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INTERNATIONAL INDIAN TREATY COUNCIL
***"Working for the Rights and Recognition of
Indigenous Peoples Internationally"***

ANNUAL REPORT

JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2003

A. INTRODUCTION

In 2003, Indigenous Peoples around the world continued to suffer flagrant human rights violations and threats to their lands, cultures, way of life and survival. For more than 29 years, the International Indian Treaty Council (IITC) has been an effective international voice by and for grass roots Peoples and communities, who are most often voiceless and disenfranchised in policy debates at the national levels. In 2003, the IITC worked in close coordination with Indigenous communities, tribes, networks and organizations, strengthening their capacity to assert their rights, present critical concerns, address violations and participate in the development of policies which take their perspectives and struggles into consideration.

IITC's program work in 2003 focused on key issues impacting Indigenous Peoples including: Treaties and Land Rights; Environmental Justice, Biological Diversity and Sustainable Development; Right to Food and Food Security; Youth, Women and Children's Rights; Cultural rights, Freedom of Religion and Protection of Sacred Sites; Prisoners' rights; Health of Indigenous Peoples and Racial Discrimination. This work continued to be based upon the recognition of the indivisible links between defense of human rights and protection of the Natural World. IITC continued to work for the full recognition by states and international bodies of Indigenous Peoples rights and the critical need to insure and safeguard Indigenous Peoples' lands, cultures, health, traditional subsistence practices and self-determination.

B. 2003 PROGRAMMATIC OBJECTIVES AND KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

IITC's work was carried out under six primary programmatic objectives.

Objective I: Addressing Critical Violations of Indigenous Peoples' Human Rights and Threats to their Survival

1) IITC provided consultation and technical assistance to more than 30 communities and organizations in Guatemala, Alaska, Brazil, Norway, Panama, Mexico, Botswana and the United States to prepare urgent complaints, communications and updates for submission to the states in question as well as to international complaint mechanisms. These included:

the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights and various UN Special Rapporteurs and Committees of the UN Commission on Human Rights (i.e. on Indigenous Issues, Human Rights and Toxics, Arbitrary Detentions, Rights of the Child, Extrajudicial Executions, Internally Displaced Persons, Elimination of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief). These addressed urgent concerns for protection of threatened sacred sites and repatriation of sacred items (Petroglyphs in New Mexico, Medicine Lake in California, Bear Butte in South Dakota, Vieques Island in Puerto Rico, Yaqui ceremonial items held in the national ethnological museum in Sweden, and threatened sacred sites and areas in Guatemala and New Zealand); killings, imprisonments, and death threats against human rights and environmental justice defenders and Indigenous activists (Mexico, Guatemala and Brazil); forced relocations (Navajos in the US, and Gana, Gwi and Bakgalagadi Bushman tribes in Botswana); environmental health threats (pesticide exposures, mercury contamination in Mexico, Guatemala and the US) with particularly devastating impacts on the health and development of babies and children.

2) Over 25 Indigenous communities and organizations submitted information, documentation, testimony and/or text for the 10 written and 6 oral interventions submitted by IITC to the 59th session of the UN Commission on Human Rights (March 17 – April 25, 2003, Geneva). These interventions addressed a wide range of critical issues affecting the rights and survival Indigenous communities including: environmental justice and imposed impacts of resource extraction (mining, oil development, clear cutting and damming, throughout the US, Canada, Alaska, Mexico, Ecuador, Columbia, etc.); proposed or ongoing sacred sites desecration (Medicine Lake, Bear Butte, ANWR, Black Mesa) and other violations of cultural rights; women and children's rights; right to food and food security; racism and racial discrimination; right to self-determination; racism in international standard setting bodies impacting Indigenous Peoples' rights; impacts of militarism; treaty violations; land and water rights; and rights of Indigenous prisoners. IITC credentialed an 8-member delegation (representatives from the US, Mexico and Guatemala, including 2 first-time youth mentees).

3) IITC filed a UN human rights complaint for 4 Zapoteca Indians imprisoned for resisting an oil pipeline through their lands in Oaxaca, Mexico with the UN Rapporteur on Arbitrary Detentions, coordinated meetings including Indigenous representatives, Mexican Government officials and the UN Permanent Forum member from Mexico in New York, and was able to get them freed (May).

4) IITC continued to participate and help coordinate in a campaign, in conjunction with impacted communities, spiritual leaders, tribal representatives and socially responsible investors (in particular via membership on the Advisory Council as co-chair of the Indigenous Peoples Committee of Calvert Socially Responsible Investors as well as via UN mechanisms) to halt geothermal energy development proposed by Calpine Corporation in the sacred Medicine Lake Highlands of Mt. Shasta, CA.

5) IITC assisted Yaqui Indigenous communities in Sonora Mexico and Mayan community members in Guatemala to submit testimonies on devastating environmental and health impacts to the UN Special Rapporteur on Toxics and Human Rights, the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the Committee for the Rights of the Child, of the transboundary Illicit transport of banned pesticides by the US and European countries and corporations. IITC via its **Indigenous Network Against Pesticides** Project has collected additional testimonies and statements from Yaqui community members (including a local midwife addressing the increase in devastating birth defects and children's cancers) for submission at the 2004 CHR at the Rapporteur's request.

