

IITC 2005 ANNUAL PROGRAM REPORT

IITC's Programmatic Objectives, Strategies and Key Activities

JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2005

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

***Strategy 1:** IITC submits interventions, urgent actions, testimonies, documentation, updates and formal complaints addressing a wide range of critical human rights violations and threats to international fora at the request of impacted communities*

***Strategy 2:** IITC gathers input from a wide range of Indigenous communities about current threats to human rights, homelands, ecosystems, and subsistence practices to include in statements, interventions and presentations to UN bodies*

***Strategy 3:** IITC staff, in particular General Counsel Alberto Saldamando, provide technical and legal assistance as required and upon request to communities to assist them in gathering necessary documentation for submissions to UN human rights mechanisms and fora.*

***Strategy 4:** IITC provides direct support to Indigenous communities facing threats and violations through circulation of calls for urgent action, statements, press releases and bulletins; drafting, circulating and/or signing on to support letters and petitions to governments, agencies and the general public addressing critical concerns;*

***Strategy 5:** Providing Organizing support and/or participation, whenever possible, in events, actions, activities and gatherings in support of community activism addressing urgent concerns and threats*

Key Activities

** Please note that many of the activities listed below fall under more than one objective and strategy*

1) 24 communities and organizations submitted documentation, testimony and/or text for the 11 written and 5 oral interventions submitted by IITC to the 61st session of the UN Commission on Human Rights (March 14 – April 29, 2005, Geneva) addressing a wide range of critical issues affecting the rights and survival Indigenous communities including: human rights standard setting activities, in particular the UN Declaration for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; environmental justice and imposed impacts of resource extraction (deforestation, mining, oil drilling, contamination, climate change, etc.); proposed or ongoing sacred sites desecration

(Medicine Lake, ANWR, Black Mesa) and other violations of cultural rights; violence against Indigenous women in Canada and Mexico; children's rights including health impacts of mercury contamination; right to food and food security; racism and racial discrimination; self-determination; impacts of militarism; treaty violations; land and water rights; and rights of Indigenous prisoners. IITC credentialed 10 delegates including one youth mentee.

2) A key priority in 2005 was the submission in January, with the full participation of impacted communities to gather testimonies, tribal resolutions and other documentation, of a formal complaint to the UN Rapporteur on the Right to Food addressing the impacts of environmental contamination in the United States (mercury emission, military toxics, industrial pollutants) on subsistence food resources of Indigenous Peoples in California and Alaska).

3) IITC also prepared, submitted and/or supported, in collaboration and consultation with impacted Indigenous Peoples, critical human rights complaints to other international bodies and mechanisms including; the Working Group on Arbitrary Detentions (Leonard Peltier/USA, Canada and Mexico) and the CERD Committee (Aotearoa/New Zealand) and Western Shoshone Nation, Nevada, USA (IITC's Board President Francisco Cali, a Mayan Indian from Guatemala, continues to serve as the first and only indigenous expert member of the UN CERD Committee, which meets twice a year in Geneva.)

4) IITC continued to submit information received from impacted communities to the Rapporteur on Toxics and Human Rights pertaining to the ongoing severe health and environmental affects of toxic pesticides use and US policy of exporting banned pesticides to developing countries (i.e. Mexico, Ecuador, Guatemala, Bolivia). Specifically, testimonies and documentation presented via IITC by Yaqui Indian community members in Sonora Mexico were included in reports submitted by IITC to the Rapporteur in March and September 2005. 5 community members in Rio Yaqui were trained by IITC staff and collaborating organizations to collect testimonies from other community members for submission to UN bodies.

5) IITC gathered information from communities to provide updates to the UN Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion and the Commission on Human Rights focusing on destruction and threats to sacred sites in California, Alaska, New Mexico, Montana, Mexico, North and South Dakota and Arizona; and racial discrimination and violations of freedom of Religion for Indigenous prisoners in the US.

