



INTERNATIONAL INDIAN
TREATY COUNCIL

2022

ANNUAL REPORT

WWW.IITC.ORG



Round Valley Pomo Dancers sharing the resiliency and beauty of their living culture at the Indigenous Peoples' Thanksgiving Sunrise Gathering. In 2022 IITC welcomed record-breaking combined 6820 on-site participants at our annual Alcatraz Sunrise Gatherings for Indigenous Peoples Day on October 10 and Indigenous Peoples' Thanksgiving on November 24, Yelamu, Ohlone Territory (San Francisco California). The gathering in October was followed by the 4th annual celebration in Yerba Buena Gardens to commemorate San Francisco's Declaration officially replacing "Columbus Day" with "Indigenous Peoples Day" in 2018.

MESSAGE FROM THE IITC BOARD PRESIDENT

On behalf of the IITC Board of Directors, I want to express my sincere appreciation to everyone, including our staff, supporters and allies. Your hard work, solidarity and generosity helped us to make IITC's work in 2022 successful, with historic advances that will take us into the future in a good way. We continued to support the efforts of grass-roots Indigenous communities to rebuild their resiliency after the pandemic through community-based food sovereignty projects and advanced the development of our Jackie Warledo Research center in our Tucson Office with documents and photos spanning 50 years of the Indigenous Peoples rights movement for use by students, teachers, UN bodies, film makers and other researchers. Despite recent sad losses, including staff member Chris Honahnie in December 2022 and IITC Vice President Hinewirangi Kohu in February 2023, we are committed to continuing our work in support of Indigenous Peoples' struggles to defend their lands, Treaties, environmental health, food systems, climate justice and ways of life in the coming year.



IITC Board President Ron Lameman. View a full list of IITC's current Board members, staff members and program consultants:

<https://www.iitc.org/about-iitc/>

It continues to be an honor to serve our Peoples in this way.

Ay Hy,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ron Lameman".

IITC Board President Ron Lameman, Beaver Lake Cree Nation, Treaty No. 6 Territory

IITC OFFICES



In 2022, IITC continued to carry out its work from offices in Tucson, Arizona, San Francisco, California and Guatemala City, Guatemala hosted by IITC Affiliate the National Coordination of Guatemalan Widows (CONAVIGUA).

Pascua Yaqui Tribal Chairman Peter Yucupicio, IITC Executive Director Andrea Carmen and UN Special Rapporteur Francisco Cali Tzay at a dinner reception for participants attending the consultation on "Protected Areas" at IITC's Tucson Office, April 19, 2022.

IITC PROGRAM ACTIVITIES IN 2022

IITC's "**Guiding Principles**" affirm that *"Indigenous Peoples should speak for and represent themselves before the world community"* as an essential aspect of their Self-determination. In 2022, IITC continued to build participation of Indigenous Peoples, with a special focus on women and youth, providing 39 credentials for Indigenous representatives to participate in 32 international bodies to share their expertise, defend their rights and have input in the development of new standards and policies. We also co-hosted, with local and international partners and affiliates, 35 in-person and virtual gatherings, trainings and events, providing unique opportunities for information sharing, cultural exchanges, capacity building and strengthening coalitions to impact multi-level policy change. Recordings of our virtual events and webinars were posted on IITC's YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/@internationalindiantreatyc5538>

In 2022, IITC's online information-sharing and electronic dissemination network reached over 65,000 unique users, contacts, and followers through social media, IITC e-news, and our popular website: www.iitc.org, building awareness and support for Indigenous Peoples' struggles. IITC's e-news disseminated 26 urgent updates, reports and press releases, highlighting urgent human rights concerns, important outcomes and opportunities for participation.

Log into IITC's web site, www.iitc.org to subscribe to Treaty Council E-News for updates on IITC's upcoming events and webinars.

2022 PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

IITC's work is carried out under four primary Program Areas: Defending Human Rights, Food Sovereignty, Environmental Health, and Treaties and Standard Setting. See below for examples and highlights of IITC's work in 2022.