6) IITC has begun to collect testimony and documentation from Northern Californian Indian communities to prepare and submit a formal communication to the UN Rapporteur on the Right to Food in early 2004 addressing the denial of subsistence rights and health impacts resulting from the lack of State and federal government response to the continued mercury contamination of the waters and fish in that state.

Objective II: Networking and Strategic Alliance-Building

1) IITC continued to build, strengthen and participate in strategic alliance and collaborations to share information, build solidarity and address critical shared concerns. Examples included: Eyak Preservation Council, Indigenous Tourism Rights International, Rainforest Action Network, Traditional Native American Farmers Association, Sinkyone Wilderness Council, Alaska Community Action on Toxics, Institute for Agricultural and Trade Policies, Indigenous Environmental Network, Project Underground, North American Indigenous Peoples Bio-Diversity Project, Alaska Intertribal Council, Southwest Network for Environmental and Economic Justice, Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific Network, Gwich'in Steering Committee, Calvert Social Investment Group Advisory Council, Amazon Coalition, Alliance of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples of the Topical Rainforests, 7th Generation Fund, Tebtebba Foundation (Philippines), Pit River, Clear Lake Pomo Maidu, Yurok-Karuk, Shasta and Wintu Nations in Northern California, California Rural Indian Health Board, the California Indian Educators Association, Centro Binacional Para el Desarrollo Indigena Oaxaqueno, Mundo Maya, Frente Indigena Oaxaqueno Binacional, Hesperian Foundation, Heifer International and the International Union for the Conservation Nature, First Nations Development Institute and its Native American Food Systems Initiative, Inter-Tribal Bison Cooperative, International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Amnesty International, Confederacy of Treaty 6 First Nations (Canada), Sinte Gleska University, Indigenous Initiative for Peace, CALDH and Defensoria Maya (Guatemala), Yoemem Tekia Foundation (US and Mexico), Coalition Campesina Indigena de los Pueblos del Istmo de Oaxaca Mexico, Congreso Nacional Indigena, Red Mexicana ante Libre Comercio (Mexico), Pesticide Action Network (US and Mexico), Movimiento Juventud Kuna and the Congreso Nacional Kuna (Panama), International Committee for Indigenous Health, and other Indigenous and non-Indigenous organizations.

2) More than 800 total Indigenous representatives attended two International Indian Treaty Conferences in 2003: January 18 –22, hosted by Aloha First, Pu'uhonua O Waimanalo Village, the Nation of Hawai'i, NHAC dba Ke Kia'i, Na Kupuna O Maui, Na Kupuna Kauai and the host community of Waimanalo on the Island of Oahu the Nation of Hawaii; and October 3rd - 6th, 2003, hosted by the Sac and Fox Indian Nation, Oklahoma. Indigenous representatives from tribal communities and organizations from North, Central South America and the Pacific Islands provided input, information and direction through presentations, resolutions and strategy statements which formed the basis for IITC positions on key issues as well as new IITC projects and program initiatives.

3) In 2003 IITC implemented the “**Mercury and Tribal Health Project**” initiative in collaboration with Northern California tribes and communities whose waters and subsistence fishing continue to be contaminated by mercury as a result of runoffs from abandoned gold mine sites. A major achievement of the project was been the creation of a broad collaborative effort to carry out outreach, organizing and education for the project via an Advisory Committee involving impacted tribes and communities as well as IITC staff, consultants, and California Rural Indian Health Board. Community educational materials

(handouts and a pocket “trifold” were developed with community input, and longer booklet us in the final stages of development, also with input by the impacted communities and tribes.

A key lesson that emerged is the vital role of youth and young adults, especially young women, in carrying out the community education and organizing work of the project focusing on educating young women, pregnant and nursing mothers, as well as health staff who work with them, about the irreversible neurological impacts of mercury on the developing fetus. In August the project was expanded to include collaboration with urban Bay Area organizations, including Urban Indian Health centers in Oakland and San Francisco and other impacted communities and organizations, such as Asian Immigrant communities and Bay View Hunters Point Black communities which fish extensively in the San Francisco Bay. In addition, on behalf of Indigenous communities in California and elsewhere affected by Mercury contamination, IITC addressed this issue in the context of international standards and conventions at the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (May) and at a Special Session of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (September), and began to be involved in a new UNEP process for an International Treaty on Mercury (the next meeting will be in Japan in 2005). Session of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (September), and began to be involved in a new UNEP process for an International Treaty on Mercury (the next meeting will be in Japan in 2005).

