pastoralist populations illustrate the intention of the Tanzanian government to eradicate pastoralism.
- Rights to education and culture: the problem lies mainly in the absence of education policies or programs targeting children in pastoralist communities.
The Working Group’s activities, as well as indigenous representatives’ participation in the sessions, are central to encouraging and assisting the ACHPR to uphold its focus on indigenous peoples’ rights. The Working Group’s and indigenous representatives’ different activities have already contributed to much awareness raising and, hopefully, these efforts will be further strengthened in the future.

Shadow reports

Periodic reports of the African States to the ACHPR are often incomplete and tend to overemphasize accomplishments and leave out important facts or problems. This is why NGO input, in the form of shadow reports, is very important in bringing indigenous peoples’ concerns to the attention of the ACHPR.

Shadow reports provide an alternative source of information and assist the ACHPR’s Commissioners in asking substantiated critical questions during the constructive dialogue and in the drafting of the concluding observations. Supporting our partners’ work on shadow reports is therefore an important way for IWGIA to promote indigenous issues in the ACHPR debates.
In 2008, as in previous years, and through its International Human Rights Advocacy Programme, IWGIA maintained its strong commitment to ensuring that indigenous peoples continue to play a key role in the international and regional processes that will promote and determine concrete and constructive actions aimed at the practical implementation of indigenous peoples’ rights and thereby make a real difference to their lives. Indigenous peoples are increasingly using international and regional human rights bodies and mechanisms to promote their rights and work aimed at ending centuries of exclusion and discrimination.

In this context, in 2008 special priority was given to promoting activities and initiatives aimed at linking local and international activities. IWGIA worked with and supported indigenous peoples’ organisations’ initiatives aimed at empowering indigenous peoples to implement the decisions and recommendations taken in international fora at regional, national and local level. At the same time, we continued to give particular priority to supporting initiatives aiming at raising the capacity of indigenous peoples in terms of how to utilize - and bring their grievances, views and demands to - the relevant international mechanisms. Interlinking the local, regional and international level in such and other ways is a key strategy in IWGIA’s human rights work.

In 2008, IWGIA further strengthened and developed its indigenous partnerships in the regions, particularly in Asia, Africa and Latin America, with the objective of defining strategies and activities that could help to develop a constructive dialogue with international institutions and states on implementing the rights enshrined in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

**Indigenous participation and contribution to UN discussions related to indigenous peoples’ rights**

In 2008, both through the Human Rights Fund for Indigenous Peoples and other programmes, IWGIA supported the participation of 39 indigenous representatives in the following UN meetings dealing with indigenous peoples’ rights:

- 7th session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (New York, April 2008)
- 1st session of the UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (Geneva, October 2008)
- 1st and 3rd session of the UN Human Rights Council Universal Periodic Review Working Group (Geneva, April and December 2008)

All the indigenous representatives who were supported to attend the above mentioned meetings played an important role in the discussions during the meetings, and their active engagement is reflected in the high number of documents and background reports prepared by their organizations as well as in the oral statements they presented during the different meetings. With IWGIA’s support, indigenous representatives were able to organise preparatory meetings at which they shared information and developed joint strategies that were later lobbied for in the different UN meetings.
The UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

The thematic focus of the 2008 session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues was “Climate change, bio-cultural diversity and livelihoods: the stewardship role of indigenous peoples and new challenges”. In order to help indigenous peoples’ develop the skills necessary to be able to use the possibilities and potential of the Permanent Forum, IWGIA supported two indigenous regional preparatory meetings, one in Asia and the other in South America. At both meetings, indigenous representatives discussed the challenges ahead in securing indigenous peoples’ rights in the context of the global discussions regarding climate change, and strategized on how to ensure that indigenous peoples’ concerns are taken into consideration in this global process.

Also in the context of the preparations for the 8th session of the Permanent Forum and the global discussions on the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC), in February 2008, IWGIA organized an international conference in Copenhagen entitled “Indigenous Peoples and Climate Change”. The conference developed a set of recommendations that were presented at the 8th session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. Read more about the Conference on p. 7

The reports of the regional preparatory conferences, as well as the one resulting from the international conference on Climate Change and Indigenous Peoples held in Copenhagen, were distributed as conference room papers during the 7th session of the UN Permanent Forum. In its final report, the Permanent Forum welcomed the contributions from these conferences and many of their recommendations were endorsed by the Permanent Forum.

Through the Human Rights Fund, IWGIA supported 18 indigenous representatives to attend the 7th session of the Per-
The UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people

The Special Rapporteur’s mandate has undoubtedly been a crucial instrument in raising the visibility of the situation of indigenous peoples in the work of human rights bodies and international agencies, and has opened up spaces for dialogue among indigenous peoples, states and international organizations. In 2008, IWGIA continued to give particular priority to raising awareness of this crucial UN mechanism as well as providing the Special Rapporteur and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights with information and documentation on the specific human rights situation of indigenous peoples.