IITC held its 47th Anniversary Conference at Lake Atitlan in Sololá, Guatemala March 1-3, 2022, where 130 delegates representing Indigenous Peoples, Nations and organizations from North, Central, South America, the Caribbean and the Pacific adopted 9 resolutions by consensus to guide IITC's work on a range of vital issues impacting the rights and lifeways of Indigenous Peoples. View or download the Conference resolutions in English or Spanish:

<https://www.iitc.org/treaty-conferences-resolutions/47th-international-indian-treaty-conference/>

DEFENDING HUMAN RIGHTS

IITC defends the rights of Indigenous Peoples as affirmed in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and other human rights standards, and works to ensure that States, corporations and the UN System fully respect and implement these rights. To learn more: <https://www.iitc.org/program-areas/defending-human-rights/>



In 2022, IITC submitted urgent actions and human rights filings to 32 United Nations bodies addressing a range of violations and threats to Indigenous Peoples' rights. These included submissions to UN Special Rapporteurs on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Right to Food, Right to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation; Cultural Rights, Freedom of Religion and Belief; Human Rights Defenders, and Toxics and Human Rights, the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII), the UN Human Rights Council, the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP), the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) and the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women. IITC also continued to follow up on ongoing cases for international repatriation of sacred items and human remains including the sacred Yaqui Maaso Kova (ceremonial deer head), which was returned to Mexico from Sweden in August 2022 after 19 years of focused advocacy by IITC, Yaqui cultural leaders and traditional authorities, with the support of the UNPFII and EMRIP.



IITC co-sponsored and organized in-person, hybrid and virtual consultations to enable Indigenous Peoples' direct input into groundbreaking UN human rights studies. These included consultations for the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples' (SRRIP) study on "Protected Areas" and the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (April); the Special Rapporteur on Toxics and Human Rights' study on the impacts of Environmental Toxics on Indigenous Peoples (May); and consultations in both North and Latin America for the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion and Belief's study on Indigenous Peoples' Freedom of Religion including struggles to protect sacred places, continue ceremonial practices and repatriate sacred items (April, May and June).



IITC's Guatemala Office worked with impacted Mayan community members to file a communication on October 6, 2022, to CERD's Urgent Action/Early Warning procedure reporting the violent and forced displacement of Q'eqchi' and Poqomochi' Mayan Peoples in the departments of Alta and Baja Verapaz, Izabal and Petén. In one community, 51 Indigenous families' homes were burned by a group of masked men armed with assault rifles.



In 2022, IITC received two awards for decades of human rights work, the Native American Bar Association of Arizona's Community Leadership Award, and the USA Human Rights Educators' Impact Award.

FOOD SOVEREIGNTY

IITC's Food Sovereignty Program builds the informed participation of Indigenous traditional food producers and knowledge holders in local/tribal, national, regional and international processes to defend their right to food and restore traditional food systems. IITC also organizes opportunities for Indigenous food producers to share traditional knowledge, seeds, and sustainable practices and develop strategies to address common threats. To learn more: <https://www.iitc.org/program-areas/food-sovereignty/#programs>

➤ In 2022, IITC continued to organize and host the International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Food Sovereignty (IIPFFS). It was created in 2021 as an independent body for Indigenous food producers, knowledge-holders and rights advocates to share information, increase participation in relevant Indigenous Peoples' events and UN fora, and discuss strategies in response to common threats such as agro-chemicals, biodiversity loss, and climate change. The IIPFFS met virtually three times in 2022 with a combined attendance of over 500 participants from all regions.

➤ IITC Executive Director Andrea Carmen and IITC Food Sovereignty Program Coordinator Saul Vicente Vazquez were invited presenters on pesticides and the rights of Indigenous Peoples at the UN Joint Meeting on Pesticides Management (JMPM) in Rome, November 17-18, led by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Health Organization. As a result of IITC's presentation, the JMPM agreed to initiate a process to amend the International Code of Conduct on Pesticides to include human rights and the rights of Indigenous Peoples; including Free Prior and Informed Consent, a monumental achievement that has been the focus of IITC's work for many years.



IITC Executive Director Andrea Carmen, IITC Food Sovereignty Program Coordinator Saul Vicente Vazquez and Baogen Gu, Pesticides Management Team Leader, UN FAO Headquarters Rome, November 18, 2022.