6) Approximately 130 traditional Yaqui leaders, elders and community members attending a meeting with IITC General Council and other staff in June in Rio Yaqui Sonora Mexico (Potam Pueblo) to discuss the submission of a case to the Organization of American States Inter-American Human Rights Court to redress the violations by Mexico of their rights to land and water, and technical team which as formed by the traditional leaders to continue work with IITC on this issue (additional meetings were scheduled for September and January 2006)

Objective II: Networking and Strategic Alliance-Building

Strategy 1: IITC builds, strengthens and participates in strategic alliances with Indigenous and non-Indigenous organizations, networks, tribes and issue-based coalitions

to build support, share information, advance dialogue, maximize impact and effectiveness, develop coordinate strategies, conduct outreach, strengthen North-South collaboration, and organize to address issues of common concern for racial and environmental justice and human rights.

Strategy 2: IITC initiates and strengthens collaborative projects and campaigns with local and grass roots organizations, tribes and communities to address critical environmental, health and human rights issues, focusing on building community empowerment and “right to know”.

Key Activities:

1) The International Indian Treaty Council held its 31st Anniversary Treaty Conference August 3rd – 7th, 2005 at Hobbema, Ermineskin Maskwaciyis Cree First Nation, hosted by the Confederacy of Treaty 6 First Nations, Canada. The Conference theme was: ***“Our Treaties are Sacred; We must Protect them, as long as the grass grows and the river flows”***. Over 650 participants representing Indigenous organizations, communities and Nations from throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico, Panama, New Zealand, Guatemala, Alaska and Hawaii attended. 17 resolutions were adopted by consensus of the participants addressing a range of critical issues, forming the basis for IITC's program work and international positions on a variety of issues for the next year. These resolutions as well as presentations and testimony submitted by the participants on critical issues (i.e. youth suicide, health issues, language loss, threats to sacred sites, prisoners rights, effects of mining and mineral extraction, Treaty rights violations, etc.) will also be included in IITC's human rights interventions and complaints to UN and OAS human rights bodies in the coming year.

2) IITC advanced the work of 4 collaborative projects with maximum community participation, including training impacted community members, linking human rights, food security and environmental justice as well local impacts of US and international policies:

- ❖ The **“North-South Indigenous Peoples' Network Against Pesticides”** project builds alliances, creates community oriented educational materials, addresses US policies allowing for the export of banned pesticides, provides information and collects testimony from impacted communities, grew in 2005 to include members from 18 countries.
- ❖ IITC continued to advance the **“Mercury and Tribal Health Project”** initiative in partnership with Pit River Indian Nation and other Northern California tribes whose waters and subsistence fishing are contaminated by mercury as a result of runoffs from abandoned mines. A major achievement was building of a broad collaborative effort for outreach, organizing and education with impacted tribes and other Indian organizations, Peoples of color coalitions and non-Indigenous health and environmental advocacy organizations. Several training and coordination meetings with Northern California tribes were conducted to follow up on the organizing plan developed at the strategy session, including development of a new tribal consortium to begin to coordinate the project and greater tribal involvement in policy initiatives.
- ❖ A three –year collaborative project under a contract with Heifer International and its Indian Nations Program for development of **community based projects for protection and**

restoration of traditional foods systems, and consultation to HPI regarding relevant international developments. Community projects (Mexico, US, and Canada) were recommended by IITC for initial development of community-based food systems and traditional food restoration projects in this three-year period, and several community training and planning workshops were carried out.

❖ In August 2005 IITC helped to launch a new collaborative effort focusing on **information-sharing and mutual support among Indigenous communities impacted by mining and mineral extraction** in particular in the US, Canada, Mexico and Guatemala. IITC will serve as the fiscal sponsor and coordinator for this initiative in its initial planning phase (next 1 – 2 years).

3) In November 2005, IITC helped to found a first--of-its-kind community-based organization “Itepo Jiakim Nau Luturia-Kame Itom Mala Bwia Bet chibo” (“Yaquis United For Mother Earth”) in Rio Yaqui Sonora Mexico, made up of Yaqui community members concerned about pesticides and other environmental threats. The members continue to be trained as community organizers and presenters by IITC staff and filed representatives and are taking leadership roles in organizing and making presentations and coordinating a 3-day community workshop in conjunction with IITC’ in May 2006

4) IITC continued, via Conference calls and e mails, to serve as the only Indigenous organizational member on the 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”. IITC attended an IUCN roundtable on Mining and Indigenous Peoples in Gland Switzerland in November 8 – 9, 2005, and was also able to recommend participants from Guatemala and Mexico to attend.

