

The Sharing Circle

Plight of the Bushmen FPW Empowers An Ancient Culture In Southern Africa

Drinking cool water in an ostrich egg after a long hot trek. Praying with the parents by the ancestor's graves. Sharing water pans with lions. These are one man's memories of his life as a San resident in Botswana's Central Kalahari Game Reserve (CKGR). The hunter-gatherer San, also known as Bushmen, have lived in Southern Africa for 30,000 years. With their extraordinary survival skills, wealth of Indigenous knowledge, rich traditions, and oneness with the environment, the San have captured the attention of anthropologists and the media.

Like first peoples elsewhere the San have a history of facing discrimination, poverty, social exclusion, erosion of cultural identity

and denial of rights as a group. Many geneticists and ethnologists believe the San are the oldest living culture on earth, but, at this moment, they are embroiled in a struggle for their way of life and their very lives.

Botswana's Central Kalahari Game Reserve (CKGR) was created in 1961 by the British colonial government specifically to preserve the San culture and protect their hunter-gatherer lifestyle. The Botswana government's own constitution states that any citizen may choose their place of residence anywhere in the country. But by forcibly relocating the San, Botswana has not only brutalized its oldest people, but stands in violation of its own law.

Relocation began in 1997 when, according

to government figures, 1,740 people were removed from Botswana's Central Kalahari Game Reserve (CKGR) to the settlements of New Xade and Kaudwane. Another 530 reluctantly moved out when the government cut off water, food rations, health and social services to the Reserve in early 2002. Conditions in these settlement camps have been described as deplorable. Abuse is rampant, including sexual abuse of children and young women. AIDS

is beginning to take its toll. Rural poverty is endemic, and the San are the poorest of the poor, plagued by alcoholism, perceived as backward, silent in politics.

New Xade has been dubbed the "place of death" by the San. There is no hunting, and they are far from the graves of their ancestors where the San find healing and guidance. "Government relief is another way

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The San women gather to share Indigenous knowledge.

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The Sharing Circle is a newsletter for members of International Funders for Indigenous Peoples. IFIP is an association of grantmakers who support, or are interested in supporting projects involving Indigenous Peoples worldwide.

We strive to:

Increase knowledge and understanding of the unique issues related to funding projects that involve Indigenous Peoples by providing a baseline of information on issues relevant to the Indigenous context.

Encourage innovation and increase effectiveness within the grantmaking community by facilitating networking opportunities.

Foster a cross-disciplinary understanding of Indigenous Peoples and the holistic contexts in which they live and work.

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Evelyn Arce-White
(Chibcha Descent) IFIP Executive Director

For more information, see IFIP's website at www.internationalfunders.org

Bringing Indigenous Voices to the World Water Forum

Over the past thirteen years, the EcoLogic Development Fund has worked in partnership with rural communities across Latin America to improve local livelihoods, rehabilitate degraded areas, and conserve some of the world's most precious natural resources. Because of EcoLogic's support, over 140,000 historically marginalized, rural and indigenous peoples have reclaimed governance over their natural resources and gained a voice in decision-making regarding natural resource management. Over the past few years, water has become a growing priority for the local communities EcoLogic Development Fund serves.

Water pollution and scar-

city is one of the most critical obstacles to human development. Today there is more waste water generated and dispersed than at any other time in the history of our planet; more than one out of six people (1.1 billion) lack access to safe drinking water; and more than two out of six (2.6 billion) lack adequate sanitation ([WHO/UNICEF JMP, 2004](#)). Unsafe water supply and inadequate sanitation contributes to water-related infections and parasitic diseases—disproportionately affecting the poorest people in developing countries, particularly children. Over 3,900 children die every day from water borne diseases ([WHO 2004](#)).

Nature plays a role of regulation and purification of water resources,

contributing to better water supply and quality. Wetlands and forests have strong water retention and filtration capacities. Water, in the form of rainfall and streams, penetrates and is stored in these ecosystems. Deforestation, agricultural and industrial waste and other human activities put water supplies at risk. More than one-half of the world's major rivers are being seriously depleted and polluted, degrading and poisoning the surrounding ecosystems.