IITC continued to support projects based on Indigenous knowledge and practices to build resiliency for adaptation to climate change by sharing information, repatriating original seeds, and revitalizing methods. In 2022 IITC provided pass through grants from the AgroEcology Fund to the Seminole Sovereignty Protection Initiative in Oklahoma, CONAVIGUA in Guatemala, and the Kuna Youth Movement in Panama.



Top left, Kuna youth attending a food sovereignty training, Gangandi Kuna Yala Panama, August 2022.

Top right, CONAVIGUA members attending a food sovereignty project workshop in Patzaj San Juan Comalapa, Guatemala June 28, 2022.

Left, Turning the soil for a family garden, Sasakwa Oklahoma, spring 2022.



Indigenous traditional food producers from the US, Belize, Panama and Mexico attending the 5th International Indigenous Peoples Corn Conference in Juchitán de Zaragoza, Oaxaca Mexico October 12-15, 2022, Co-hosted by the IITC, Assembly of Indigenous Peoples for Food Sovereignty in Mexico, Traditional Native American Farmers Association, Unidad de la Fuerza Indígena y Campesina, and Cooperativa Guenda rudxhiíba guendaró stinu.



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

IITC's Environmental Health Program carries out information-sharing, training and advocacy addressing the intergenerational health impacts of pesticides, persistent organic pollutants, mercury, extractive industries and other environmental toxics. It promotes safe alternatives, builds capacity of Indigenous women to defend their rights and advocate for their Peoples; calls for governmental and corporate accountability, and works for policy change including clean-up of contaminated sites and a halt to the international trade in banned pesticides. To learn more:

<https://www.iitc.org/program-areas/environmental-health/#programs>



IITC continued its long-standing participation at the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) focusing in 2022 on negotiations for CBD's Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) which was adopted on December 19, 2022. In this process, IITC continued to express urgent concerns regarding the CBD's "30 x 30" Initiative for the creation of "Protected Areas" without consideration for Indigenous Peoples' rights to Land, Treaties, Self-determination or Free, Prior and Informed Consent and with little regard for their time-tested conservation knowledge. In response, IITC worked successfully for the inclusion of safeguard language for the rights of Indigenous Peoples in the final political framework document, adopted by consensus of the State Parties as follows: "In this regard, nothing in this framework may be construed as diminishing or extinguishing the rights that indigenous peoples currently have or may acquire in the future."



IITC delegates to 15th Conference of the Parties to the CBD in Montreal, Canada, included Rochelle Diver, Saul Vicente Vazquez, Juan Leon Alvarado, Monica Coc Magnusen, Ron Lameman and Roberto Borrero. A group of our delegates are shown in this photo with the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues President and some of its members during COP 15.



IITC represented Indigenous Peoples in a coalition of human rights and environmental organizations that worked for the adoption of groundbreaking resolutions by the UN General Assembly recognizing the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment on July 28, 2022, following a similar Human Rights Council resolution adopted on October 8, 2021. These historic resolutions are serving as the foundations for further advances by IITC and our allies in national and international processes, including in our planned recommendations to the March 2023 UN Water Conference.



Another decades long IITC objective was achieved on November 11-12, 2022, when UN Special Rapporteur on Toxics and Human Rights Dr. Marcos Orellana visited with Yaqui food producers, community health providers and midwives, Traditional Authorities, and impacted Yaqui families to receive information about the impacts of toxic pesticides on the Yaqui Peoples of Sonora Mexico. This exploratory visit by the Special Rapporteur was in response to the invitation of IITC and the Yaqui Traditional Authorities and precedes his official country visit to Mexico in 2023.



UN Special Rapporteur Dr. Marcos Orellana meeting with Yaqui community health providers, Potam Pueblo, Sonora Mexico, November 10, 2022.



In 2022, IITC coordinated a team of Indigenous scientists and students to collect and test water samples in the Black Hills Watershed in South Dakota, demonstrating the ongoing environmental impacts and toxic contamination of surface and ground water in Oceti Sakowin Treaty territory resulting from gold and uranium mining in the Black Hills.



