



2015

ANNUAL REPORT

This report covers the period from January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015 and financial information for September 1, 2014 to August 31, 2015.

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OUR VISION

Cultural Survival envisions a future that respects and honors Indigenous Peoples' inherent rights and dynamic cultures, deeply and richly interwoven in lands, languages, spiritual traditions, and artistic expression, rooted in self-determination and self-governance.

OUR MISSION

Cultural Survival advocates for the rights of Indigenous Peoples and partners with Indigenous communities to protect their lands, languages, and cultures.

OUR HISTORY

The impulse for the founding of Cultural Survival arose during the 1960s with the "opening up" of the Amazonian regions of South America and other remote regions elsewhere. As governments all over the world sought to extract resources from areas that had never before been developed, the drastic effects this trend had on the regions' Indigenous Peoples underscored the urgent need to partner with Indigenous communities to defend their human rights. Cultural Survival was founded to help Indigenous Peoples in their struggles for human rights, sovereignty, and autonomy.

Throughout the 1970s, Cultural Survival's founders David Maybury-Lewis, Evon Vogt, Jr., Orlando Patterson, and Pia Maybury-Lewis functioned out of a space made available by Harvard's Peabody Museum. The organization was incorporated in 1972 as a tax-exempt NGO in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Since its inception, Cultural Survival has been at the forefront of the international Indigenous rights movement. Cultural Survival's work has contributed to a revolution of empowerment for Indigenous Peoples around the world.

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Friends:

It is my honor to share with you Cultural Survival's 2015 Annual Report. As I look back on this year, I am humbled by how much progress we have made, and am grateful to our friends and supporters who have been an integral part of our achievements.

In 2015, you helped:

The Community Media Program to expand throughout Central America as Cultural Survival and local partners developed the first Central American network of Indigenous Community Radio Stations and planned the First Central American Indigenous Community Radio Conference in Panama in January 2016.

- *Deliver the Indigenous Rights Radio Program (IRR) to over 1,200 radio stations in 55 countries to inform Indigenous listeners on their rights through the production, distribution, translation, and broadcasting of programs in 30 languages.*
- *Provide legal and journalistic support to Guatemalan community radio, Radio Juventud in Solola, as a judge ordered the return of seized equipment, setting a precedent for community radio stations all over the country.*
- *Indigenous radio producers to attend and speak on the record at the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights regarding the freedom of expression in Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala as it relates to community radio.*

Four Indigenous radio producers in India to travel to the Terra Madre conference to network and share knowledge about food, nutrition, and biocultural diversity!

Three of our programs work in partnership to achieve the goals of the United Nations (UN) Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: '

Our **COMMUNITY MEDIA PROGRAM** provides important social, political, and cultural programming to over **1.1 million listeners in 15 different languages** in Guatemala, and develops critically needed programming with our network of community radio stations in El Salvador and Belize. These stations also learn how to improve their operations through a series of training workshops and exchanges.

Our **ADVOCACY PROGRAM** brings international attention to places where governments and corporations have violated these rights. Since 2013, we have partnered with the Maya Leaders Alliance (MLA) in Belize to help **defend Maya land rights and prevent abuse of Maya lands** at the hands of U.S. Energy, a Texas-based petroleum company. In 2015, Cultural Survival sponsored four MLA delegates to attend the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and nominated MLA for the Equator Prize, which they were awarded!

Our **INDIGENOUS RIGHTS RADIO PROGRAM** expanded our innovative radio series that promotes the rights guaranteed by the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. So far, our radio programs have been distributed free of charge to more than **1,500 radio stations in 60 countries, translated into 30 languages, reaching an estimated 10 million listeners!**

Every step of the way, Cultural Survival has engaged Indigenous Peoples in a dialogue to exchange information and ideas as well as transform Indigenous lives by supporting their understanding of their rights and how to apply them.

As a supporter of Cultural Survival, you have made possible the translation of the 2014 World Conference on Indigenous Peoples Outcome Document in eight Indigenous Nepalese languages and broadcast on 17 Indigenous community radio networks. These radio programs helped Indigenous Peoples learn about their international rights and how those rights are being discussed in international forums.