In Mesoamerica, where EcoLogic focuses its work, only 21% of the available freshwater of 1950 remains today. This decline in fresh-

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Photo: EcoLogic Development Fund

EcoLogic Development Fund Staff and Participants in EcoLogic's 2005 workshop on Water Stewardship and Payment for Environmental Services that took place in Guatemala

Strengthening Indigenous Education

Global Organizations Convene in New Zealand

The fourth annual World Indigenous Nations Higher Education Consortium (WINHEC) meeting was held from November 23 to November 26, 2005 in Hamilton New Zealand. The founding of WINHEC is a direct result of the 2002 World Indigenous Peoples Conference on Education (WIPCE). Although the conference on education meets once every three years, WINHEC is the year round organization that "provides an international forum and support for Indigenous Peoples to pursue common goals through higher education."

This past year's 2005 WINHEC annual meeting represented a think tank gathering of WINHEC indigenous nations, institutions, educators, and others that came together to implement action to common indigenous issues. The WINHEC Board of Directors and members from Alaska, Aotearoa, Australia, Canada, Hawaii, Saamiland and the Continental United States listened to three days of presentations, receiving membership and working groups reports and recommendations, and passing resolutions on key indigenous issues.

The challenge of establishing an international organization representing many diverse indigenous nations has led to the development of nine WINHEC working groups to deal with specific organizational components. These on-going working groups range from Accredita-

tion, Indigenous Studies, Educational/Cultural Exchange to International Funding. These groups take on the major issues and challenges that arise with a growing international organization focused on achieving success for global indigenous education.

The WINHEC successes have been many for an organization that has been in existence for such a short time. The most recent successes include the formation of an international head office in New Zealand with a supportive administrative staff. The establishment of an accreditation body and published accreditation handbook and guidelines to assure that indigenous cultural processes and standards are being implemented among WINHEC member Indigenous institutions. The development of software tools for Indigenous Knowledge Management. Furthering the rights of indigenous peoples by working with representatives to the United Nations and recommending that the U.N. eliminate the word "draft" and adopt the Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

There is still much WINHEC work to be accomplished. The WINHEC needs to find funding for sustaining the important work of implementing global solutions to indigenous higher education. How can you help? One example of assistance was the invaluable membership input provided Evelyn



Photo: Evelyn Arce White/IFIP

Traditional Maori Ceremony performed during the opening of the WIPCE Conference.

Arce White, of the International Funders of Indigenous Peoples (IFIP) organization. Ms. White was instrumental in creating the WINHEC membership application and providing various strategies for securing funding needed by WINHEC. The application and more information on WINHEC can be found at www.win-hec.org/.

The 2005 World Indigenous Peoples Conference on Education (WIPCE) was a testament to the important role played by WINHEC in furthering indigenous higher education. Key WINHEC Executive Board members assisted in the planning and management of the recent November 27 to December 1, 2005 WIPCE

held also in Hamilton New Zealand.

The conference was hosted by the Te Wananga o Aotearoa (University of New Zealand) and was supported by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. The conference began with Olympic style opening ceremonies held at the Maori Queen's Marae. Over the next four days the conference featured over 350 speakers covering 3 days of inspirational keynote speakers and educational workshop presenters. The 3,000 conference attendees could choose from 400 plus workshops covering a variety of interesting topics

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First Peoples Worldwide opposes the relocation of the San. It believes that the people can be empowered by giving them the responsibility to care for the Reserve and employment as guides and selling their crafts to tourists. The San can live in harmony with wildlife; they are conservationists by nature.

Plight of the Bushmen

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of killing a person; in the Reserve we knew how to provide for ourselves," says Daoxlo Xurkuri, head of the activist group First People of the Kalahari.

"The development the government offers us does not include what we are proud of," says Jumanda Gakelebhone, acting coordinator for FPK. "We know how to provide for the San. And into this crisis, President Mogae invited Rebecca Adamson, founder and president of First Peoples Worldwide (FPW), to facilitate negotiations between the San and the government of Botswana. FPW is the international arm of First Nations Development Institute; its mission is to assist Indigenous Peoples to control and develop their assets and, through that control, build the capacity to direct their economic futures in ways that fit their cultures.

Ms. Adamson is not a stranger to the San crisis. She recognized the pattern of colonization when she visited the San in the Kalahari in 1995. Safari leaders could not take her group into the Kalahari to meet with the San, for the government would have seized their operators' licenses, leaving them without a way to make a living.