Anpo and Jesse Jensen collecting water and soil samples, Sand Creek, Black Hills South Dakota, November 20, 2022

TREATIES & STANDARD SETTING

International recognition of Treaties between Indigenous Nations and States was the first issue brought to the United Nations by IITC in 1977. IITC continues to work for the recognition and enforcement of Treaty rights to water, health, land, food, Consent and Self-Determination and for the establishment of just, bi-lateral processes to resolve Treaty violations. IITC was also a leader throughout the 40-year process of development and adoption of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and continues to work for its full implementation, including by advancing new international standards and mechanisms to uphold and defend the rights of Indigenous Peoples. To learn more: <https://www.iitc.org/program-areas/treaties-standard-setting/#programs>

- IITC participated actively in the 2022 study by the EMRIP on “Treaties, Agreements in Constructive Arrangements”. The EMRIP’s advice to the Human Rights Council in September 2022 affirmed several of IITC’s recommendations, including for the implementation by States of just, bilateral mechanisms with the consent and participation of the concerned Indigenous Peoples to monitor, adjudicate and resolve disputes and violations involving Nation-to-Nation Treaties, and for the establishment by the UN of an international registry of Treaties concluded between Indigenous Peoples and States, including Indigenous Peoples’ oral versions and interpretations.
- IITC continued to advocate for bilateral, fully participatory processes to halt and resolve violations of Treaties concluded by States and Indigenous Nations, including in its submission for the CERD’s Review of the United States. As a result, CERD’s concluding observations released on August 30, 2022 included a call for the United States to “Adopt further measures to honor the treaties entered into with Indigenous Peoples and significantly strengthen consultation mechanisms with Indigenous Peoples on the implementation of these treaties, also with a view to settle disputes concerning land rights.”



IITC delegates staff Attorney Summer Blaze Aubrey, Chief Gary Harrison, Chickaloon Village Alaska, Board member Tai Pelli, United Confederation of Taino Peoples, and Legal Consultant June Lorenzo (not shown) participated in the long-awaited review of the United States by the CERD in August 2022, Geneva Switzerland.

- IITC continued to work and advocate at the UN Human Rights Council and other UN bodies, as well as on the national level, for development of a legally binding UN Treaty to hold corporations accountable for human rights violations, including the environmental contamination of Indigenous Peoples lands and waters.

CLIMATE CHANGE

IITC considers the Climate Crisis to be an existential, urgent threat that cuts across all other program areas. In 2022, IITC continued to support the responses and strategies of grassroots Indigenous Peoples and to advocate for their rights and knowledge to be respected and included in national and global climate action, including through effective participation by knowledge-holders and youth at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. For more information:

https://www.iitc.org/program-areas/environmental-health/#Climate_Change



In addition to the two annual Oceti Sakowin Treaty gatherings held in 2022, IITC also co-sponsored the first Oceti Sakowin Climate Crisis gathering in Rapid City South Dakota October 18-20. Active engagement the international work addressing Climate Change, restoration of traditional food systems, Lakota star knowledge, youth and elders engagement and Treaty Rights were presented as key elements for the development of an Oceti Sakowin Climate Action



On November 8, during UNFCCC COP 27 in Sharm Al Sheikh Egypt, IITC coordinated an interactive dialogue for Indigenous delegations with the new UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights impacts of Climate Change Dr. Ian Fry. IITC also hosted a side event on November 9th on the impacts of Climate Change on Arctic Indigenous Peoples' Food Systems, Reindeer and Caribou, with presenters, shown in this photo, from the Arctic Athabaskan Council, World Association of Reindeer Herders and Gwitch'in Council International.



2022 FISCAL REPORT

Despite continuing challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic, IITC's financial situation was strong in 2022. IITC received income totaling **\$1,151,124.33**. In addition, IITC received **\$50,845.85** in in-kind contributions for travel, events costs, communications and consultant services, and PPE supplies which were distributed to Tribes and communities. This amount also included 4 passthrough grants used to support Indigenous grassroots Health and Food Sovereignty projects. IITC's total expenditures in 2022 were **\$1,273,048.27**, leaving a net amount of **\$304,583.62** at the end of year to carry over into 2022. This includes grant funds received for the 48th Anniversary Treaty Conference and the 5th International Indigenous Peoples Corn Conference which were postponed due to the pandemic. As in previous years, IITC kept its expenditures for administration, management and fundraising to under 21% of the total.