Moreover, Cultural Survival has shown its presence in our communities at the hardest of times. When the deadly April 25 and May 12 earthquakes struck Nepal and massive human and property loss occurred, Cultural Survival organized a targeted relief effort for the Kubu-Kasthali-Yakang, Ramechhap community radio services. Thanks to generous support, Radio Kairan, in Banti-Bhandar-4, Ramechhap, was brought back on air in a matter of days. Radio has been the only means of getting information and news to villagers in the Himalayan region of the Ramechhap district. Getting the radio back on the air so quickly brought some needed cheer and valuable news to the Indigenous communities of Nepal in the wake of crisis.

There is a lot left to be done to empower the Indigenous Peoples worldwide, and Cultural Survival will continue to fight against exclusion, discrimination, illiteracy, and the poverty of Indigenous Peoples. We believe in the power of media and communication to address those challenges and to protect and maintain unique cultures, traditions, languages, and knowledge.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Suzanne Benally". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Suzanne" and last name "Benally" clearly distinguishable.

Suzanne Benally (Navajo and Santa Clara Tewa)
Executive Director

ADVOCACY PROGRAM

We have seen that international advocacy work is so much more effective when we do it in partnership with Cultural Survival than when we do it on our own. Cultural Survival executes an essential role in enabling Indigenous Peoples to engage in strategic advocacy at the international scale. Without such support, Indigenous Peoples' advocacy efforts at that level will from the onset be handicapped."

PABLO MIS, MAYA LEADERS ALLIANCE OF TOLEDO, BELIZE

Cultural Survival's Advocacy Program supports grassroots Indigenous movements and supports Indigenous communities' capacity building to demand and assert their rights outlined in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. In 2015, Advocacy Program activities included participation in international human rights mechanisms, research and reporting, convening dialogues, strategic communications, and advocacy campaigns.

In April 2015, Cultural Survival sponsored the participation of 4 Maya leaders from Belize at the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) in New York. The leaders attended meetings with key UN bodies such as the World Bank, the UN Development Program (UNDP), the Special Rapporteur, and organized a press conference at the UN to share the news of their recent Caribbean Court of Justice victory. We also worked with board member Steven Heim to sponsor Ben Koissaba, Maasai of Kenya, to attend important meetings at the World Bank. Cultural Survival hosted 5 side sessions during the 2015 UNPFII:

- 1.** 'Indigenous Operationalization and Implementation UNDRIP's Free, Prior, and Informed Consent'
- 2.** 'Securing Freedom of Expression for Indigenous Communities'
- 3.** 'Implementing Indigenous Rights through Radio'
- 4.** 'Maya Land Rights in Belize, a Precedent for Indigenous Peoples Globally Location'
- 5.** 'Universal Periodic Review: A Potent Process for the Realization of Human Rights in Indigenous Homelands'

As part of the 2015 UN Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process, Cultural Survival submitted 14 UPR reports, including a joint submission on Nepal with the Nepal National Coalition Against Racial Discrimination (NCARD) and a joint submission on Thailand with the Network of Indigenous Peoples in Thailand and Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact. On June 8, 2015, we hosted a UPR training in our Cambridge office with Joshua Cooper of the Hawai'i Institute for Human Rights and the US Human Rights Network, focusing on the review of the US. Twenty people attended the event.

In July 2015, two Cultural Survival staff members attended the session on the Expert Mechanism on

the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in Geneva. Our paper for EMRIP's study on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples with Respect to their Cultural Heritage was well received. CS emphasized that community media (radio, television, digital media), produced by and for Indigenous communities, promotes and protects the cultural heritage of Indigenous Peoples, especially oral traditions and Indigenous languages, and can even halt language decline. Staff radio producer Rosy Gonzalez made an official intervention on this topic during the session and conducted several radio interviews with Indigenous leaders about the mechanism, in Spanish and English.