So the group trekked some miles into the Reserve, set up camp, and the San appeared. Adamson has spoken often of that meeting by firelight and the sound of the San language, like dry grasses or crackling fire in its oneness with natural elements.

Then she saw the settlements. "Under the guise of progress, civilization and profit, people are absolutely destroyed . . . You create a dependency for food, you create a dependency for cash, and then you are in the settlements."

First Peoples Worldwide opposes the relocation of the San. It believes that the people can be empowered by giving them the responsibility to care for the Reserve and employment as guides and selling their crafts to tourists. The San can live in harmony with wildlife; they are conservationists by nature. "They cannot be empowered by removal from the land which belongs to their grandfathers," said Ms. Adamson. She believes FPW was invited back because in the past they handled the matter with maturity.

Ms. Adamson has expressed her fear that if the San continued to be marginalized, they would lose their way of life and culture. "This always ends up in

alcoholism, domestic violence, HIV/AIDS. It doesn't have to be that way. Marginalization creates a class of poor people, and this affects everybody.

"Our mission is to facilitate a dialogue and through that dialogue empower the San people, local and community leaders, all stakeholders and the government. All these stakeholders should come together and find their own way out of this. Botswana is an incredible country which should live up to its reputation of being a model of democracy," advised Ms. Adamson.

When what would help, Ms. Adamson replied, "Our organization gives support for marginalized groups from different cultures and values to become self-sustainable and empowered. We believe that culture is a cornerstone for how people can become empowered. Your culture is your identity. But we also believe that it is essential for a nation to solve its own issues which is why we hope the government will agree to dialogue with the San to solve this problem before it gets out of control."

For more info on FPW
www.firstpeoples.org



World Water Forum

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water is directly attributable to unsustainable land use practices and the lack of local community control over land and resource use. As a result, the region is experiencing accelerated deterioration of habitat and biodiversity, further impoverishment of rural and indigenous communities, and drastic reductions in the capacity to sustain freshwater supplies for urban populations and industry. As part of its organizational focus on water, EcoLogic is collaborating with a network of innovative conservation organizations, ranging from community-based to international in scope. EcoLogic and its partners are creating replicable models of sustainable local watershed management that supports communities and restores degraded habitats. Together, we seek to reconcile the region's conservation needs with the economic and social development needs of rural communities.

In March 2006, EcoLogic will bring the voices and approaches of its indigenous and rural partners to the Fourth World Water Forum in Mexico City. The World Water Forum, an initiative of the World Water Council, aims to raise the awareness on water issues all over the world. As the main international event on water, it seeks to enable multi-stakeholder



Photo: Nery Camposco

Maya Chuj woman in Huehuetenango, Guatemala growing seedlings for reforestation project

participation and dialogue to influence water policy making at a global level, thus assuring better living standards for people all over the world and a more responsible social behavior towards water issues in-line with the pursuit of sustainable development.

EcoLogic and International Funders for Indigenous Peoples will co-convene a session at the Forum, entitled, "Successful Indigenous Approaches to Integrated Water Resource Management and Achieving the Millennium Development Goals." Sebastian Charchalac, EcoLogic's regional director, himself a Maya Quiché, will lead the session with the goal of presenting EcoLogic's successes with community-led watershed protection as a viable alternative to water management. The session will highlight les-

sons learned from two of our local partners, Ulew 'Che 'Ja, an indigenous Maya Quiché group based in Totonicapán, Guatemala, working to reforest and protect their community forests and the 1,200 freshwater springs within. And, the Sarstoon Temash Institute for Indigenous Management from Belize, a Maya Kechi and Garifuna group working to co-manage the Sarstoon National Park and sustainably manage local fisheries.

Our presence at the World Water Forum will be of vital importance as a model to similar NGO's working to co-manage protected areas in the developing world, as well as to funders and governments who may be interested in analyzing and applying lessons learned in successful partnerships between lo-

cal groups and the NGO sector. We hope that by disseminating our community based approach to new and existing networks of policy makers, governments, funding institutions, natural resources managers, partner organizations, and community members, we will influence environmental policy from the bottom up: by making the case that community participation in local decision making regarding land and resources is essential and, without it, conservation of invaluable flora, fauna, and water supplies is not only unjust, but also unsustainable.