During 2008, IWGIA met with Prof. James Anaya on several occasions and discussed with him his views and work plans for implementing his mandate as UN Special Rapporteur. In May 2008, just a few weeks after Prof. Anaya had assumed his mandate, we had the privilege of receiving him as our guest in Copenhagen to discuss how IWGIA could enhance its contribution to the implementation of his mandate. One concrete result of these discussions was the organisation of an international expert seminar on the role of UN mechanisms with specific mandates concerning the rights of indigenous peoples, which took place in early 2009.
The UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

The Expert Mechanism held its first session from 1 to 3 October 2008 at the United Nations Headquarters in Geneva.

During its inaugural session, the EMRIP was occupied with addressing the issues which the Human Rights Council had specifically requested it look into, as well as discussing what EMRIP’s working methods should be and how best it could contribute to the promotion and protection of indigenous peoples’ rights.

The Council had requested that the Mechanism submit recommendations to the Preparatory Committee of the Durban Review Conference on the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Program of Action, which was adopted by the World Conference against Racism in 2001.

Secondly, the Mechanism was requested to prepare a study on lessons learned and challenges to achieving the implementation of the rights of indigenous peoples to education, and to conclude the study in 2009. EMRIP has entrusted two of its members, Ms Jannie Lasimbang and Mr. José Molintas, to take overall responsibility for preparing this study. IWGIA supported these members to attend the World Indigenous Peoples Conference on Education in Melbourne, Australia, which took place in November 2008.

Through the Human Rights Fund for Indigenous Peoples, IWGIA supported 14 indigenous representatives to attend the first session of the EMRIP.

Universal Periodic Review Mechanism

In 2008, IWGIA began supporting initiatives aimed at assisting indigenous peoples to contribute to the Universal Periodic Review Mechanism (UPR). This new Human Rights Mechanism is the greatest innova-
tion within the Human Rights Council's new structure. Under this mechanism, for the first time, the human rights records of all UN Member States will be regularly examined through a common mechanism, offering a welcome opportunity to address human rights abuses wherever they occur. The establishment of an effective UPR mechanism thus presents an outstanding opportunity for indigenous peoples to reinforce the understanding of their human rights and to promote their full protection.

In this context, IWGIA supported three indigenous participants to attend the review of the Philippines, Indonesia and India for the first session and four participants from Colombia for the third session of the UPR. In cooperation with its partner organisation in Colombia, Jenzera Colectivo de Trabajo, IWGIA published a Human Rights Report on the situation of indigenous, peasant and Afro-descendant populations in Colombia entitled, “The Colombian Pacific - The Case of the Naya”, which was used as background information and for lobbying purposes during the review of Colombia in the working group of the UPR. The report had been earlier published in Spanish through IWGIA’s Latin America programme. IWGIA also prepared background material, questions and recommendations for the review of Botswana and submitted those to governments who were likely to raise the issue of indigenous rights in their interventions.

Local and regional initiatives financed by IWGIA’s International Human Rights Advocacy Programme

As previously mentioned, IWGIA is increasingly focusing on linking its international human rights work with regional, national and local human rights initiatives. In 2008, IWGIA supported a number of capacity-building and information activities related to indigenous peoples’ rights, some of them focusing on joint contributions to the subsidiary bodies of the Human Rights Council, others directly on implementation of the UNDRIP. These included an Asia regional workshop in the Philippines on the promotion of the UNDRIP and an Asia regional training course for lawyers and advocates on indigenous peoples’ rights in international human rights law with a focus on implementation of the UNDRIP. Three people from Africa were also invited to the lawyers’ training course in order to gain experience and prepare for a similar workshop in their region. IWGIA also supported a staff member from the Indigenous Peoples Rights Monitor (IPRM) in the Philippines to attend the Geneva Training Course on Treaty Monitoring Bodies, run by the International Service for Human Rights.

With the support of IWGIA, indigenous peoples in Asia organised an “Asia Preparatory Meeting Relating to the UN System and Indigenous Peoples” in order primarily to disseminate information about UN processes among indigenous organisations in Asia and discuss strategy issues related to their contributions to international processes, as well as to identify ways of following up international resolutions and recommendations at the national/local level.

In 2008, IWGIA also continued its extensive involvement in the work of the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights, and you can read more about this on p. 25.
IWGIA’s Annual Collection (Landsindsamling) takes place only in Denmark and is a way of informing Danish society about specific issues of importance to indigenous peoples. The 2008-2009 collection began on International Human Rights Day, 10 December 2008. In order to promote the Danish public’s awareness of indigenous peoples’ vulnerable situation, and to draw attention to IWGIA’s annual collection, 25,000 postcards were distributed in 400 places around Denmark during the week of December 10.

This year, the Annual Collection focused on how climate change disproportionately affects indigenous peoples and threatens to undermine their livelihoods, socio-economic systems and cultures. Indigenous peoples have so far had only very limited opportunities to participate in climate change policy negotiations at national and international levels. In the years ahead, IWGIA will be supporting indigenous peoples’ initiatives to strengthen their voice in climate change policy negotiations, and the donations received through the Annual Collection 2008-2009 will contribute to this important work.

Climate change has a devastating effect on the lives of many indigenous peoples who are among the world’s poorest and most marginalised groups. Read more about indigenous peoples and climate change on www.iwgia.org

IWGIA’s membership consists of researchers, activists, students and others from around the world with an interest in indigenous peoples’ issues. Through our members, we wish to create a strong network of people dedicated to issues relevant to indigenous peoples. For IWGIA, membership is an important sign of support of our work, both politically and economically.