5) IITC continued to serve as the international Indigenous organization in a coordination role with other Indigenous and non-Indigenous collaborating organizations working in Mexico to insure broad and representative participation in the World Water Forum and its Civil Society side events (Mexico City, March 2006). IITC participated in coordination meetings in Mexico in April, June, October and November. Discussions via conference calls and e-mail were ongoing

6) IITC’s Mercury Tribal Health Project organized a first-of- its-kind 2- day “Information Sharing, Training, Collaboration-Building and Strategy meeting with Environmental, Justice Organizations, Tribes and Tribal Members” on Mercury and Community Health for Northern California Tribes, Tribal Members & Environmental Justice Organizations, April 22-23, 2005, Robinson Rancheria (near Clear Lake, a severely affected community); 30 representatives from Pit River, Wintu, Seneca of Six Nations, Pyramid Lake Paiute, Scotts Valley, Big Valley, Robinson Tribe, Coyote Valley, Yurok, Elem tribes, 4 IITC staff; and 20 representatives of Environmental Justice organizations from the San Francisco Bay Area attended to develop strategies for information sharing and clean up.

7) IITC continued to host and coordinate two sunrise gatherings each year (October and November) on Alcatraz Island (San Francisco Bay) to commemorate two critical historic events for Indigenous Peoples in the Americas (“Columbus Day” and “Thanksgiving Day”, build

solidarity and educate Indian community members and the general public about the realities of Indian history and current struggles for survival; in November 2004 and October 2005 these events were attended by 6000+ participants, and broadcast live on KPFA (Pacifica radio).

Objective III: Training, Mentorship and Capacity Building

Strategy 1: IITC credentials, prepares and provides on-site mentorship to representatives of Indigenous Peoples, communities and organizations, including youth, at international fora to present specific cases and gain the skills, capacity and contacts they need to participate as effective representatives of their local communities

Strategy 2: IITC conducts consultations, training workshops and presentations at the invitation of communities, tribes and organizations to build understanding and awareness about the relationships between local concerns and international policies, standards and decision-making. IITC presenters provide information and training about relevant international and regional processes, standards, mechanisms, legal frameworks and bodies and how they can be utilized to present concerns, redress violations, develop sustainable policies incorporating Indigenous Peoples' perspectives, and exert pressure on states, national and international institutions and agencies to address critical issues.

Strategy 3: IITC prioritizes leadership development for Indigenous youth through the Bay Area "Native Youth for Human Rights and Environmental Justice" mentorship program; through building effective participation of Indigenous community youth in IITC's delegations to international fora; and through continued work in the area of "truth in education" and curriculum development

Key Activities:

1) IITC credentialed, prepared, coordinated participation and/or provided on-site mentorship to 60 representatives of Indigenous communities and organizations, including youth, at 23 international fora sessions addressing critical threats to human rights and the environment, as well as the creation of new standards and mechanisms for protection and redress. IITC assisted new delegates to present specific cases and gain the skills, capacity and contacts they need to participate as effective representatives of their local communities. *Please refer to enclosed list of international fora and meetings attended by IITC delegates in 2005.*

2) IITC conducted 60+ consultations, training workshops and presentations for communities, schools, universities, tribes and organizations on Human Rights, Racial and Environmental Justice and Truth in Education, including: in Northern California at various schools, i.e. in San Francisco, Oakland, Berkeley, etc, ongoing; Bay Area Indian Agency Representatives monthly meetings; Environmental Justice groups working on mercury contamination and other related Bay Area issues (Clean Water Action etc.); to Northern California Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations in conjunction with the Mercury and Tribal health in Northern California Project i.e. United Indian Health Services in Humboldt, Seventh Generation Fund, Redding Rancheria, Shasta County Elders, National Indian Justice Center, Native Women's Health and Wellness Alliance, Qosos Networking Project, Karuk Tribe, Hoopa Tribal