SELECTED CAMPAIGN HIGHLIGHTS

Three of our campaign partners were awarded UNDP's 2015 Equator Prize: the Maya Leaders Alliance of Belize, the Prey Lang Network of Cambodia and MASTA of Honduras. This award is given to grassroots organizations working on environmental issues in their communities. The winners received \$10,000 and travel expenses to participate in the Paris climate talks in December 2015.



PERU:

Pluspetrol's concession on Lot 192 expired at the end of August 2015 after 40 years and a new concession is being authorized to Canadian petroleum company Pacific Stratus, despite consultation and dialogue being officially broken off with Indigenous Peoples by the state after agreements could not be reached. Quechua and Achuar Communities held 12 days of strikes shutting down all oil operations until meetings with government resumed. Unfortunately, the concession will move forward for the next two years.

BANGLADESH:

The Phulbari mine in Bangladesh continues to be stalled thanks to the vigilance of local communities who hold massive protests anytime company employees step foot in their village. The delay to the project has caused the company's stock to continue declining, and the project is not likely to move forward in the near future.

COMMUNITY MEDIA

The Community Media Program supports Indigenous Peoples' right to freedom of expression through Indigenous community based radio. Our work in Guatemala building capacity for infrastructure and national legalization continues, and challenges include ongoing police raids on radio stations. Cultural Survival's advocacy and support for community radio in Guatemala has led to greater regional involvement and the development of a regional network of Central American Indigenous radio stations.

In January of 2015, both Radio Swan Tinamit and Radio Ixmukane were raided. At Radio Swan Tinamit, one volunteer was arrested at the time of the raid. Some of their equipment was confiscated and the police made threats that they would make more arrests if anyone else got involved. In solidarity, Asociacion Sobrevivencia Cultural and Cultural Survival made visits to both radios following the raids to offer legal advice and support.

We met with the current Inter-American Commission for Human Rights Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression, Edison Lanza, on several occasions and he expressed support for the community radio movement in Guatemala. In April 2015, Cultural Survival and other Guatemalan organizations that support the community radio movement funded a trip to Guatemala for Edison Lanza to participate in an Indigenous Community Radios Forum. During his visit, he stressed his concern for the neglect of the passing of Bill 4087 in Guatemala, expressing its utility in preserving culture and identity. He mentioned that he and the past four Special Rapporteurs have made extensive recommendations to the Guatemalan government to modify their telecommunications law, and that he will continue to recommend that this action be taken.

Cultural Survival has been integral in sustaining Guatemala's community-run radio stations, which are critical to government and corporate accountability related to ensuring Indigenous rights. Indigenous people in Guatemala rely on community radio to keep their cultures, languages, and traditions alive as well as to inform their communities in their own languages, reaching even the poorest

areas where radio may be the only affordable form of communication. We are committed to our efforts to pressure the Guatemalan government to comply with the internationally-supported right of communities to operate radio stations.

The Indigenous Communications Caucus is a window that has been opened for the Indigenous Peoples of the world to create a network that allows us to join the global media scene in a way that's true to our identities, and to demand our rights before State governments”

ANSELMO XUNIC AND CESAR GOMEZ



INDIGENOUS RIGHTS RADIO

This is a really important initiative. Most of my tribe cannot read or write, so the radio is important to us. It is a good tool because many people do not have access to the internet. It's also a powerful means of communication because all of us come from a culture of storytelling."

ADAM OLE MWARABU (MAASAI), TANZANIA



Additionally, the Indigenous Rights Radio Program continues to build a cadre of expert Indigenous radio producers and journalists worldwide. These expert Indigenous media team members covered key international forums in 2015 including the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in New York City, The Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in Geneva, the Terra Madre in India, and the North American Continental Gathering of Indigenous Women in Guatemala where they gathered content and conducted interviews for new radio content.

In August 2015, IRR Program Manager Danielle DeLuca attended the World Association of Community Radio Producers (AMARC) conference in Accra, Ghana and distributed radio content to 250 community radio participants from across the globe. Danielle was a speaker on a keynote panel and made connections with many new organizations and radio stations.