IWGIA’s Annual Forum is an annual event, where matters of relevance to IWGIA are open to discussion by all members. The Annual Forum has consultative status as an advisory body to the Board. In 2008 the Forum was held back-to-back with IWGIA’s 40-years celebrations and took form of a one-day seminar titled: "Being Indigenous in Today’s World". The seminar was divided into three themes: Human Rights Protection, Territorial Defence, and Migration/Urbanisation/Youth.
LOCAL GROUPS

IWGIA local groups consist of members working on a voluntary basis in areas of lobbying, publications, film screening/festivals and educating/providing information on indigenous issues. The local groups do a very important job in spreading awareness about indigenous peoples and about IWGIA. Four local groups were active during 2008, with a fifth group, IWGIA Barcelona, also being established. All five IWGIA local groups were represented at IWGIA’s Annual Forum on climate change and/or at the Forum celebrating IWGIA’s 40th anniversary.

IWGIA FRANCE/GITPA

GITPA continued to develop its website in 2008. It published six electronic newsletters, which were distributed to 500 people. One issue of “Questions autochtones” (Indigenous Affairs) was published and the DVD “Des Peuples Autochtones Francophones en Mouvement” was finalised and presented at the PFII in New York. It has been distributed widely by GITPA.

In 2008 GITPA, which has so far only been registered in France, also obtained official registration in Canada and co-organised the second CAF (coalition of French-speaking indigenous peoples) Congress in Quebec with 60 participants.

Members from GITPA participated in the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and in the UN Expert Mechanism meeting in Geneva. In 2008, GITPA also worked on a consultancy project for the Inter-American Development Bank on “Indigenous peoples and public and private economic governance in Latin America”.

IWGIA OSLO

IWGIA Oslo was registered as an official association at the University of Oslo in 2008. The group’s office was open to visitors the whole year, assisting students working on indigenous issues. In 2008, the Group co-organised a meeting on Saami youth and a meeting with a Swedish anthropologist to talk about the Urak Lawoi, Thailand. They also held meetings at the University to raise awareness about the group and its activities. Throughout the year, the Oslo group continued to develop its website with a new layout and a presentation of the group in several languages, and it continued to provide regular news updates there. The group also has its own space in the anthropology students’ magazine, to which it contributes articles.

Group members participated in the European Social Forum in Malmö, Sweden, and in several meetings at the University of Oslo. Christian Clemmentsen from IWGIA Oslo visited the IWGIA Secretariat in Copenhagen for one month to learn more about the work of the Secretariat.

IWGIA GOTHENBURG

As representative of IWGIA, Stefan Perman- to from IWGIA Gothenburg participated in CHOTRO, an international conference in New Delhi, India, focussing on Indigenous Peoples in a Post-Colonial World.

Several members of IWGIA Gothen- burg participated in the Nordic Network for Amerindian Studies’ first international conference in Copenhagen. Individually, many of the group members are involved in different projects focusing on indigenous peoples, mainly in South America but also in Australia and South East Asia.

The group is still working to publish a book focusing on indigenous peoples and their experiences of poverty and development.
IWGIA ZURICH

In 2008, IWGIA Zürich organised a meeting for students to introduce IWGIA and the activities of the local group in Zürich. The group also set up an internship programme for students, and the two interns were pivotal in assisting in the setting up of the local group office in the Institute of Social Anthropology, University of Zurich. The office is open to all interested visitors and students. It also serves as a resource centre with a collection of publications and videos/DVDs.

A study group looking into bio-fuels and what these mean to indigenous peoples was established in 2008. Three students are currently working on a seminar paper on palm oil production and its effects on indigenous peoples, in close collaboration with Danilo Geiger and Irina Wenk, who are acting as advisors.

Members of IWGIA Zürich and other interested students have formed a film group to spearhead film events. In 2008, two documentaries were screened at the Fourth Ethnographic Film Festival Regard Bleu at the Völkerkundemuseum. The film group has screened around 20 films from different regions of the world, and is compiling an annotated list of the films. IWGIA Zürich is working closely with the bookstore KLIO, which will soon begin selling IWGIA publications.

IWGIA BARCELONA

The local Barcelona group is in the process of obtaining official status as a non-profit association. This process, which is almost complete, will enable the group to request public funding with which to finance its activities. Throughout 2008, IWGIA Barcelona was in close contact with Alejandro Parellada from the IWGIA Secretariat.
IWGIA ONLINE

IWGIA’s website has developed substantially over the years and now plays a crucial role in disseminating the information needed by people who are working to promote indigenous rights. It contains a vast amount of information, in English and Spanish, on indigenous issues, international processes relating to indigenous peoples, news and events from the indigenous world, etc. It also gives interested people an insight into what IWGIA is, how the organisation started and how it operates. New members can sign up through the website and our new publications are presented there, along with information on how to order them.

In 2008, IWGIA finally launched its web shop and all IWGIA publications, membership and subscriptions can now be purchased directly through our shop. We hope that this will encourage many interested readers to purchase our books or to become members of the organisation.