4) The **“North-South Indigenous Peoples' Network Against Pesticides” project**, initiated in 2001 to create community oriented educational materials, address policies allowing for the export of banned pesticides, provide information and collect testimony from impacted communities for submission to the UN Special Rapporteur on Toxics and Human Rights, grew in 2003 to include members from 8 countries (Canada, Guatemala, Panama, Mexico, New Zealand/Aotearoa, the U.S, Alaska and Hawaii). IITC submitted testimony from Yaqui Indians from Sonora Mexico at the request of the UN Rapporteur on Toxics and Human Rights, and addressed the ongoing export of banned pesticides to Mexico, Guatemala and other countries by the US as a critical national and international environmental health policy issue. Presentations were carried out to communities in Rio Yaqui Sonora, Oklahoma and Alaska. IITC representatives of this project from Alaska and Mexico presented testimony at two international Conferences of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation created under NAFTA (Oaxaca Mexico, February, and Toronto Canada, August) addressing current failures by states to implement of existing norms and regulations, problems with “risk assessment” models, the continued export from the US of banned pesticides resulting in devastating health impacts on local communities, as well as the role of national and international finance policies i.e. the so-called “Green Revolution” in Northern Mexico in this regard. IITC representatives provided input on key policy issues such as informed consent, elimination and the precautionary principle as alternatives to “risk assessment” and “management” models.

5) IITC continued to work on the National Planning Committee for coordination of a national conference of the organizations which participated in the Durban WCAR to coordinate and develop follow-up strategies, which took place in May 2003 in Washington (IITC coordinated and presented on the international panel and served as a member of steering committee for the overall event)

6) IITC was invited to become the only Indigenous organization on a new 12-member international IUCN Working Group on Extractive Industry and Biodiversity to “discuss issues of strategic importance for conservation in relation to mining with a view to guide setting the

broader agenda for the engagement of the conversation community with the extractive industry". The first meeting (Gland Switzerland) was in February 2004.

7) Over 4500 total participants attended IITC's 2 annual sunrise gathering events on Alcatraz in October and November.

Objective III: Training, Mentorship and Capacity Building

1) IITC credentialed, mentored, provided preparation and/or trained a total of 55 Indigenous representatives including 19 Indigenous youth to attend 10 different United Nations conferences and fora, other international gatherings and NGO parallel sessions

2) IITC conducted over 50 consultations, training workshops and presentations at the invitation of communities, high schools and universities, tribes and organizations on human rights, racial and environmental justice issues, including: Northern California (i.e. San Francisco, Grass Valley, Clear Lake Elem Pomo, Coyote Valley and Big Valley Pomo Reservations, Sonoma Country Indian Health Project, Shingle Springs Rancheria, American Indian Bay Area Agency Representatives monthly sessions, Regional Tribal Operations Committee session for California Tribes, hosted by the Yurok-Karuk reservation, with 120 participants representing 65 Northern and Central California tribes, addressing in the continuing environmental and cultural impacts of mercury contamination in Northern California and other issues); various events and presentations in conjunction with the 2003 International Indian Treaty Council Conference in Waimanalo, Oahu Hawaii, (January 2003); Western Shoshone Nation Gathering, Nevada (February, 2003); National Youth Summit on Indigenous Peoples Rights in Minneapolis, coordinated by Amnesty International (Minneapolis, March.); the Amazon Coalition annual meeting in (Washington DC, May attended by various tribal leaders from South America); Side vents on sacred sites and the Draft Declaration for Indigenous Peoples events during the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (May, New York); in preparation for the World Trade Organization ministerial meeting in Cancún, Mexico, 3 training workshops for Indigenous communities in Cancun, Tihusucu, and Carrillo Puerto, Quintana Roo, Mexico (June); Asian Indigenous Caucus meeting on the Draft Declaration on the rights of Indigenous Peoples, (Thailand, August); Day of Indigenous Peoples (Stockholm Sweden, August, sponsored by the Sami Peoples); various workshops at the 29th anniversary IITC International Conference, Sac and Fox Reservation Oklahoma (approximately 400 registered participants, October); IEN's Oklahoma Tribal Peoples Oil Summit (Sac and Fox Reservation, October); presentation on pesticides impacts on health and environment (Rio Yaqui, Sonora Mexico, October); several workshops in communities on potential impacts of the IAS Declaration on Indigenous Peoples, including provisions on land and resources rights (Guatemala, October); Heifer International Native Nations and general staff "talk and think" session, (Little Rock, Arkansas, October); and the Indigenous Environmental Network Youth Environmental Justice Organizing Training (30 + youth from US and Canada, Bemidji Minnesota, November).

In total over 6000 participants attended these various consultations, presentations and trainings, and many more were reached through training of key organizational and community leaders as well media coverage and electronic outreach.

3) In May, a first-of-its-kind "**Training for Trainers**" capacity building, educational and organizing meeting addressing impacts of Mercury contamination of fish and other subsistence foods in Northern California, co-hosted by IITC and Pit River tribe at Redding Rancheria CA, was attended by 25 invited tribal health and environmental staff, community

members and organizations representing 6 impacted tribes (Pit River, Elem and Big Valley Pomo, Yurok-Karuk, Wintu and Maidu), the California Rural Indian Health Board (CRIHB), and included development of a tribal network and outreach plan. Trainers included representatives from the Physicals for Social Responsibility, Indigenous Environmental Network, Project Underground, the Hesperian Foundation as well as IITC and tribal representatives. Since that time over 20 community and tribal presentations have been made on site at tribal health programs and community organizations, and two additional community planning and information-sharing meetings have been coordinated in the Bay area by IITC (August and December, 2003).

