

presentations included an Ohlone Welcome, the Kumeyaay Bird Singers, Hawaiian chants, All Nations Drum, Round Valley, Pow wow, Aztec and other Indigenous dancers. IITC was very honored to host the Aljuthoor Palestinian Dancers at the November Gathering as an expression of our decades-long solidarity with the Palestinian People and our support for the human rights of the residents of Gaza at this critical time.

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 supporters, friends and allies. Your solidarity and generosity helped us to make IITC's work successful in 2023. As we move into our 50th Anniversary year in 2024, and prepare for our 50th Anniversary Treaty Conference to be held in our birthplace at Standing Rock, South Dakota, we can look back at our history of work and accomplishments and look ahead to building our movement for the rights of Indigenous Peoples into the future.

We have experienced some sad losses, including our Board Vice President Hinewirangi Kohu who made her journey to her ancestors on February 15th, 2023. We also continue to face urgent and growing threats including the climate crisis and continuing violations of our rights in many places. Nevertheless, we remain committed and even more determined to continue our work in support of Indigenous Peoples' struggles to defend their lands, Treaties, environmental health, food systems, climate justice and ways of life.

Moving forward, we welcome Radley Davis, Pit River Nation, California, who was selected by our Board of Directors in February 2023 to serve as our Vice President and the new members of our team, including dynamic youth advocates, who are making a strong and positive impact in the world arena. I want to personally thank and congratulate our staff, Board members and affiliates for their continued hard work and dedication on behalf of our Peoples, Mother Earth and the coming generations.

It continues to be an honor for IITC to serve our Peoples. Ay Hy,



IITC Board President Ron Lameman addressed the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues on April 19th, 2023 expressing appreciation for the visit to Canada by the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Francisco Cali Tzay and continuing support of Treaty Rights.

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

IITC WELCOMED 7 GREAT NEW STAFF MEMBERS IN 2023:



IITC youth representatives and Food Sovereignty Program Team members Onelin Masardule (Kuna, Panama) and Taily Terena (Terena, Brazil) at a COP 28 Indigenous Youth event, Dubai, December 5th.



Ruth Anna Buffalo, Mandan/Hidatsa/Arikara, Human Rights Program Advocate, presenting a statement on continuing impacts of US Boarding Schools at the UN Expert Mechanism on the Rights on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in Geneva Switzerland on July 17th.



Billi Jo Beheler, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, IITC Special Projects Consultant, at the Oceti Sakowin Treaty gathering in Rapid City South Dakota, December 13th.



Jose Rafael Rivera, Yaqui Nation, Administrative Assistant, on his first day of work in IITC's Tucson office, August 22nd.



Ghazali Ohorella, Maluku, Human Rights Legal Consultant, moderating IITC's COP 28 side event on Indigenous Fisheries and Climate Change, December 3rd.



Marina Hernandez, Yaqui Nation, joined IITC in September as Administrative and Programs Assistant in the new San Francisco Office.



Dolores "Tulio"
Gonzales Buitimea,
Vicam Pueblo,
Yaqui Nation,
Sonora Mexico,
joined IITC's Food
Sovereignty
Program team in
February.



IITC Strategic Planning staff meeting, October 10-12, 2023, Thunder Valley Casino and Resort, United Auburn Indian Community, Lincoln California.

IITC OFFICES

In 2023, 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). IITC was excited to move our San Francisco Office back to Folsom Street in the Mission District, the "American Indian Cultural District" in June 2023.



IITC's new San Fransico Office on Folsom Street.





(Above) IITC's Tucson Office hosted the launch of a Collaborative Research Project on "Protected Areas and the Rights of Indigenous Peoples" on February 14th.

(Left) On December 21st The IITC and CONAVIGUA office hosted a strategy meeting during the Indigenous Peoples mobilization against corruption and for democracy.