Since 2007, IWGIA has joined different online communities in order to reach out to a broader audience and to share, communicate and spread information about our work and particularly our publications, The Indigenous World, Indigenous Affairs, Annual Reports, as well as our photos and videos. Today, we use Flickr, Facebook and YouTube.

- Photo archive on Flickr.com. IWGIA’s photo archive contains more than 18,000 photos from all over the world and is continuously being updated and expanded. More than 1,100 pictures from the photo archive were made available on Flickr.com in 2008. The URL for IWGIA’s photo archive on Flickr.com is: www.flickr.com/photos/iwgia.

- On Facebook, IWGIA has created a profile, a group and a cause. They can all be supported and joined and IWGIA has more than 300 members and friends so far. In 2008, IWGIA also created a specific cause on Bolivia, called Human Rights and Democratic Pluralism in Bolivia, and this currently has 379 members.

- On YouTube, IWGIA posts videos that we have produced or supported, and links to other videos that we find interesting. People can subscribe to our videos and be informed every time there is a new video on the profile. And we can connect with others sharing the same interests as ourselves. YouTube allows people to easily upload and share video clips on www.YouTube.com and across the Internet through websites, mobile devices, blogs and email.

- The IWGIA Newsletter is an electronic newsletter providing news and updates from the indigenous world, and covering new publications and new developments on IWGIA’s website. During 2008, three newsletters were sent to more than 1,400 people each.

- Free downloads of publications. A number of IWGIA’s publications have been made available for free download, including the yearly publication The Indigenous World and the journal Indigenous Affairs. On the Spanish website, back copies of Indigenous Affairs from 1981 onwards have been scanned and are available to download. On the English website, all issues from 1996 onwards can now be downloaded as well as all Annual Reports and African Commission reports.

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IWGIA has published one of the most comprehensive collections of documentation and reflection on indigenous peoples’ struggle for survival and recognition. The objective is to provide a platform for indigenous issues and a voice for indigenous peoples that will reach a broad audience, both nationally and internationally, thereby contributing to the recognition of and respect for indigenous rights. IWGIA continues to be at the forefront of reflecting the most significant issues of concern to indigenous peoples.

The majority of IWGIA’s publications are in English and Spanish. However, in 2008, IWGIA also published in French and Hindi.

IWGIA’s publications are published on a not-for-profit basis. All subscriptions to our publications form a direct contribution enabling IWGIA to continue its analysis and documentation work on the situation of the world’s indigenous peoples. IWGIA’s books are distributed worldwide by IWGIA and by professional distributors in North America, the United Kingdom and Malaysia. Read more about the books published in 2008 on the following pages.

Besides books, we publish 2 to 4 issues of a regular journal every year. In 2008, this journal - Indigenous Affairs / Asuntos Indígenas - was also published in Hindi and French in addition to English and Spanish:

**PUBLICATIONS IN ENGLISH**

**INDIGENOUS PEOPLES**  
**KEEPERS OF OUR PAST - CUSTODIANS OF OUR FUTURE**

This book is Erica Daes’ personal record on more than twenty years of efforts to promote the cause of indigenous peoples and the recognition of their fundamental rights by the UN system. The author explores the definition of “indigenous peoples”; describe the resurgence of the world’s indigenous peoples in the international arena and review the work accomplished by the United Nations system over the last three decades, including new instruments and machinery for the recognition, and protection of indigenous rights.

**IWGIA – 2008**  
228 pages, color  
ISBN 9788791563430

Erica-Irene Daes
This publication stems from discussions taking place at the Conference on Repatriation of Cultural Heritage, an international and cross-disciplinary conference held in Nuuk, February 2007 and convened by the Greenland National Museum & Archives. The authors represent the various stakeholders in the repatriation field: museum professionals, archaeological and anthropological scholars, government officials, cultural heritage consultants, and representatives of NGOs, indigenous peoples and newly independent states. Contrary to previous publications on repatriation, this book aims at moving beyond discussions on ownership, power and control in favouring partnership issues based upon the observance of equitability, mutual sharing of knowledge, and under the observance of scientific and humanitarian standards.

IWGIA & NKA – 2008
216 pages
ISBN 9788791563454

The point of departure of this volume is the fact that more and more groups in Asia identify themselves as indigenous peoples, and its ultimate purpose is to provide assistance in addressing the practical question of how the concept of indigenous peoples can be applied in the particular context of Asian nations. This is done by means of a compilation of key articles, both previously published and unpublished, which directly or indirectly address the issue from historical, anthropological, legal and indigenous activists’ perspectives, and at international, regional, national and local levels.

IWGIA & AIPP – 2008
461 pages
ISBN 9788791563348
Assembling case study materials from South Asia (Bangladesh), Southeast Asia (Indonesia and the Philippines) and South America (Brazil and Peru), the collection covers topics like the texture of everyday-relations at the settlement frontier and the re-configuration of ethnic hierarchies in tune with changing conquest cycles; settler land and resource use strategies; anti-settler riots and their politics; peace accords and what they can and cannot achieve as instruments for halting migration-induced violence; communal land titles as a promising avenue for conflict prevention and the empowerment of weak and defensive groups; and the need for balancing indigenous rights advocacy with support and legal protection for disenfranchised parts of the settler population.