Fisheries, Hoopa Tribal Council, Hoopa Tribal EPA, Klamath River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, Native K'ima Medical Center, Wiyot Tribe, Blue Lake Rancheria, Smith River Rancheria, Pit River Nation, Greenville Rancheria, Enterprise Rancheria, Toyon Wintu Inc., Yokut Tachi, Big Valley Rancheria, InterTribal Council of California, Elem Pomo Indian Colony, Robinson Rancheria, Upper Lake Pomo Tribe, Scotts Valley Pomo Tribe, Middletown Pomo Tribe, Hinthil Environmental Resources Consortium of Tribes of the Clear Lake Region; 20th Annual California Indian Conference, Humboldt State University and the 10th Indigenous Peoples' Day (October); and the "Forum on the Public Health Impact of Fish Contamination: Collaborating on Outreach and Education for Diverse Communities", (Sacramento, December).

Presentations made by IITC staff and representatives to Indigenous organizations, communities and Peoples and events in other parts of the US and in other countries included: Information-sharing and organizing meetings coordinated by IITC and attended by over 50 Indigenous community and organizational activities at the office of Presidential Commission against Racism and Racial Discrimination in Guatemala City focusing on community organizing efforts against planned toxic mining projects and well as international developments to defend Indigenous Peoples' Human Rights, (February); Peoples Conference in Defence of Water, and preparatory discussions for the organizing participation by Indigenous Peoples and other communities in the World Water Forum in 2006 (Mexico City, April); 10th Anniversary ANIPA gathering (Mexico City April); Training for community activists with Lideres Campesinas on organizing against Pesticides (Pomona California, May 4 – 5); and community and tribal presentations by IITC representatives from the US, Canada and Mexico in Alberta Canada in preparation for the 31st anniversary International Indian Treaty Conference in August 2005 (May); Presentations in Rio Yaqui Sonora Mexico (6 Yaqui Indian communities and traditional leadership of Rahum, Pitaya, Huirivis, Torim, Vicam Pueblo, and Potam, June and September) addressing right to food, land and water rights issues, pesticides impacts, updates on international work, and mechanisms for intentional redress of violations of their rights; Alaska Community Action on Toxics presentation on North-South toxics issues and impacts on Indigenous Traditional Foods (Anchorage Alaska, June); 2nd International Peoples Health Assembly with 400+ participants from around the world (IITC representatives from the US and Mexico spoke on panels and at workshops on mercury, pesticides and International Developments in Right to Food work, July 17 – 22, Cuenca, Ecuador); The Western Mining Action Network Summit (2 key note addresses, and a workshop of mercury and mining, Edmonton Alberta Canada, over 200 participants from US and Canada); presentations to the staff and Executive Team of Heifer International and its Indian Nations program on international developments in the areas of the Right to Food and Food Security as well as local projects (Little Rock Arkansas, July); a variety of presentations and workshops at the 31st Anniversary International Indian Treaty Conference August 3 – 7, 2005; and keynote speech at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences Conference (Coordinated by the Aleutian/Pribilof Islands Native Association, Talkeetna Alaska, September).

In total over 6500 participants attended these various consultations, presentations and trainings, and many more were reached through training of key organizational and community leaders as well regular radio and other media coverage, and electronic outreach.

3) IITC's Bay Area "Native Youth for Human Rights and Environmental Justice" Mentorship Program continued to focus on the "**Gold, Greed and Genocide**" 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. The program has provided educational, activism and organizing opportunities in human rights and environmental justice to over 85 Indian youth to date, including 4 in the summer and fall of 2005.

4) One of the high points of the IITC Conference this year was on the first day, August 3rd, which was dedicated to an "*International Day of Solidarity Among Indigenous Youth and Elders*", a day of sharing and learning among youth and elders of many Indigenous Nations. A Youth Committee made up of IITC and host community youth planned and organized the program for the day (a first for IITC), which was attended by over 50 youth and elders.