The chart below provides the breakdown of IITC's 2022 income by program area.



THANK YOU!

IITC's staff, Board of Directors and affiliates express our sincere appreciation to the following foundations, Tribes, corporations, and organizations whose generous contributions made our work possible in 2022:

AgroEcology Fund	Bay and Paul Foundations	The Christensen Fund
Groundswell Fund	Lannan Foundation	Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation
Libra Foundation	Lush Charity Pot	Tides Foundation
Native Voices Rising	NDN Collective	San Francisco Arts Commission
NoVo Foundation	Pascua Yaqui Tribe	Arizona Arts Foundation
One Fire Associates	Desert Diamond Casinos	Globetrotter Foundation
Women's Foundation of California	Oregon Community Fund	Arizona Organization Relief
Flinn Foundation	Calhouhn Christiano Fund	The Burroughs Wellcome Fund
First Nations Development Institute	SF Mayors Office MOHCD	
	Tribal Link	

IITC also thanks the **168** individual donors whose support in 2022 was very much appreciated



IITC thanks the Indigenous Peoples' movement and world community for their words of remembrance and condolence on the heartbreaking passing on December 27, 2022, of IITC's Food Sovereignty Program Co-coordinator, young farmer and knowledge-holder Christopher Honahnie, Hopi and Diné Nations. Chris is shown here co-chairing the report-back from the Indigenous Youth roundtable at UNFCCC COP 27 in Sharm Al-Sheikh Egypt, November 11, 2022.



INTERNATIONAL INDIAN TREATY COUNCIL

The International Indian Treaty Council (IITC) is an organization of Indigenous Peoples from North, Central, South America, the Caribbean and the Pacific founded in 1974 on the Standing Rock Reservation in South Dakota. IITC works for the Sovereignty and Self Determination of the Indigenous Peoples and the recognition and protection of Indigenous Rights, Treaties, Traditional Cultures and Sacred Lands. IITC was founded in 1974 on the Standing Rock Reservation in South Dakota to be an international voice for the rights and survival of Indigenous Peoples and in 1977 was the first Indigenous organization to receive Consultative Status with the UN Economic and Social Council. In 2011 IITC was the first Indigenous Organization in history to be upgraded to General Consultative Status" by ECOSOC in recognition of its decades of work in a range of UN bodies and processes.

IITC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ron Lameman, IITC Board President, Bever Lake Cree Nation, Alberta Canada, Treaties 1-11 • **Hinewirangi Kohu**, IITC Board Vice President, Maori Nation, Aotearoa (New Zealand), Te Whanua o te Rau Aroha • **Tai Pelli**, IITC Board Secretary/Treasurer, United Confederation of Taino People, Caribbean Region • **Maria Celestina Balan**, Centro de Proyectos para el Desarrollo Integral Indigena (CEPROD), Guatemala • **Radley Davis**, Pit River Nation, California • **Rodney Factor**, Seminole Nation, Oklahoma, Seminole Sovereignty Protection Initiative • **Leonard Foster**, Dine' Nation, National Native American Prisoners' Rights Coalition, Arizona • **William A. Means**, Oglala Lakota Nation, Wichahpi Koyaka Tiospaye, Pine Ridge, South Dakota • **Faith Gemmill**, Venetie Tribal Government, Gwich'in Nation, Alaska • **Lisa Bellanger**, Leech Lake Anishinabe Nation, Three Fires Society, Minnesota • **Pu'uhonua "Bumpy" Kanahele**, Hawaiian Nation, Head of State, Sovereign Nation of Hawaii • **Saul Vicente Vasquez**, Zapoteca, Oaxaca Mexico, Unidad del la Fuerza Indigena y Campesina (UFIC) • **Yamilka Hernandez**, Movimiento Juventud, Kuna, Panama • **Juan Gregorio Jaime Leon**, Yaqui Traditional Authorities, Rio Yaqui Sonora Mexico • **Rigoberta Menchu Tum**, Maya K'iche, Guatemala, Honorary Board Member

***Andrea Carmen**, Yaqui Nation, IITC Executive Director*

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