IWGIA and NCCR North-South 2008
557 pages


ACHPR & IWGIA – 2008
English version: 35 pages - French version: 40 pages
ISBN 9788791563294

ACHPR & IWGIA – 2008
English version: 38 pages – French version: 40 pages
ISBN 9788791563324

The African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights has established a Working Group on Indigenous Populations/Communities that undertook a mission to the Republic of Niger in February 2006, and this is the report from the mission. The report gives an account of meetings held with government authorities, civil society organizations, indigenous communities and other stakeholders, it describes the situation of the indigenous populations in the Republic of Niger and it makes recommendations to the Government, civil society organizations and the international community. The report is published in both English and French.

ACHPR & IWGIA – 2008
English version: 38 pages – French version: 40 pages
ISBN 9788791563485
The violations of the fundamental rights of the black, indigenous and peasant farmer population of the Colombian Pacific, regarded by all the armed forces, both regular and irregular, as the “collateral damage” of any armed conflict, may have objectives of their own, independent of the Colombian internal armed conflict. The territorial uprooting of these peoples may be an objective in itself, and not a consequence of the conflict. This can be concluded from the links between armed actions, dispossessions of community lands and the false legalizations of these lands once seized.

IWGIA & Colectivo de Trabajo Jenzera – 2008
52 pages
ISBN 978-958-8262-70-3

Pedro García Hierro and Efraín Jaramillo Jaramillo

“Bolivia is a Unitary, Plurinational, Communitarian and Democratic State.” The first article of the new Constitution reflects the complexity of Bolivia’s myriad of diversities, permeated by the visions of its founding colonial peoples and spurred on by the passionate memory of the 36 indigenous peoples who are now demanding their inclusion, once and for all, in the nation state. “Building Dignity” offers a complete panorama of the voices that meet, repel and complement each other within Bolivia. It is the chronicle of a constitutional process that has propelled the contradictions of a country based on differences and hopes for understanding into the world’s limelight.

IWGIA & ORE – 2008
DVD, 35 minutes
Spanish with English subtitles
Las violaciones a los derechos fundamentales de la población negra, indígena y campesina del Pacífico colombiano, conceptuadas por todas las fuerzas armadas, regulares e irregulares, como “daños colaterales” de todo enfrentamiento armado, podrían tener objetivos propios e independientes del conflicto armado interno colombiano. El desarraigo territorial de estos pueblos sería un objetivo más, y no una consecuencia de la contienda. Esto se deduce de los maridajes entre acciones armadas, despojos de tierras comunitarias y legalizaciones amañadas de estas usurpaciones.

IWGIA & Colectivo de Trabajo Jenzera – 2008
53 páginas
ISBN: 9789588262598

Los gobiernos de Chile han procurado integrar la economía del país a los mercados globales mediante la implantación de un modelo basado en la explotación de los recursos naturales. En los territorios de las comunidades indígenas del norte del país se han impulsado grandes proyectos mineros, causando enormes daños a los pueblos indígenas por la destrucción de su medio ambiente, sus culturas y la erosión de sus bases económicas.

LOM Ediciones & Observatorio de Derechos de los Pueblos Indígenas & IWGIA – 2008
264 páginas
ISBN 978-956-00-0010-1

Nancy Yáñez y Raúl Molina
En 1973 y 1974, IWGIA publicó dos impactantes denuncias del antropólogo alemán Mark Münzel sobre el genocidio contra el pueblo Aché del Paraguay.

A 35 años de estas denuncias, IWGIA reproduce por primera vez los documentos de Münzel en castellano, acompañados con una serie de artículos que proporcionan una información actualizada sobre la situación del pueblo Aché y una discusión sobre el concepto de genocidio.

Alejandro Parellada y María de Lourdes Beldi de Alcántara (eds.)

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José María de Lourdes Beldi de Alcántara (eds.)

La estructura agraria se cristaliza en un sistema de propiedad, de producción y de relaciones laborales, que determinan el carácter de las relaciones sociales emergentes de la actividad agraria. Estas relaciones pueden ser de explotación económica, exclusión política, opresión cultural o de colaboración, inclusión y complementariedad. Esta investigación analiza la problemática de la tierra y el territorio en Bolivia asociada a las estructuras de poder, su evolución histórica, características actuales y proyecciones en el marco del proceso constituyente. Contiene una interpretación completa de las actuales tensiones en torno a la reconfiguración del poder, especialmente en el oriente del país.

Carlos G. Romero Bonifaz
El eco de las voces olvidadas es la vez un estudio autoetnográfico e histórico detallado, un relato personal y colectivo, además de una autobiografía étnica de los caviveños, una sociedad indígena de lengua tacaña particularmente desconocida, cuyos miembros residen en el noroeste amazónico boliviano.

Alfredo Tabo Amapo
Editores Mickaël Brohan & Enrique Herrera

GLOBALIZACION, DERECHOS HUMANOS Y PUEBLOS INDÍGENAS
ACTAS DEL SEMINARIO REGIONAL DE SANTA CRUZ DE LA SIERRA - 20-22 DE NOVIEMBRE DE 2006

El libro incluye más de treinta trabajos y visiones que muestran como la globalización afecta la vida cotidiana, los derechos y los territorios de los pueblos indígenas en distintos momentos y contextos geográficos. Las ponencias muestran que la globalización puede ser entendida no sólo desde sus peligros y amenazas, sino también desde una dimensión distinta como son los derechos humanos, la cultura y las identidades.

