



INTERNATIONAL INDIAN
TREATY COUNCIL

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

WWW.IITC.ORG



In 2021 IITC was able to hold its two annual Alcatraz sunrise gatherings in person on October 11th (Indigenous Peoples Day) and November 25th (Indigenous Peoples Thanksgiving). These gatherings had a combined on-site participation of 6482, with many thousands more reached through live web and radio broadcasts, and highlighted Truth in History, cultural resiliency and support for ongoing rights and justice struggles.

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 2021 meaningful and successful, with historic advances that will take us into the future in a good way. As we emerged slowly from under the COVID-19 pandemic, IITC continued to support the efforts of grass-roots Indigenous communities to rebuild their resiliency through community-based food sovereignty projects and providing PPE supplies. We also moved forward in developing the new Jackie Warledo research center in our Tucson Office with documents and photos spanning 45+ years of the Indigenous Peoples rights movement for use by students, teachers and other researchers. And we continued to support Indigenous Peoples' struggles to defend their lands, sovereignty, Treaties, environmental health, climate justice and ways of life in our homelands and at the United Nations.

We give thanks for our many blessings and will look forward to working with you as we move into 2022. After 48 years, it continues to be an honor for IITC to serve our Peoples and to work together to defend the rights of Indigenous Peoples around the world.

Hai Hai,



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



IITC OFFICES

In 2021, IITC carried out its work from offices in Tucson, Arizona, in San Francisco, California and in Guatemala City, Guatemala. At the end of 2020, Juan Leon Alvarado, Maya K'iche, rejoined our staff as IITC's Human Rights and Bio-Diversity Program Coordinator and in July 2021, he coordinated the long-awaited reopening of IITC's Guatemala office, focused on defending Indigenous Peoples' rights in Latin America and the Caribbean. The IITC office is hosted by IITC's affiliate the National Association of Guatemalan Widows (CONAVIGUA) in Guatemala City.



Staff members Juan Leon Alvarado and Dionicio Canahui with Rosalina Tuyuc, founder and leader of CONAVIGUA, in IITC's Guatemala Office.

IITC WELCOMED 4 NEW STAFF MEMBERS IN 2021



Summer Aubrey,
Cherokee Nation
of Oklahoma
IITC Human Rights Attorney



Anpo Jensen,
Oglala Lakota,
*Environmental Health
Research Specialist*



Armando Alvarez,
Yaqui, *IITC Tucson
Office Manager*



Dionicio Canahui,
Maya Achi, *IITC Guatemala
Office Manager*

To see all IITC Staff members click here: <https://www.iitc.org/about-iitc/who-we-are/#tab-1>

IITC 2021 PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

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 2021, IITC continued its commitment to this principle by credentialing 61 Indigenous delegates, including 12 youth, to attend 31 virtual and in-person UN meetings and conferences to share their expertise, defend their rights and make their voices heard.

IITC also increased our on-line information-sharing and capacity building through electronic dissemination reaching over 64,000 unique contacts in 2021. IITC's social media, including e news, Facebook and twitter, had 42,998 followers as of December 31, 2021, an increase of 5%. IITC's popular website (www.iitc.org), reached 26,280 unique users, a 20% increase over 2020.

In 2021, IITC continued to focus on virtual events, trainings and information-sharing activities in response to the continued impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. This included organizing and hosting 18 webinars addressing Food Sovereignty, Human Rights and Environmental Health with a total of 2,678 participants. Recordings of these events are posted on IITC's YouTube.

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.

2021 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 a few examples and highlights of IITC's work in each of these Program Areas in 2021.



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 2021 IITC submitted and monitored human rights urgent actions calling for justice for Indigenous human rights defenders and political prisoners, protection of sacred sites, implementation of Treaty rights, repatriation of sacred items and human remains, redress for missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, and State accountability for the children who are still missing from residential and boarding schools. IITC also promoted corporate accountability for human rights violations by working for a new international Treaty on human rights and international corporations.

➤ IITC continued promote Truth in History through disseminating its “Gold, Greed and Genocide” video and study guide presenting the true story of the California Gold Rush and its ongoing cultural and environmental impacts, and highlighting work by California indigenous Peoples for justice and healing.