4) IITC's Bay Area "**Native Youth For Human Rights**" Mentorship Program, implemented in 1997, continued to provide educational, activism and community organizing opportunities addressing human rights and environmental justice in the context of local concerns to over 75 high school and college-age Indian youth in Northern California. 25 Indian Youth Mentees participated in IITC's "Native Youth For Human Rights" mentorship program in 2003, focusing on dissemination of the "**Gold, Greed and Genocide**" project addressing the historic and ongoing cultural and environmental impacts of the California Gold Rush, documenting and studying "truth in history" in California, and calling for an end to racial bias in the teaching of California's history in public schools. This project also began to focus public attention on ongoing mercury contamination in N. California leaching from abandoned gold mines as a critical environmental justice issue

5) 8 Youth from IITC and other organizations participated in a "Truth in Education" youth tour in August to document historical inaccuracies in state "historical markers" and meeting with youth in various rural communities. A youth organized "report back" event for the Bay Area youth community was held at La Pena in Berkeley, September. A related emphasis was to provide cultural experiences for mentees through participation in events, gatherings, and ceremonies in rural communities and reservations in N. California as a key aspect of their mentorship experience.

6) A special emphasis was made to credential, train and mentor youth as new mentees in UN fora. A total of 19 Indigenous youth from the US, Guatemala, Canada, Panama, Alaska and New Zealand attended UN sessions in 2003 as mentees/ youth trainees with IITC's delegations.

7) IITC served as the international Indigenous NGO Liaison for organizing, preparation, training and planning for Indigenous and NGO participation in the WTO 5th Ministerial Session in Cancun, Mexico, September 10 – 14, 2003, where the proposed new WTO policies on Aquiculture (widely opposed by Indigenous Peoples and many third world countries) failed to become adopted. IITC provided credentials for participation in the NGO and/or the governmental Ministerial session for 10 Indigenous representatives from the US, Guatemala and Mexico, including 5 indigenous youth. IITC also conducted several preparatory trainings for Indigenous communities and NGO's in Mexico.

8) In 2003, IITC also developed a 3 –year collaborative project to be launched in 2004 with Heifer International and its Indian Nations Program to combine international policy and standard setting work with community education and capacity building, including the development of hands-on community based projects for the protection and restoration of traditional foods systems and food sovereignty.

Objective IV: Policy Development and Standard Setting Recognizing Indigenous People's Rights and Perspectives

1) IITC challenged bodies such as the UN Commission on Human Rights, the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, and the Intersessional Working Group on the Draft Declaration for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (ISWGDD) to recognize the glaring inconsistencies in the current application of existing standards impacting Indigenous Peoples. Self-determination has been recognized as a right of ALL Peoples, but many states such as the US visit that this rights does not apply to INDIGENOUS Peoples. IITC continued to confront the overt **racial discrimination by states**, notably the US, as well as Australia, Canada and Great Britain to name the most overt examples. These states continued to openly oppose the non-discriminatory implementation and broad applicability of existing international norms and standards in terms of their applicability to recognition of Indigenous rights, as well as the creation of new standards to affirm the full rights of Indigenous Peoples as Peoples under international law (especially the UN Declaration for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples). They continually maintained that Indigenous Peoples and their struggles for land rights, treaty rights, self-determination etc. are "internal domestic" matters, and that Indigenous Peoples are not "peoples" with rights recognized under international law, a position that IITC and all Indigenous Peoples firmly refute.

2) In 2003, FAO provided support, in a unique and unprecedented collaboration, for development and distribution by IITC of the "**Traditional Culture and Right to Food Questionnaire**" to Indigenous communities. IITC compiled and prepared an analysis of the 128 responses received from Indigenous Peoples in 29 countries for FAO and other relevant bodies, including the World Bank. The survey assesses the impacts of imposed development on Indigenous cultures and food systems, the relationship between traditional foods and cultural practices as well as assessment of current and past development projects (impacts and outcomes, as well as planning, evaluation and consultation processes) in their territories. The results are intended to advance the understanding of FAO and other international agencies of the need to develop "cultural indicators" as a component of a comprehensive, rights-based approach to global policies on food security and sustainable development with the full participation of Indigenous Peoples and other local communities.

3) IITC continued to prioritize the adoption of the UN Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Conducting outreach and education to building and maintain Indigenous unity and coordination of joint strategies was of strategic importance for this effort in the face of vehement opposition by certain powerful states (as well as growing support from others!). IITC focused on the objective of building and maintaining strategic and tactical unity of the Indigenous Peoples Caucus whenever possible in its participation in all relevant international sessions, providing education and outreach for communities and organizations, and encouraging use of the current Declaration text to advance the recognition of Indigenous rights and address a wide variety of specific concerns on the local, national, regional and international levels. The 9th Intersessional Working Group on the Draft Declaration was held in Geneva in September. IITC credentialed 4 representatives from the U.S., Mexico and Panama.

We have reached the point in which the ISWGDD an clearly not reach consensus on the current text, either as it is or with small changes that would not diminish the rights it contains, and what to do in response is a challenge that will be a focal point in 2004 for IITC and many other Indigenous organizations which have worked for the Declaration's adoption over many years.