Álvaro Bello and José Aylwin (comp.)
“Bolivia se constituye en un Estado Unitario Social de Derecho Plurinacional Comunitario”. El primer artículo de la nueva Constitución refleja la complejidad de una Bolivia diversa por donde se la mire, atravesada por las visiones que imprimieron los pueblos coloniales fundadores, agujoneada por la memoria ardiente de los 36 pueblos indígenas que exigen su inclusión, de una vez por todas, en el Estado nacional. “Construyendo Dignidad” muestra un panorama de las voces que se cruzan, se repelen y se complementan en el territorial boliviano. Es una crónica del proceso constituyente que puso en la vidriera del mundo las contradicciones de un país basado sobre diferencias y esperanzas de entendimiento.

IWIGA & ORE 2008
DVD – 35 minutos – en castellano
This yearbook contains a most comprehensive update on the current situation of indigenous peoples and their human rights, and provides an overview of the most important developments in international and regional processes during 2006. Over 60 indigenous and non-indigenous scholars and activists provide their insight and knowledge to the book with:

- Region and country reports covering most of the indigenous world.
- Updated information on international and regional processes relating to indigenous peoples.

*The Indigenous World 2007* is an essential source of information and indispensable tool for those who need to be informed about the most recent issues and developments that have impacted on indigenous peoples worldwide. It is published in English and Spanish.

**Book launches**

In 2007, IWGIA organised several book launches and promoted its Yearbook through different channels.

The book was first launched at a side event of the meeting of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in New York in May. This book launch takes place every year and marks the official release of *The Indigenous World / El Mundo Indígena*. The 2007 launch focused particularly on the Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (which was later adopted by the General Assembly) and three guest speakers presented papers on the issue.

Further book launches took place in:
- Denmark (Copenhagen), in cooperation with the bookstore Tranquebar.
- Argentina (Buenos Aires and Salta), together with the Center for Legal and Social Studies, CELS.
- Peru (Lima), together with the indigenous information service, Servindi.
- Bolivia (Santa Cruz and La Paz), together with the Centre for Legal and Social Studies, CEJIS.

The book is distributed widely and free of charge within IWGIA’s network, as well as through the Internet where it can be downloaded from our website.
IWGIA’s quarterly journal is thematically focused on indigenous issues and is written by indigenous and non-indigenous experts, scholars and activists.
El cambio climático y los pueblos indígenas
IWGIA 40 años después

TEMAS 2008
1-2/2008  El cambio climático y los pueblos indígenas
3-4/2008  IWGIA 40 años después
Changements climatiques et Peuples Autochtones
(Climate change and Indigenous Peoples)
### ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

#### Profit and Loss Report 2008 (DKK)

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<td>Other income</td>
<td>322,074</td>
<td>468,330</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total receipts</strong></td>
<td>6,304,158</td>
<td>6,654,382</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Expenditure</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special activities - Projects and Programs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Board meetings, Travel, PR &amp; Projects</td>
<td>(486,287)</td>
<td>(685,874)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Publications</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publication expenditure, net</td>
<td>(683,647)</td>
<td>(671,243)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Capacity expenditure</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staff expenditure</td>
<td>(7,282,765)</td>
<td>(6,873,484)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretariat expenditure</td>
<td>(1,665,605)</td>
<td>(2,088,342)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implementation funds from projects and programs</td>
<td>4,299,230</td>
<td>3,926,070</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Carried forward to next year</strong></td>
<td>485,085</td>
<td>261,509</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Received Project and Program Subsidies and Grants 2008</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total subsidies and grants</strong></td>
<td>27,500,374</td>
<td>20,922,990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Expenditures</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Danish Foreign Ministry, DANIDA</td>
<td>13,909,744</td>
<td>15,306,123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The European Commission - Human Rights</td>
<td>2,175,594</td>
<td>1,011,683</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Norwegian Foreign Ministry, NORAD</td>
<td>2,215,440</td>
<td>2,434,008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swedish International Development Coop. Agency</td>
<td>1,256,644</td>
<td>1,292,044</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Finnish Foreign Ministry</td>
<td>1,041,542</td>
<td>446,664</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Danida, ACHPR-support 2004-2007</td>
<td>445,980</td>
<td>1,074,980</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Danida, ACHPR-support 2008-2011</td>
<td>196,732</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UM Bevilling Climate Change 2008-2010</td>
<td>138,040</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Danida, East Support, 2006-2007</td>
<td>39,721</td>
<td>1,409,928</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Danida, East Support, 2007-2008</td>
<td>511,135</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AECl, Spain - ACHPR - Brazzaville</td>
<td>37,185</td>
<td>297,476</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AECl, Spain - Latin America 2008</td>
<td>301,796</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AECl, UN Mechanisms Madrid 2009</td>
<td>22,649</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UM-KT, Chittagong Hill Tracts</td>
<td>206,021</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU-TACIS, Russia 2008-2010</td>
<td>914,671</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenditures Projects and Programs</strong></td>
<td>23,412,893</td>
<td>23,272,905</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Balance Sheet 31 December 2008 (DKK)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assets</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2007</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fixed Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deposits</td>
<td>19,212</td>
<td>8,794</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shares, Sydbank</td>
<td>3,229</td>
<td>10,884</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Fixed Assets</strong></td>
<td>22,441</td>
<td>19,678</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Current Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outstanding Accounts</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outstanding amounts from subscription sales, etc</td>
<td>7,393</td>
<td>67,438</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Account between IWGIA and Human Rights Fund</td>
<td>88,613</td>
<td>80,823</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other amounts outstanding</td>
<td>23,938</td>
<td>133,977</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepaid for publications 2007</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Outstanding Accounts</strong></td>
<td>119,944</td>
<td>282,238</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liquid Assets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liquid assets</td>
<td>3,051,587</td>
<td>3,060,557</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liquid Assets</strong></td>
<td>3,051,587</td>
<td>3,060,557</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Programs and Projects</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deposits at project accounts</td>
<td>6,556,450</td>
<td>2,358,469</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Programs and Projects</strong></td>
<td>6,556,450</td>
<td>2,358,469</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Current Assets</strong></td>
<td>9,727,981</td>
<td>5,701,264</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td>9,750,423</td>
<td>5,720,942</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Liabilities | | |
| Equity Capital | | |
| Capital account as at January 1, 2008 | 2,913,573 | 2,652,066 |
| Carried forward from “Profit and Loss Account” | 485,085 | 261,510 |
| **Equity Capital as at 31 December 2006** | 3,398,658 | 2,913,575 |
| Debt | | |
| Account between IWGIA and DANIDA | 84,943 | 159,538 |
| Accrued expenses | 447,046 | 1,114,296 |
| Holiday pay | 956,000 | 747,500 |
| **Total Debt** | 1,487,990 | 2,021,334 |
| Activities carried forward to next year | 4,863,775 | 786,032 |
| **Total Liabilities** | 9,750,423 | 5,720,942 |
Notes to the Annual Annual Accounts (DKK)