Elem Pomo children in California demonstrate to protect and restore their sacred lands

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/>

➤ In 2021, IITC worked with Indigenous partner organizations to achieve creation of an International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Food Sovereignty as an independent body for Indigenous food producers, knowledge-holders and rights advocates to share information, increase direct participation and discuss strategies to address common threats. The IIPFFS met four times virtually in 2021 from July – November, with a combined participation of 484 participants from all regions.

➤ IITC organized a virtual consultation and distributed an on-line questionnaire in 5 languages in preparation for the UN Food Systems Summit in September 2021 at the UN General Assembly. The questionnaire received responses from 134 distinct Indigenous Peoples in 28 countries representing over 3 million Indigenous food producers from all regions of the world. The responses consistently emphasized the need for UN, government and corporate responsibility to respect the rights and knowledge of Indigenous Peoples related to their food systems.



Members of the Alexander Pancho Memorial Farm, Cowlic Community, Tohono O'odham Nation, Arizona, using traditional irrigation methods to support the health of their desert food system facing drought due to Climate Change.

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/>



➤ In 2021 IITC increased its focus on the reproductive and inter-generational health impacts of mercury contamination of our lands, waters, food systems and bodies. On November 19th, IITC launched a 4-part virtual webinar series “What is Mercury and how does it affect us?” In 2022 IITC will continue its multi-level education and advocacy highlighting the impacts of mercury from past and current mining, coal fired power plants, industrial and medical processes, and other sources as well as the urgent need for clean-up of contaminated sites. For more information, [click here](#).

➤ IITC represented Indigenous Peoples in a coalition of organizations opposing the partnership between the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and CROPLIFE which represents multi-national agrochemical companies including major producers and exporters of toxic and banned pesticides which have deadly impacts on Indigenous Peoples' intergenerational and environmental health. A letter opposing this partnership with more than 180,000 signatures from around the world, was presented to FAO's Secretary General in December 2021. IITC also represented Indigenous Peoples in a coalition of human rights and environmental organizations working for the adoption of a groundbreaking resolution adopted in October by the UN Human Rights Council recognizing the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment as a human right.

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 and for the establishment of just, participatory, bi-lateral processes to resolve Treaty violations. IITC was a leader throughout the 40-year process work for adoption of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and continues to advocate for its 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/>

➤ IITC renewed its long-standing call for the creation of a United Nations registry of Nation to Nation Treaties concluded between Indigenous Peoples and States in keeping with their international status and standing. IITC is calling for this registry to include the original texts of these Treaties as well as documentation affirming their original spirit and intent as understood by the Indigenous Peoples concerned.

➤ IITC continued to serve as one of two global co-convenors of the Indigenous Peoples Major Group for the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), focusing on increasing awareness and participation among Indigenous Peoples and pressing States to include their direct engagement in implementation at the national and international levels.



IITC's current Board President Ron Lameman (center) with former IITC Board Presidents Bill Means and Francisco "Pancho" Cali, current UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, at the Oceti Sakowin ("Great Sioux Nation") Treaty Gathering, Bismarck, North Dakota, August 12, 2021, co-sponsored by the Sicangu Treaty Council, Oglala Lakota Nation, IITC and other partners.

CLIMATE CHANGE

IITC considers the Climate Crisis to be an urgent threat with impacts that cut across all other program areas. IITC works with grass-roots Indigenous Peoples to support projects based on Indigenous knowledge and practices and also ensures that the rights and knowledge of Indigenous Peoples are and respected in national and global climate action. **To learn more:**

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

- IITC continued to coordinate an alliance of traditional Indigenous food producers in Arizona, New Mexico and Sonora Mexico to rematriate and share drought resistant original seeds and methods, rebuild resiliency and affirm seed sovereignty in response to climate change.
- IITC was the Indigenous Peoples' focal point in a coalition of organizations and States which achieved the adoption of a new UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change by the UN Human Rights Council on October 8, 2021.
- IITC continued to highlight the vital role of Indigenous Peoples' knowledge, practices and rights in global climate action. IITC's Executive Director Andrea Carmen continued to serve as a member of the UNFCCC Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform's Facilitative Working Group (FWG) and was its co-chair from September 2020 – May 2021. IITC credentialed 12 Indigenous delegates, including 6 youth, to participate in the 26th Conference of the Parties (COP 26) in Glasgow, Scotland and helped to organize the historic participation of 28 Indigenous knowledge holders from 7 regions, including Chris Honahnie, a young traditional Hopi farmer who serves as IITC's Food Sovereignty Program Co-Coordinator.