4) IITC continued to promote in all international bodies the universal and non-discriminatory implementation and broad applicability of existing international norms and standards recognizing Indigenous rights and perspectives, and to work to build support among other states who do not share this view (i.e. Mexico and many other Latin American Countries, Nordic states to some extent, and some Asian and African states, although these latter regions have not participated in significant numbers in the ISWGDD (although they make up the majority at the CHR!) IITC will also formulate a strategy for the 2004 Commission on Human Rights (CHR), which created the ISWGDD in 1995, to try to influence its response if the ISWGDD ends its sessions with no consensus after the next session in September 2004. IITC is began planning a workshop with other Indigenous organizations who have been participating in this process before the next session, to consolidate strategies

5) IITC continued to distribute and utilize as a key organizing and international policy tool the **Indigenous Peoples' Kimberly Declaration** from the World Summit on Sustainable Development (August 2002).

6) IITC reactivated its participation in the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) process, as a legally binding international Treaty generated by the 1992 Earth Summit, which can be utilized to protect Indigenous Peoples rights in the area of traditional knowledge, ecosystems protection, food security and related sustainable development concerns:

- IITC provided one of the two Indigenous Experts (Mayan, Guatemala) for the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Genetic Use Restriction Technologies (GURTs) in (Montreal Canada, February 2003) to “further analyze the potential impacts of GURTs” – other wise known as Terminator Gene Technology – “on small farmers, indigenous and local communities and on Farmer's Rights”.
- IITC credentialed tribal representatives from Canada, Panama and Alaska to attend the Working Group on article 8j (Indigenous Peoples' traditional biological knowledge and “benefit sharing” issues) in Montreal (December 8 – 12, 2003) and the 7th Conference of the Parties (COPS) of the Convention on Biodiversity (Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, February 9th-20th, 2004); IITC helped to plan side events, workshops and a case study on sacred sites focusing on Sprit Mountain in Montana, as well as cultural indicators and Bio-Diversity for COPS 7.

Objective V: Creating and Strengthening Mechanisms for Access to Decision Making

1) IITC coordinated the participation and/or provided credentials for Indigenous 55 delegates from the U.S., Mexico, Panama, Bolivia, Canada, Alaska and New Zealand, including 19 youth, at a wide range of United Nations conferences and fora, other international gatherings and NGO parallel sessions addressing critical threats to human rights and the environment, as well as the creation of new standards and mechanisms for more effective protection and redress: the Ad Hoc Technical Expert Group on Genetic Use Restriction technologies, “GURTs” (Montreal, February); Conferences of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation program on Chemicals Management created under NAFTA (February and August, Oaxaca Mexico and Toronto Canada, addressing Children's' health, subsistence resources and “Risk Assessment”); the preparatory session for the 11th Session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development – “CSD 11” - (New York, March); the World Water Forum (Kyoto, Japan, March); CSD 11, (New York, April – May); "Biodiversity, Traditional Knowledge and Rights of Indigenous Peoples Workshop: Threats and Challenges" seminar in

preparation for the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee on Intellectual Property and Genetic Resources, Traditional Knowledge and Folklore, Fifth Session (Geneva, July); UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations (Geneva, July); UN Subcommission for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (Geneva, August); 5th World Parks Congress (World Conservation Union, Durban South Africa, September); 9th Intersessional Working Group on the Draft Declaration for Rights of Indigenous Peoples (Geneva, September); Special Session of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child addressing Indigenous children (Geneva, September); WTO 5th Ministerial session and parallel NGO/Indigenous Peoples' events (Cancun Mexico, September); the Sustainable Agriculture and Rural development (SARD) Mountain Conference (October, Rome, Italy); the National "Summit on Consultation Protocols to Protect Native American Sacred Places" to address implementation of existing federal and international standards and protocols for protection of sacred sites (November, Albuquerque); and the UN Expert Seminar on Treaties, Agreements and Constructive Arrangement between Indigenous Peoples and States (Geneva, December). IITC provided training, preparation, and mentorship as needed for new and continuing community-based delegates to these sessions.

2) Meetings, briefings and consultations were coordinated by IITC representatives (for IITC representatives and other Indigenous delegates) during the 2003 Commission on Human Rights (Geneva) with the Committees on Right to Development and Arbitrary Detentions, the Rapporteurs on Indigenous Issues and Religious Intolerance, the President of the UN Human Rights Commission and the High Commissioner on Human Rights to alert them to critical concerns affecting Indigenous Peoples to address specific issues of concern and to gain a better understanding of how IITC and other Indigenous organizations can effectively utilize their processes and mandates

3) IITC credentialed 17 delegates (including 5 youth) from Canada, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama and the US to the 2nd session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Peoples within the UN system in May 2003. IITC's interventions called for non-discrimination in development and implementation of human rights standards pertaining to Indigenous Peoples, and addressed World Bank policies, mining impacts, environmental health issues affecting Indigenous children, subsistence rights, lands and resources, and made recommendations to UN bodies and member states for concrete, effective and timely solutions.