Core Funding

The Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, DANIDA .................. 2,510,000 2,460,000
The Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, NORAD ............... 2,215,440 2,434,008
The Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, SIDA ...................... 1,256,644 1,292,044

Total Core Funding .................................................................. 5,982,084 6,186,052

Other Income

National numbers game subsidies (Lotto) .......................... 71,038 76,118
Subscriptions and sale to non-subscribers ..................... 105,182 246,693
Private contributions (Membership fee) ......................... 42,098 46,762
Miscellaneous receipts ...................................................... 762 32,092
Interest accrued ................................................................. 102,994 66,664

Total Other Receipts ................................................................. 322,074 468,330

Regional distribution of Programmes

- Latinamerica: 23%
- Africa: 20%
- Eastern Europe and Russia: 9%
- Human Rights: 15%
- Other Activities: 4.3%
- Asia: 19%
- Publications: 10%
In 2008, IWGIA celebrated its 40th anniversary. Looking back over the past 40 years, we believe that we have been able to contribute to advancing the rights of indigenous peoples and improving their situation, not least by documenting events and raising awareness of indigenous issues in different fora. However, despite positive developments and some good news, it is still shocking to hear about the serious human rights abuses indigenous peoples are experiencing all over the world, and we still face many challenges.

Whereas some countries in Africa have shown a positive development in the recognition of indigenous rights, the situation of indigenous peoples is still challenging. An example is the situation of the Pygmies in Congo Brazzaville where a positive government attitude can be noted but where Pygmies still suffer from extreme human rights abuses.

Land remains a very difficult and sensitive issue for most indigenous peoples in the world. A very relevant example is the situation of pastoralist peoples in eastern Africa. However, election violence in Kenya has resulted in new opportunities but also in an additional work load for IWGIA’s main partner in the country, MPIDO. The land and natural resources program, which commenced in 2007, will finish by the end of 2009, and an external evaluation will be conducted in order to provide IWGIA and its partner, MPIDO, with concrete recommendations for future priorities and strategies.

In Tanzania, insecure land tenure, forced evictions and a hostile government have resulted in gross human rights violations and impoverishment of pastoralists. IWGIA supported a project with PAICODEO, a small and relatively new organisation, in 2008-2009, and will continue this support in the coming year.

Land rights are also at the heart of indigenous peoples’ concerns in Asia. The Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) of Bangladesh is recognised as a “tribal inhabited” region, with certain rights to self-governance, according to the 1997 Peace Accord. Unfortunately, the failure to fully implement all provisions of the Peace Accord means that indigenous peoples in the CHT continue to be severely marginalized, dispossessed and subjected to serious human rights violations, such as extrajudicial killings, arbitrary arrests, rape, torture, etc. In this context, the re-establishment of the international Chittagong Hill Tracts Commission (CHTC) in June 2008 was undoubtedly a much needed and timely initiative. IWGIA acts as the secretariat for the CHTC and will continue to give priority to this work.

Intensified political repression such as political killings, enforced disappearances, surveillance, death threats, harassments and other human rights violations committed against its leaders and members are also a reality for the Cordillera Peoples Alliance (CPA) in the Philippines. There is hence a need to continuously address both the external pressures and assaults on the alliance and the internal process of consolidation of its leaders and members, who experience demoralization and fear due to the constant terror of political repression and militarization.