The Indigenous Rights Radio program continues to produce a diverse range of radio programs promoting the implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and uplifting the voices of Indigenous leaders by informing Indigenous listeners of specific rights and of strategies used by other Indigenous communities to exercise those rights. As of December 2015, Cultural Survival has produced a total of 861 IRR programs and distributed these programs to 1,501 radio stations in 76 countries. Our programs have been listened to approximately 28,800 times on Soundcloud and downloaded 6,822 times. Our important role in disseminating information about international Indigenous rights at the global level has most recently been recognized by Vicky Tauli Corpuz, UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, who has joined us in a partnership to produce an ongoing radio series on her work in the role of Special Rapporteur.



BAZAARS

“Seeing the artists really make a living out of doing their art and living their dreams through their art [was] the most rewarding part of my job.”

BAZAAR PROGRAM MANAGER DAVE FAVREAU

The Cultural Survival Bazaars work to strengthen Indigenous cultures by providing a venue for the sale of art and crafts made by Indigenous artisans throughout the world. The sale of crafts perpetuates the artistic traditions which are culturally significant to many Indigenous communities, provides capital to Indigenous communities, and provides sustainable income to individual artisans and their families.

Cultural Survival held three summer bazaars in Cambridge, Falmouth, and Tiverton, a fall bazaar in Amherst, and two winter bazaars in Cambridge and Boston. Over 40 vendors participated in the bazaars, who collectively work with over 1000 Indigenous artists spanning five continents and 50 countries and generating more than \$220,000 in real revenue for our vendors.



The bazaars continue to support grassroots projects, relief efforts, and more. For example:

- In **Nepal**, the Bazaars provide income to over 100 artists and their families. This summer in particular, funds raised by Crafted in Kathmandu were used to help artists' children return to school following the April 2015 earthquake.
- In a Maasai community in **Tanzania**, “most of our sales are from the Bazaars,” says one of our vendors. The women in our vendor’s village “usually only get to make more beads when I go back in the end of the year and then they get some income from making the jewelry [that I sold for them]. I was so happy [after three years of selling jewelry] that we could expand the project so that the women could have work throughout the year. Now they are no longer waiting until I go back for them to get some money to support themselves and their families.”
- In **Mexico**, one artist sells his own work at the Bazaars as well as art from two different co-ops that support over 40 Wixarika-Huichol families who don't have a market in Mexico.

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS!

We at Cultural Survival want to thank our donors for your continued support of the Indigenous communities we work with. We couldn't do it without you!

NEPAL EARTHQUAKE RELIEF

When a series of earthquakes devastated Nepal in April of 2015, Cultural Survival was able to raise **\$11,507** (mostly small, online donations). With these funds, we were able to assist several communities in a limited way in response to urgent requests from existing local partners:

Community radio stations play a unique role in times of disaster because they can provide remote communities with important information. Several stations' equipment was damaged or destroyed in the quake. Over the past two years, as part of our Indigenous Rights Radio Program, we have translated radio programs into multiple Indigenous languages spoken in Nepal and distributed those programs to dozens of radio stations. Cultural Survival partnered with Hindenberg Software Company to raise funds to help get radio stations back on the air.

Several Cultural Survival Bazaar artisans live in Nepal. Donations were used to provide emergency food, water, and tents to the artisans' communities.

Cultural Survival board member Stella Tamang's local organization served as a shelter for many families. Cultural Survival was able to contribute emergency food and water.

LIST OF DONORS

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IN MEMORIAM: PIA MAYBURY LEWIS

Cultural Survival deeply mourned the loss of our co-founder Elsebet “Pia” Maybury-Lewis, who passed away on August 4, 2015 at age 89 at her home in Cambridge, MA surrounded by her loving family and friends after a long battle with lung cancer. Pia was born in Jutland, Denmark on June 1, 1926.