4) IITC credentialed and provided guidance for 4 representatives (including 2 youth) to attend the 11th session of the Commission on Sustainable Development (April 21 – May 9, 2003) as well as to the preparatory session March 24 - 26. IITC also facilitated the participation of additional delegates from Africa and South America. The CSD session, and the work of IITC delegates, focused on providing follow up to the WSSD, promoting increased collaboration on key issues and strengthening mechanisms for the input of Indigenous Peoples in the development of a 15-year plan of action, based in large part on the results of the WSSD in 2002. IITC played a key leadership role in coordinating the work of the CSD Indigenous caucus and in the multi-stakeholder CSD dialogue, co-drafting and/or presenting the 6 joint caucus statements highlighting the vital role and perspectives of Indigenous Peoples as a "Major Group" in the future work of the CSD. IITC began, in collaboration with the regional Indigenous caucus coordinators, to coordinate work for the 2004 12 CSD, which will focus on water, human habitat and sanitation issues.

5) IITC continued to serve as the "Indigenous focal point" in the CSD's Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems Caucus, providing unprecedented opportunities for input in international policy discussions on sustainable local food systems and food security at the CSD and the UN Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO).

6) IITC continued to be instrumental in creating unprecedented opportunities for the perspectives and concerns of Indigenous Peoples to be included in international policy discussions addressing Sustainable food systems, food sovereignty and key related issues of ecosystem and habitat protection. The Right to Food and Food Sovereignty are unifying issues for all Peoples and their local communities. Food issues are fundamental and “real” rather than abstract, and serve as a convergence point for inter-related issues such as water, environment, biological and cultural diversity, health, trade and economics.

These include the preservation and re-establishment of traditional agricultural practices; subsistence rights (hunting, fishing and gathering); impacts of imposed development and ecosystem destruction; land and treaty rights; traditional spiritual and cultural relationships; protecting biological diversity (integrity, diversity and use of traditional seed knowledge, opposition to patenting and genetic modification, etc.); health effects of food system disruption; support and recognition for local food system and sustainability models; environmental protection; and impacts of economic globalization and trade policies.

IITC continued to provide innovative leadership to build capacity and participation in the area of **Right to Food** and related environmental, sustainable development and bio-diversity concerns, focusing on outreach to communities and development of new opportunities for input and policy development within the UN Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO). IITC was responsible for creating historic levels of participation and new opportunities for Indigenous food producers and practitioners from local communities to have input into global policy discussions presenting a “rights based” approach for maintaining and strengthening environmentally, economically and socio-culturally sustainable food systems for themselves and for all Peoples.

Key interrelated issues include: preservation and re-establishment of traditional agricultural practices; subsistence rights (hunting, fishing and gathering); impacts of imposed development and ecosystem destruction; land rights; traditional cultural relationships; biological diversity (diversity and use of traditional seed knowledge, opposition to patenting and genetic modification); health impacts of food system disruption; support for local food systems and sustainability models; environmental and habitat protection; and impacts of economic globalization and trade policies.

In November, 2002 the Director General of FAO met formally with IITC to discuss further collaborations to implement Indigenous Peoples recommendations, including the establishment within FAO of an Open-ended Working Group on Indigenous Peoples. FAO contracted with IITC to conduct a consultation with Indigenous Peoples’ focusing on developing “cultural indicators” for Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development -- a breakthrough in re-defining global agrarian and economic frameworks, affirming the human rights aspects of food security for FAO’s development programs. These historic steps and agreements represent a new level of achievement of Indigenous Peoples in a partnership with a UN agency to advance mechanisms and policies reflecting the perspectives and concerns of Indigenous Peoples in a vital area of their lives.

- IITC facilitated participation of an Aymara delegate from Bolivia in the SARD Mountain Meeting at FAO (October), established to address the Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development (SARD) concerns of the world's mountain communities;
- IITC achieved political and financial support for the establishment of an Indigenous Peoples' Working Group within the International Planning Committee (IPC), the NGO-

- Civil Society group, FAO's primary liaison to NGOs and Peoples' movements throughout the world; IITC serves as Indigenous Peoples' Focal Point;
- IITC participated in meetings of the FAO Indigenous Peoples' Focal Points Network, to organize and plan for an internal FAO seminar on Indigenous Peoples; officers from FAO and IFAD (International Fund for Agricultural Development) and members of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Peoples participated
 - IITC participated in various face-to-face and telephone meetings for the 2nd stage of establishing the SARD Initiative, a collaboration between the FAO and Major Groups identified in Agenda 21, to strengthen and provide information, communications and capacity at community level, for which IITC serves as Indigenous Peoples' Focal Point;
 - IITC conducted an Indigenous Peoples' global consultation on the elaboration of "Cultural Indicators" for SARD, through a survey initiative for which IITC was contracted by FAO, and which FAO intends to use to establish a follow-up mechanism for technical guidance in its SARD programs (in 2004, IITC will organize a second Indigenous Peoples' consultation on cultural indicators, with support from the IPC); IITC disseminated the survey questionnaire and 128 responses were received from Indigenous Peoples in 29 countries IITC compiled the responses and submitted a detailed analysis of the results to FAO as well as to other relevant agencies and organizations.
 - IITC called for and achieved political and financial support for a meeting at FAO headquarters to begin establishment of an Open-ended Working Group on Indigenous Peoples as a formal body within FAO, which was called for by the participants in the 1st Indigenous Peoples' Consultation on the Right to Food (April, 2002), and which would be the first of its kind at FAO.