*Margaret Doherty-Lopez
Ecologic Program Officer*



Networks and Collaborations

**Environmental Grantmakers Association Annual Conference
New Paltz, NY
September 24-28, 2005**

IFIP held a adhoc session called the “Challenges and Opportunities to Funding Indigenous Peoples”. IFIP also assisted co-editor Jerry Mander in facilitating a session on the newly released report *Paradigm Wars: Indigenous Peoples’ Resistance to Economic Globalization*.



**National Network of Grantmakers Annual Conference
October 8-11, 2005**

IFIP was instrumental in coordinating a reception and several conference sessions. The Indigenous Peoples and Funders Working Group Reception opened with a traditional welcome song performed by Potlatch Executive Director Andrea Alexander and Makah tribal member Nytom Goodwin.

The reception was attended by more than 50 NNG participants and brought recognition to the Indigenous Peoples and Funders Working Group (IPFWG), a working group of NNG that started over a decade ago. Evelyn Arce-White, Executive Director for IFIP facilitated the event by introducing Ron

McKinley, Executive Director of NNG, all of the reception co-sponsors and four artists from distinct regions locally, nationally and internationally. The artists traveled from Bolivia, New York State, South Dakota, as well as Sequim, Washington. Each of them was given an opportunity to sell their traditional artwork and to showcase their work. They also spoke at the reception about the symbolism of their art.

The reception was made possible with financial support from The Solidago Foundation, Ford Foundation, ArtCorps a Program of New England Biolabs, Potlatch Fund, Tierra Madre Fund, Native Americans in Philanthropy and IFIP.

Roger Falcón, Program Director of ArtCorps at New England Biolabs Foundation, assisted in developing the session, “Creating Indigenous Art” Workshop. The session brought former ArtCorps artist Sandra De Berduccy, part Aymaran Indigenous descent from Bolivia. Ms. De Berduccy is both a painter and weaver and had participants engaged in a hands-on workshop creating a Native American dreamcatcher.

The second session titled, “Indigenous Peoples Confront Globalization:

Building Strength through International Relationships”, gave funders a perspective on social justice issues in an age of economic globalization through a north-south Indigenous lens. The Solidago Foundation contributed financial support and Magda Lanuza, of the South American Coordinator for Center for Economic Justice (CEJ) facilitated discussions.

Tom Goldtooth (Dine’/ Dakota), of Indigenous Environmental Network (IEN), participated in the session and spoke about how there has been more international forums devoted to Indigenous issues, but how there is still a lack of Indigenous involvement.

Dr. Luis Macas (Quichua), senior administrator for the Knowledge of Indigenous Culture, former president of the Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of Ecuador (CONAIE), and board member of Seventh Generation Fund also participated in the conference session. Macas spoke about the work of several organizations that have made residents of Ecuador increasingly aware of the need to protect the environment and Indigenous communities.



**Grantmakers In Arts Conference
Pasadena, CA
October 16-19, 2005**

IFIP held a session on behalf of The Christensen Fund and ArtCorps a project of New England Biolabs called “Cultural Expression : Using the Arts as a means of Effective Grantmaking”. The panel explored the central role culture can have in effective environmental grantmaking through the experiences of Indigenous artists and funders.



**WINHEC and WIPCE Conferences
Hamilton, New Zealand
November 23-
December 1, 2005**

IFIP attended both conferences which brought thousands of Indigenous educators, researchers and students together. See p. 3 article for details of the events.



**Family Foundation Conference
Honolulu, Hawaii
January 29-31, 2006**

IFIP sponsored a Program Officer from Hawaii Community Foundation, a Native Foundation, to attend the conference.



SAVE THE DATE
May 16-17, 2006
IFIP Conference at
Ford Foundation

Join us on May 16-17, 2006 at Ford Foundation for Linking Circles V: Strengthening Partnerships in Philanthropy: Building Effective Grantmaking in Indigenous Communities.

Donors will have an opportunity to speak directly with Indigenous representatives from remote communities on specific concerns. We will also look at ways that philanthropists can partner to support

locally driven community development and feature successful partnerships.