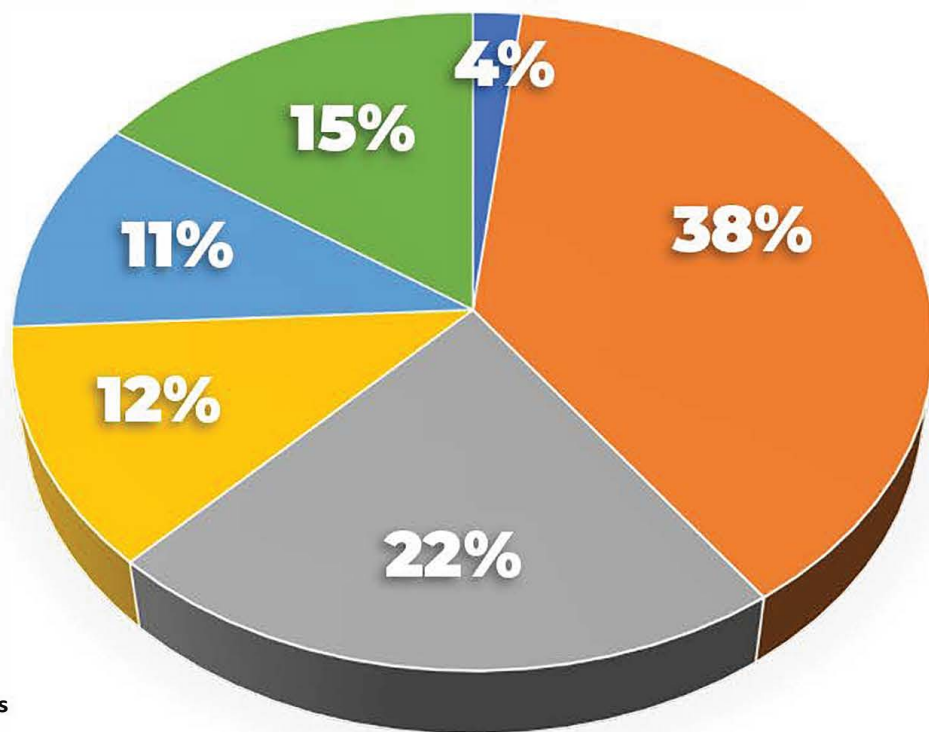


Indigenous knowledge holders and FWG Indigenous members at COP 26

2021 FISCAL REPORT

Despite continuing challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic, IITC's financial situation remained strong in 2021. IITC received income totaling **\$975,858.04**, including in-kind contributions for travel, legal consultation, events costs, communications services, and PPE supplies which were distributed to Tribes and communities. This amount also included 5 passthrough grants used to support Indigenous grassroots COVID-relief/Food Sovereignty projects. IITC's total expenditures in 2021 were **\$744,422.32**, leaving a net amount of \$268,165.72 at the end of year to carry over into 2022. This included grant funds received for the 47th Anniversary Treaty Conference and the 5th International Indigenous Peoples Corn Conference that had to be postponed until 2022 due to the pandemic. As in previous years, IITC kept its expenditures for administration, management and fundraising to under 21% of the total.

2021 INCOME BY PROGRAM



- Food Sovereignty
- Treaties & Standard Setting
- General Support/Unrestricted
- Human Rights
- Environmental Health
- Offices/Administration/Communications

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 2021:

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| AgroEcology Fund | The 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 | Arizona Commission on the Arts |
| NoVo Foundation | Pascua Yaqui Tribe | San Francisco Arts Commission |
| One Fire Associates | Desert Diamond Casinos | |
| Women's Foundation of California | Consumers for Dental Choice | |

IITC also thanks the **162** individual donors whose support was very much appreciated in 2021.



In October the Board of Directors Executive Committee met at IITC's Tucson Office to finalize the new 5-year strategic plan adopted by the full Board in January 2022. Shown are Executive Committee members Ron Lameman, Saul Vicente Vasquez and Tai Pelli; IITC Executive Director Andrea Carmen; Office staff Chris Honahnie and Armando Alvarez; interpreters Rebecca Knight and Jimi Clark; and Francisco Cali Tzay, UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples who was visiting the office. Not shown are Executive Committee members Hinewirangi Kohu and Lenny Foster who participated virtually.



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” Kanahale**, 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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