Objective VI: Communications and Information Dissemination

1) In 2003, collaborations with other organizations (indigenous and non-Indigenous) were instrumental in supporting IITC's ability to develop important and innovative educational materials which are now being widely used and disseminated. These organizations include: The Hesperian Foundation (**"Pesticides are Poison"** and the Mercury and Health Education booklet); Project Underground and Oyate (the **"Gold, Greed and Genocide"** video and Study Guide); and First Nations Development Institute (**"Analysis of United States International Policy on Indigenous Peoples, the Human Right to Food and Food Security"**).

2) Training and organizing for the IITC Bay Area "Native Youth for Human Rights and Environmental Justice" Mentorship and Leader Development Program (25 participants in 2003) continued to focus on the **"Gold, Greed and Genocide" video and curriculum** project addressing impacts of the California Gold Rush on California's Environment and Native Peoples and calling for an end to racial bias in the teaching of California's history in public schools. Youth mentees presented the video to students, organizations, tribes, events and agencies including Teachers for Social Justice, California Indian Education Association Annual conference, Redding Rancheria and the Bay Area Indian Agency Representatives. Over 150 educators and teachers agreed to use the **"Gold, Greed and Genocide"** video and accompanying curriculum in 2003, and in October the **"Earth Vision Festival National Film and Video Award** gave it **1st Place out 22 World-wide entries** in the category "Social Activists". In 2003, the video was a key organizing and educational tool for the IITC's Mercury Tribal Health and Education Program as well addressing the issue of mercury contamination in Northern California as a toxic legacy of the Gold Rush.

3) A first of its kind training and capacity building manual (40 pages) linking local issues to international mechanisms, with “how to” instructions for documenting and presenting cases on specific violations and threats, was completed in Spanish in August 2002 and distributed during community trainings in Guatemala. After requesting and receiving feedback from participating organizations, IITC decided that rather than translating the manual as it was originally drafted in Spanish, a require needed to take place to make the manual somewhat shorter and more “user friendly” by grass roots communities. This process in progress and will be completed and translated into English by the Spring of 2004. At that time it will be available both in print and electronically.

4) IITC finalized a policy analysis paper contracted by First Nations Development Institute (FNDI), directed towards Indian tribes, communities and the general public to help them understand the international rights of Indigenous peoples pertaining to Food Security and Food Sovereignty, as well as the position the US takes internationally. This **“Analysis of United States International Policy on Indigenous Peoples, the Human Right to Food and Food Security”** was presented in a close- to-final draft form at the FNDI Native Food Summit in November 2002 (Albuquerque), was finalized in January 2003 and is currently being widely disseminated on both IITC’s and FNDI’s web sites and in print, as well as at UN fora, as a key educational, policy development and advocacy tool.

5) 2 community-oriented handouts and a pocket “trifold” well as an informational booklet and power point presentation were in the final stages of completion addressing mercury contamination in Northern California.

6) IITC completed, in collaboration with Hesperian Foundation, the **“Pesticides are Poison”** handbook for communities (English and Spanish) and began distribution via Indigenous and non-Indigenous organizations including the Pesticide Action Network, the CEC, Alaska Intertribal Council, and Heifer International, in several countries. Hesperian is currently creating a web-friendly version for electronic dissemination.

7) IITC continued to participate in drafting, disseminating (in both print form and via web sites and links) and promoting the use and implementation of key international declarations from Indigenous Peoples. These included: the “Declaration of Atitlan” from the first Indigenous Peoples Consultation on the Right to Food (April 2002); the Indigenous Peoples’ Seattle Declaration on the WTO (1999); “No Patenting of Life Declaration” (1999); the “Albuquerque Declaration on Climate Change” (1998); the “Heart of the Peoples Declaration on Biological Diversity” (1997); “UN Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples” (discussions ongoing since 1982); the “Indigenous Peoples’ Kimberly Declaration” from the World Summit on Sustainable Development (August 2002); the “Indigenous Peoples Kyoto Water Declaration” (Third World Water Forum, March 2003); and the Indigenous Peoples’ Cancun Declaration from the 5th WTO Ministerial Session (September 2003)

8) IITC created “expert” policy papers for UN bodies and/or distribution to Indigenous NGO’s, communities and the general public. In addition to those listed above, these included in 2003: “Defending the Draft Declaration for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (April, English and Spanish); IITC’s Working Paper for the UN Expert Seminar on Treaties, Agreements and Constructive Arrangements between Indigenous Peoples and States (December, English); and “El Sistema Jurídico de los Pueblos Indígenas: Un derecho de los Pueblos Indígenas” for the UN Special Rapproteur on Indigenosu Issues study on “Administration of Justice and Indigenous Peoples” (December, Spanish).