The event will discuss lessons learned and provide recommendations on improving the effectiveness of donor portfolio. We will then visit the UN Headquarters for a special IFIP session during the Permanent Forum for Indigenous Issues, where this year nearly 1,500 Indigenous leaders and representatives will meet. For more info and registration form, email ifip@internationalfund.org



IFIP will hold a session at the United Nations as part of its conference

Upcoming IFIP Sessions

Fourth World Water Forum
March 16-22, 2006
Mexico City, Mexico

Ecologic Fund and IFIP will co-convene a session called "Successful Indigenous Approaches to Integrated Water Resource Management and Achieving the Millennium Development Goals."

Council on Foundations
Annual Conference
May 6-9, 2006
Pittsburgh, Penn.

Effective and Innovative Strategies for Increasing Indigenous Grantmaking
Saturday May 6, 2006
4pm-6pm
Room 324

This session will explore

ways that international grantmakers can improve their grantmaking practice.

• • • •
IFIP's Annual Awards Reception
Sunday May 7, 2006
6-7PM
Room 323

Please join International Funders for Indigenous Peoples (IFIP) Annual presentation of the IFIP Award, bestowed upon an individual that has demonstrated efforts to increase philanthropic support for Indigenous Peoples around the world. Refreshments will be provided. There will be an opportunity to network.

Indigenous Education
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reflecting higher education research, key issues facing indigenous education, education strategies, and Indigenous knowledge. Workshops included such topics as "Healing Language Loss", "Integrating Indigenous Knowledge into Education", "Education as a Treaty Right", and "Barriers and Opportunities in Building a Research Culture in an Indigenous Institution".

Although the outstanding achievements and inspirational 2005 WINHEC and WIPCE international gatherings reflected the hard work of many volunteers and staff, both were shadowed by a local court battle impacting the future success of the Te Wananga o Aotearoa. From humble beginnings some twenty-five years ago, the indigenous university of Te Wananga o Aotearoa began with

the sole purpose of improving the lives of a small group of young Maori in Te Awamutu. Today the University of New Zealand is the largest tertiary education institution in Aotearoa. Te Wananga with over 60,000 students and lesser public institution budget has become an educational movement that continues its purpose to improve the education of all New Zealanders in a uniquely indigenous Maori way.

The education of thousands of Maori and other New Zealanders has awakened the country to Indigenous issues. It provides a forum from which all can benefit in the sharing of Indigenous knowledge.

Gil Garcia is Secretary of the Board of Trustees for Ke Ala Pono Indigenous College and a member of the WINHEC Chair Finance Working Committee

IFIP Membership

International Funders for Indigenous Peoples is a philanthropic affinity group of the Council on Foundations whose members are dedicated to expanding and enriching their grantmaking programs for international Indigenous sustainability.

Join our network of supporters today and start to receive the many benefits of being an IFIP member. Be apart of strengthening our Indigenous Philanthropy network. Benefits include: being part of an unparalleled vehicle that exchanges ideas and guidance with funders and experts, receiving The Sharing Circle, our bi-annual newsletter that offers insight into the international arena, having access to highly provocative research reports and books, invitation to become a planning committee member for our Annual Conference and receiving discounts for registration and the Indigenous Peoples Funders and Resource Guide, being added to our monthly e- newsletter The Sharing Network and much more.

If you are interested in becoming a member, complete the form at www.internationalfunders.org or request a form at fip@internationalfunders.org, or call (315) 842-0792

Levels of Support

Sustain Members: (\$7,500 or more)

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W.K. Kellogg Foundation, Aveda Corporation

Esteem Members: (\$500 to \$5,000)

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ment Fund, American Friends Service Committee,
Tierra Madre Fund, and Fund for Indigenous Rights
and the Environment.

Combining the global links of international grantmaking with the professional development of affinity groups

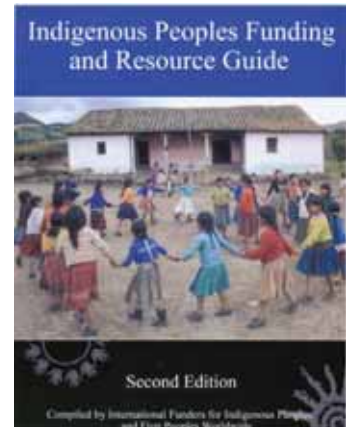


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