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

***Strategy 1:** IITC works to consolidate and strengthen recent advances and new opportunities to ensure equitable, broad participation and meaningful input in international fora, conferences, bodies and standard-setting processes to insure that Indigenous Peoples struggles, experiences and perspectives are addressed.*

***Strategy 2:** IITC promotes awareness and full participation by grass roots Indigenous Peoples in all levels of discussion pertaining to the UN Draft Declaration for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and continues to defend the current text as the "minimum acceptable standard" in both the UN and OAS*

***Strategy 3:** IITC advances and builds upon recent opportunities for the perspectives and concerns of Indigenous Peoples to be included in international policy discussions addressing sustainable food systems, food security and key related issues of sustainability and ecosystem protection.*

Key Activities:

1) IITC continued to work from the local to the international levels to build participation and insure broad grass-roots input towards the adoption of a strong, effective UN Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as minimum standard recognizing Indigenous Peoples' human rights internationally, and to carry this standard into the ongoing OAS Declaration process as well. IITC delegates from the US and Mexico were invited as Indigenous expert participants to a UN-authorized Symposium sponsored by the Mexican Government to address issues of Self-Determination, Land and Natural Resources along with representatives of states, other Indigenous Peoples, academics and UN Experts towards building consensus on the most "difficult issues", i.e. land rights and self-determination (Patzcuaro, Michoacan, Mexico, September 26 – 30 2005), and credentialed Indigenous representatives from 6 countries to attend the 11th Intersessional Working Group on the Draft Declaration in December. IITC representatives also made presentations to build support for the Declaration in a wide range of conferences and events, and urged a range of UN fora to incorporate and recognize its provisions upholding Indigenous Peoples' rights.

2) At the request of the UN Rapporteur on the Right to Food, IITC provided input and circulated his draft to other Indigenous organizations and communities to get their input for his report to the UN General Assembly in fall 2005 (including for the first time a section on Indigenous Peoples and the Right to Food as a result of the case IITC filed addressing the impacts of environmental contamination (mercury emissions, military toxics, industrial pollutants) on subsistence foods of Indigenous Peoples in the US (California and Alaska) submitted in January 2005.

3) At the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues 4th session, May 2005, which focused on the implementation of the first 3 Millennium Development Goals, IITC urged and worked for the adoption of a rights-base, culturally relevant, comprehensive approach to issues of Food Security and Hunger. IITC also submitted a formal paper “ to the workshop on Traditional Knowledge, the United Nations and Indigenous Peoples sponsored by the Permanent Forum on “Food Sovereignty and Traditional Knowledge, September 21 - 23, 2005, Panama City, which has been widely circulated and posted on the UNPFII web site.

4) IITC worked in collaboration with other Indigenous organizations, to secure the adoption and implementation of an effective plan of action for the 2nd UN Decade for the World’s Indigenous Peoples, which was adopted by consensus of the UN General Assembly in December, and took effect on January 1, 2005.

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

Strategy 1: IITC works to build, create and strengthen opportunities for the effective input and participation of Indigenous grass roots Peoples in international bodies and fora addressing development of comprehensive, complementary and integrated new standards, policies and criteria reflecting a rights-based, environmentally and culturally sustainable approach, based on the principles of full participation, free prior informed consent and self-determination.

Key Activities:

1) IITC continued to provide innovative leadership to build capacity and participation in the area of Food Security, Right to Food and related environmental, sustainable development and bio-diversity concerns, including dissemination of IITC’s report on the “Cultural Indicators” survey carried out for the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and its “Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development (SARD) Initiative, completed in August 2004, to a wide range of international bodies.

IITC continued to serve as the “Indigenous Focal Point” for the UN Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development (SARD) initiative and also for the International Planning Committee for Food Sovereignty (IPC), which coordinates Civil Society input into FAO programs. IITC is currently in discussions with FAO and SARD to finalize plans for the 2nd Global Consultation on the Right to Food and Food Security for Indigenous Peoples, currently planned for summer/fall 2006 in Oaxaca Mexico. This Consultation will focus on next steps for development of “Cultural Indicators” for Global Food Security policy

and on assessing progress based on the recommendations in the Declaration of Atitlán from the First Global Consultation (in April, 2002) and additional preparatory work in conjunction with other FAO events in 2006.