9) The Community Technology Foundation of California provided a grant to IITC to conduct a communications strategic planning process, based on a survey sent to over 80 California affiliates (tribes, community groups, Indian media, youth and student groups, urban and rural Indian agencies) and, non-Indigenous collaborating organizations, towards improving IITC's outreach, communications, training, youth mentorship and human rights capacity building programs in 2003. Responses were tabulated and analyzed to recommend improvements, including a renewed focus on printed materials and handouts (ranked as the third most effective IITC communication method after email and phone by respondents!).

10) IITC's web page, www.treatycouncil.org, now received between 300,000 and 600,000 "hits" each month. This increased exposure provided a tremendously effective tool for IITC's networking, educational, issues organizing, urgent action, delegate preparation and credentialing process for UN sessions, strategic campaigns coordination and information dissemination. The web page developed into a central tool and strategy for capacity building, as well as for accountability and reporting back to communities in 2002. Increasing numbers of organizations and communities also submitted updates, urgent actions and general information that was posted without delay.

11) IITC web page sections on Environment, Right to Food, Sustainable Development and Globalization were expanded in response to IITC's increased programmatic focus as well as the growing interest of our constituents in these areas

12) IITC also achieved improved planning for outreach through a planning grant from the Community Technology Foundation of California (November 2002 – May 2003) which included a questionnaire addressing the development of more effective communications, training and information dissemination strategies distributed to IITC's' wide range of affiliates and associates throughout California.

Summary of Key Programmatic Outcomes and Achievements in 2003

1. IITC conducted 50+ consultations, training workshops and presentations at the invitation of communities, high schools and universities, tribes and organizations on human rights, 7 racial and environmental justice issues, with 6000+ participants. Many more were reached through training community leaders, media coverage and electronic outreach.
2. The "**Gold, Greed and Genocide**" video and study guide presented for the first time the voice and perspectives of California Indians within the California school system addressing their history and struggles, developed with the direct participation of Indigenous youth and students, including those from the communities most directly impacted.
3. IITC's Bay Area **Youth Mentorship Program** has provided educational, activism and organizing opportunities addressing human rights and environmental justice in the context of local concerns to over 75 high school and college-age Indian youth including 25 in 2003.
4. IITC credentialed, mentored, prepared and/or trained 55 Indigenous representatives including 19 youth to attend 10 different United Nations conferences and fora, as well as several other international gatherings and NGO sessions.
5. 25+ communities and organizations submitted documentation, testimony and text for 10 written and 6 oral IITC interventions to the 59th session of the UN Commission on Human Rights addressing a range of critical human rights and survival issues.
6. IITC provided consultation and technical assistance to more than 30 communities and organizations (Guatemala, Alaska, Brazil, Panama, Mexico, Botswana, US) to prepare urgent complaints and communications to states and international complaint mechanisms.
7. 800+ Indigenous representatives attended two IITC Conferences (Hawaii, January, and Oklahoma, October) providing input into IITC programs and positions on a variety of issues.
8. IITC collaborated with other organizations and affected communities to develop innovative community educational materials including "**Pesticides are Poison**" and "**Mercury and Community Health in Northern California**".
9. IITC's web page, received 300,000 - 600,000 "hits" monthly, providing a highly effective tool for networking, education, organizing, urgent action, delegate preparation, information dissemination and accountability/reporting back to communities. Many organizations and communities also sent updates, urgent actions and general information for posting.
10. IITC's Cultural Indicators survey contracted by FAO, received 128 responses from Indigenous Peoples in 29 countries, supporting the relationship between cultural rights and right to food for Indigenous Peoples in the development of new international policies.
11. IITC initiated 2 new projects with participation by Indigenous communities linking local concerns with international human rights work and policies in the areas of Right to Food, health and environmental justice and community education and "Right to Know": 1) The "**Mercury and Tribal Health Education Project**", addressing health effects of mercury from the Californian Gold Rush in Northern California; and 2) the "**Indigenous Peoples' Network Against Pesticides**", which grew to include members from 8 countries.

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5. Right to Food Program/New York Office Coordinator: Rolland Pangowish, Ojibway
6. Health Project Coordinator: Lakota Harden, Lakota/Winnebago
7. Human Rights and Biodiversity Project Representative: Estebancio Castro, Kuna

Program/Field Representatives:

Bill "Jimbo" Simmons, Choctaw
Roseann Olguin, Chicana
Faith Gemmill, Gwich'in Athabascan
Rose Main, White Clay (Gros Ventre)
Anaru Fraser, Maori (Aotearoa/New Zealand)

10. Youth Representatives:

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Teobaldo Hernandez Kuj, Kuna (Panama)
Hilda Picheya Tzaj, Mayan Kachiquel (Guatemala)
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11. Professional Service Consultants

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Gabe Carmen, Web Page/technical services
Sue Riehle, CPA Auditor
Madeline Rios, Translations
Pratap Chaterjee, Educational Materials Development
Carol Kalafatic, Right to Food Program Consultant

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8. Kee Watchman, Traditional Elder, Cactus Valley Red Willow Springs Big Mountain Sovereign Dineh Community.
9. Miguel Alfonso Martinez, U.N. Special Rapporteur on Treaties; Independent Expert member of U.N. Working Group on Indigenous Populations and the U.N. Subcommission on Human Rights
10. Heath St. John, Apache/Lakota, Youth Program Advisor
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