Along with her Harvard anthropologist husband David Maybury-Lewis, Evon Vogt, Jr., and Orlando Patterson, Pia founded Cultural Survival in 1972. Pia and David witnessed the disastrous impacts of development projects on Indigenous communities firsthand while conducting anthropological field research with the Xerente and Xavante people in Brazil in the 1950s and 1960s. As governments all over the world sought to extract resources from areas that had never before been developed, the drastic effects this trend had on the regions’ Indigenous Peoples underscored the urgent need to partner with Indigenous communities to defend their human rights. Pia and David founded Cultural Survival to publicize Indigenous rights abuses and assist Indigenous Peoples in their struggles for human rights, sovereignty, and autonomy.

Pia was often referred to as the “heart” of Cultural Survival. She started the internship program and mentored over 1,300 interns during her active years with the organization. For decades Pia and David opened up their Cambridge home and hosted students, interns, academics, and Indigenous leaders as a space for dialogue around international affairs, human rights, and social justice. Pia was also renowned for her culinary skills and for feeding hungry interns and students.

In 1979, Pia, along with longtime friend Chris Walters, began organizing the Cultural Survival Bazaars to showcase the art of Indigenous artists and educate the public about the struggles Indigenous people faced around the world. “This opened up the idea of selling arts and crafts of Indigenous people and spearheaded the Fair Trade movement,” Pia recalled in a 2012 interview. “Through this, I wanted to put CS on the map like the Red Sox [did for Boston], but we didn’t want to lose, as the Sox always did in those days!”

Pia will be remembered for a great deal of things, but for many she will live on in our hearts for her wit and her remarkable sense of humor.



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Stephen Marks, Professor in the Department of Global Health and Population at Harvard School of Public Health

Joseph Mutangah, Principal Research Scientist for the Kenya Resource Center for Indigenous Knowledge

Stella Tamang (Tamang tribe from Nepal) Founder, Bikalpa Gyan Kendra

Che Wilson (Ngāti Rangī) from the North Island of Aotearoa-New Zealand, Managing Director, Intugen Ltd.

Staff

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Michael Johnson (Arikara/Hidatsa/Ojibwe), Director of Development

Chelsie U'ilani Kūali'i (Native Hawaiian), Indigenous Rights Radio Production Fellow

Jamie Malcolm-Brown, Communications & Information Technology Manager

Teresita Orozco Mendoza, Community Media Program Regional Coordinator

Agnes Portalewska, Communications Manager

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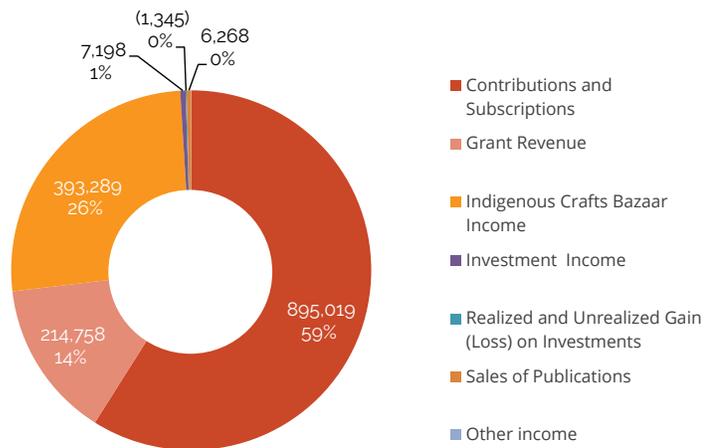
FINANCIAL REPORT

REVENUES	FY 2015
Contributions and Subscriptions	895,019
Grant Revenue	214,758
Indigenous Crafts Bazaar Income	393,289
Investment Income	7,198
Realized and Unrealized Gain (Loss) on Investments	(1,345)
Sales of Publications	6,268
Other income	2,562
Total Revenues	1,515,187

EXPENSES	FY 2015
Programs and Publications	1,180,158
Fundraising	146,464
General Administrative	145,935
Total Expenses	1,472,557



Revenue FY 2015



Expenses FY 2015