2) During the 2005 CHR 61st session, IITC coordinated and participated in meetings and briefing sessions for Indigenous representatives with key UN officials, including the High Commissioner for Human Rights, staff of the Office of the High Commissioner, the President of the 61st Commission on Human Rights, the UN Special Rapporteurs on the Right to Food and Indigenous Issues, and the Committee on Arbitrary Detentions, to present Indigenous perspectives and exchange views regarding recent developments and collaborative work to impact the UN system, its methods and its effectiveness of Indigenous Peoples concerns.

Objective VI: Communications and Information Dissemination

Strategy 1: IITC develops and disseminates community-oriented training tools and capacity building educational materials for grass roots communities and organizations focusing on: presentation of key issues from an Indigenous perspective; international developments, standards and policies and their relationships to local concerns and problems; way to use international bodies and standards in defense of community rights and in support of local organizing struggles; and practical information that can be applied at local levels.

Strategy 2: IITC produces and distributes policy analysis, position statements and Indigenous Peoples' Declarations on key issues to inform, update, build understanding and increase capacity of grass-roots communities and the general public, as well as to present Indigenous Peoples' perspectives and concerns in policy discussions with UN bodies, agencies, and organizations.

Strategy 3: IITC builds an international information network via e-mail, the internet utilizing IITC's web site and through various links and list serves, providing information about relevant developments and opportunities for participation, updates, analysis, capacity-building and preparatory materials

Key Activities:

1) IITC continued to develop and disseminate (with impacted communities and organizational partners) innovative educational materials including **“Pesticides are Poison”** (English and Spanish, 5500 disseminated to date); **“Mercury Contamination and Community Health in Northern California”** booklets (2500 disseminated to date; updated new version reprinted in May); **“Gold, Greed and Genocide”** video and Study Guide (500+ disseminated to date); and an **“Analysis of United States International Policy on Indigenous Peoples, the Human Right to Food and Food Security”** (ongoing in print and via internet).

2) IITC's quarterly newsletter ***Treaty Council News*** was reactivated in June 2004 and continued to be produced and disseminated in 2005

- 3) Drafts were completed in conjunction with the Hesperian Foundation for three new handbooks for communities: a) "Breaking the Sacred Chain of Life": Genetically engineered foods: a false promise of food; b) Sustainable Farming for Health; and c) Community Food Security; texts are currently being reviewed and will be completed in February 2006.
- 4) In June, IITC updated and expanded the scope its "Mercury and Community Health" 2 page handout (enclosed) to touch on this issue in Canada and Latin America at the request of those communities; this flyer was also translated and distributed in Spanish at the request of several Latin American Indigenous communities affected by mercury contaminants through gold mining
- 5) A power point presentation for tribes and community organizations on Mercury in Northern California (environmental and human health impacts) was completed and began to be disseminated in October 2005.
- 6) IITC coordinated an international information network via e-mail and the internet utilizing IITC's web site and various links and list serves, providing information about urgent actions, developments and opportunities for involvement and participation, including sign-on statements for submission to countries, UN bodies and officials.
- 7) IITC's web page, www.treatycouncil.org, receives up to 600,000 hits per month consistently, with a total of 3900+ documents posted.
- 8) IITC continued to create and disseminate key declarations and policy papers from an Indigenous Rights perspective for UN bodies, Indigenous NGO's, communities and the general public, including: IITC's Paper for the UN Expert Seminar on Treaties, Agreements and Constructive Arrangements between Indigenous Peoples and States; "El Sistema Jurídico de los Pueblos Indígenas: Un derecho de los Pueblos Indígenas" for the study on "Administration of Justice and Indigenous Peoples"; "An Assessment of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples" for the High Commissioner on Human Rights: The "Declaration of Atitlán" from the first Indigenous Global Consultation on Right to Food; "An Analysis of United States International Policy on Indigenous Peoples, the Human Right to Food and Food Security"; "Human Rights, the Right to Food and Indigenous Peoples; and the "Case Study on Spirit Mountain Montana, A Sacred Place" and "Traditional Knowledge and Food Sovereignty" (new in 2005)