The review of IWGIA’s work conducted by NORAD and DANIDA in 2008 made a number of recommendations as to the future direction of IWGIA’s Asia program. While encouraging IWGIA to continue with its basic approach and strategy, the review team recommended that IWGIA expand the scope of the program. The need for capacity building of leaders and indigenous organisations and defence of land and resource rights is becoming ever more urgent.
While IWGIA is happy with the support and encouragement given by the review team, we are also well aware of the challenges a further expansion of the scope of our work in the region poses. IWGIA already faces difficulties in raising sufficient funding to maintain the present level of engagement. Expanding the scope of its work in Asia – or in other regions, for that matter – puts additional strain on IWGIA’s human and financial resources. Thus, one of the main challenges ahead for IWGIA is to make sure it can secure sufficient funding to maintain its ability to respond to the needs of the indigenous peoples’ movement. The present global economic slowdown and shifting priorities of donors, especially in connection with climate change, are not making this any easier.

In Latin America, in the immediate future, IWGIA will continue to focus on the territorial defence of indigenous communities and on communications work, as far as possible maintaining the same partners as in 2008. The political process in Bolivia is soon expected to enter a complex stage, in the midst of implementing the recently-approved constitution. Both indigenous organisations and the support institutions will need IWGIA’s support. In Peru, clashes between the national government and the indigenous movement regarding natural resource rights will continue to be a cause of conflict with regard to which the indigenous organisations will require different kinds of support. IWGIA will be ready to cover the operating costs of, primarily, the regional organisation of Madre de Dios and the Awajún people of the Cenepa River.

On an international level, IWGIA particularly welcomes the establishment of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples under the Human Rights Council. The Expert Mechanism’s mandate provides unprecedented opportunities for UN member states and indigenous peoples to work together to operationalise the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and mainstream indigenous peoples’ rights within the framework of the Human Rights Council. This will only be possible, however, if there is political will on the part of states to protect indigenous rights and cooperate with indigenous peoples.

The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) is another new mechanism under the United Nations Human Rights Council (HRC). Unfortunately, recommendations and questions posed to countries under review are weaker than many civil society organisations had expected. Indigenous rights issues need to be included more consistently, and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples must be seen as a framework document for these reviews. IWGIA will be actively involved in future reviews that target countries where we work, and we will support partner organisations in contributing to and using the UPR in the best possible way.

With the UNDRIP as part of its normative framework, the whole UN Human Rights system will have new opportunities to advance the promotion and protection of indigenous peoples’ rights. Unfortunately, many states still consider the UN-DRIP to be a non-binding instrument, thereby denying it normative force. However, the declaration is deeply grounded in the authority of International Human Rights Law and has strong legitimate powers due to it being the result of a long and fair process. For IWGIA, the implementation of the UNDRIP is one of the main challenges, focusing not only on the international but also on the national and local level. IWGIA will continue to support international efforts to strengthen the UNDRIP and implement it in all fora, as well as regional, national and local projects that will build the capacity of indigenous peoples and others to actively use the UNDRIP as an important tool in advancing the rights of indigenous peoples.
IWGIA’s work on the regional and international levels is closely linked to its documentation of and information on the situation of indigenous peoples and their rights. The biggest challenge to these publication activities is decreasing funding. Many donors have started to retreat from their funding of publications and it is thus difficult for IWGIA to keep our integrated approach and the synergies between project support, human rights advocacy and publications. Whereas the review team recommended employing a full-time communications coordinator, in reality, IWGIA has had to further downgrade its activities under the programme due to limited funding.

One important development in our publications activities over the coming year will be the further emphasis on Human Rights Reports that can be used at local, national and international level. These are closely related to IWGIA’s regional programmes as well as to its Human Rights Advocacy Programme and will serve as tools for our indigenous partners’ advocacy work. The yearbook is still the cornerstone of our publications work and this will continue to be the case in the years to come. Every year, we receive more requests for the yearbook and comments on its content. We will continue publishing our well-established journal Indigenous Affairs too but, from 2009 onwards, with only two issues per year (instead of four) due to financial constraints as well as a lack of manpower for the publication process. Our website, too, will need to adjust to limited funding and a decrease in the human resources available.

Particularly in Latin America, IWGIA has started to intensify its work with other media, such as films and DVDs, and this has had a great impact on the dissemination of information about indigenous peoples in the region. We hope to be able to continue to work with the film media (that is, raise the funding needed) and gain more experience in the field.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

IWGIA would like to thank all its donors for their financial support. Without them, our work would not be possible. We would like to particularly thank our main donors over the years, the Nordic Foreign Ministries and the European Commission. Their grants are invaluable to our planning and activities, and we are grateful for their ongoing support.

We would also like to thank the Instituto de Promocion de Estudio in Spain, and the Spanish Development Cooperation Agency (AECI) for their generous support to our activities in 2008.

Many people and organisations contributed to IWGIA’s work over the year by donating their time and skills to IWGIA, and we wish to thank all these people.

We would also like to thank those persons and organisations that have contributed to our publications with articles and photos.