Programmatic Shortfalls in 2005 and Long-Term Projected Programmatic Outcomes

1) Right to Food work with FAO

Although the clarity and focus of this area of our work improved dramatically (due in large part to the work of Saul Vicente and Estebancio Castro), IITC continued to experience some resistance and frustration working with UN FAO which is a large and unwieldy bureaucracy, and which also underwent (still ongoing) restructuring and budgetary cutbacks in 2005. This was an obstacle in IITC's ability to enlist the focused attention and financial support requested from FAO in order to support IITC's efforts in advancing this collaborative work. This was seen in particular regarding the Second Global Summit on Indigenous Peoples and Right to Food, focusing on the further

development of “cultural indicators” for international food security policies, development projects and initiatives. The projected site is still Oaxaca Mexico and the projected date is now late summer/fall 2006. IITC has recently reached an agreement with FAO SARD leadership and staff through a series of meetings and conference calls, on the next steps which will advance this work and build towards the Consultation through the work of a consultant to be hired in January 2006 by FAO as well as coordination with IITC to build participation and seek direct input of Indigenous Peoples at the International Conference on Agrarian Reform and Rural Development, coordinated by the International Planning Committee (IPC) on Food Sovereignty, for which IITC is the Indigenous Focal Point.

2. The UN Draft Declaration

This area of work should be presented as both a shortfall and an area of ongoing significant achievement for IITC (See above, Objective IV). The projected outcome in this and many other areas of our international work are long-term, take place on many levels and are aspirational by nature. Many of IITC’s objectives cannot be realized in one year or even several years, but are part of an historic, long-term process for fundamental change.

An important example is the work for the eventual adoption of a strong Declaration for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples at the United Nations, which has been a priority of the IITC’s work for more than 20 years. The Declaration is still not adopted, and many key areas and the overall outcome of this effort remain in question. But the importance and historic nature of this work in advancing Indigenous rights on all levels, in many fora and bodies, as well as building international alliances and awareness about their rights among Indigenous Peoples have wide-ranging effects from the grass roots to the UN levels.

The uncertainty regarding the UN restructuring did not significantly impact IITC’s work in this or other areas in 2005. But it was an undercurrent of all our human rights work at the UN nevertheless. This is anticipated to have major impacts in 2006 and beyond, and should be discussed in more depth by the Board.

Projected Long-term Programmatic Outcomes: (these are used regularly as a basis for evaluation in various grant proposals)

Outcome A: Increased access for local communities, tribes and grass roots subsistence food producers/users in to global policy discussions and mechanisms for addressing critical issues affecting the lives and survival of their communities in the areas of human rights, cultural protection, health, environmental and economic justice, food security and self-determination.

Outcome B: Building new leadership with skills, contacts and experience to effectively access and participate in international policy discussions and fora. Capacity building by IITC will energize and prepare skilled advocates and technical experts to participate effectively in the policy-making arena and relevant human rights bodies.

Outcome C: Increased awareness and new approaches within key international policy making bodies incorporating Indigenous Peoples’ expertise and concerns: IITC will work in

collaboration with International bodies to build institutional understanding of the benefits of incorporating diverse perspectives on global sustainability, justice and human rights

Outcome D: New partnerships, collaborations and broad-based initiatives: IITC's work will help to build new relationships of solidarity across traditional divisions (social sectors, issue areas, Indigenous and non-Indigenous, local communities and international NGOs, etc), with international agencies and among various Peoples in order to strengthen global cooperation and strategic coordination on shared or complementary issues of concern, and augment the diversity of voices and perspectives to solve problems and create solutions both on the local level, and in the development of national and international policies and mechanisms which support and defend Indigenous Peoples' rights and survival.