For a full list of IITC Board and Staff members: https://www.iitc.org/about-iitc/who-we-are/

IITC PROGRAM ACTIVITIES IN 2023

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 2023, IITC continued to build participation of Indigenous Peoples, with a special focus on women and youth, providing 79 credentials for Indigenous delegates' participation in 32 UN sessions and fora. This also included advance training and on-site mentorship for new delegates, with a focus on youth, to support their ability to effectively present their concerns and advocate for the rights of their Peoples to share their expertise, defend their rights and have input in the development of new standards and policies.

IITC also hosted or co-hosted with grass roots and international partners and affiliates, 29 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 some of our virtual events and webinars were posted on IITC's YouTube Channel: https://www.youtube.com/@internationalindiantreatyc5538

In 2023, IITC's online information-sharing and electronic dissemination network reached over 80,000 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 14 urgent updates, reports and press releases, highlighting urgent human rights concerns, important outcomes and opportunities for participation.

IITC's work was carried out under four primary Program Areas: Defending Human Rights, Food Sovereignty, Environmental Health, and Treaties and Standard Setting. Following are examples and highlights of IITC's work under each Program Area in 2023.



Youth and Elders solidarity at the closing moments of the UN Minamata Convention COP 5: IITC youth delegate Taily Terena, Brazil with Maria Carcamo, elder from the International Pollutants Elimination Network, Uruguay, November 3rd, photo credit: IISD/ENB.

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 2023, IITC submitted urgent actions, interventions and human rights filings to various 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 Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation, Cultural Rights, Freedom of Religion and Belief, and Human Rights Defenders, as well as 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 Human Rights Committee for the Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR).



IITC Human Rights and Biodiversity Coordinator Juan Leon Alvarado discussed strategies with Mayan Traditional Authorities outside the office of the Public Prosecutor during the National Mayan Peoples' Mobilization for Democracy in Guatemala, October 27th. IITC provided political and material support to the Mayan Traditional Authorities throughout the 106-day National Mobilization which began on October 2nd, 2023, and resulted in a renewed leadership role and program of work for Indigenous Peoples' participation in the new Guatemalan government.



On December 15th, 2023, IITC Communications Coordinator Roberto Borrero represented IITC at UN Headquarters in New York where the UN Secretary General presented the UN Human Rights Prize to a Global Coalition, including IITC, which successfully advocated for adoption of 2022 UN General Assembly Resolution recognizing the universal human right to a clean, health and sustainable environment. The UN Human Rights Prize is awarded every 5 years.



IITC representatives June Lorenzo, Laguna Pueblo/
Diné and Chickaloon Village Chief Gary Harrison,
Alaska, join other Indigenous representatives at the
review of the United States by the United Nations
Human Rights Committee, Palais de Nations,
Geneva, October 27th. IITC's submissions
addressed the US government's failure to uphold
the International Covenant on the Civil and
Political Rights including in the areas of Treaty
Rights, Indigenous political prisoners and human
rights defenders, Rights of Women and Children,
protection of sacred sites and cultural rights, and
violations of self-determination and Free Prior and
Informed Consent.

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:



IITC coordinated Indigenous Peoples participation in the UN Water Conference March 22-24 in New York and credentialed 12 Indigenous delegates including youth, from the US, Canada, Mexico, Guatemala and Panama including youth. IITC also coordinated and co-sponsored an Indigenous Peoples Pre-Summit, March 20-21 working with a global coalition of Indigenous Peoples attended by over 100 Indigenous representatives, UN experts and allies. The resulting Declaration was signed by 76 Indigenous organizations from all regions and was posted on the UN Water Conference and IITC webpages. It called for states to be held accountable for the impacts of extractive industries, chemical-based agriculture and the criminalization of Indigenous water defenders. It also highlighted the impacts of actions carried out in the name of sustainable development, biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation and the creation of "protected areas" which deny access to traditional sources of food and water. [Click here to see the full Indigenous Peoples Declaration for the UN Water Conference].



IITC Environmental Treaties
Coordinator Rochelle Diver and
Board member Lisa Bellanger
joined Chief Judy Wilson, Norma
Sactic and Saengrawee
Suweerakan in a dynamic panel
on Indigenous Women's Water
Knowledge at the Pre-Summit
for the UN Water Conference,
March 20th.

September 28th-30th in Shiprock New Mexico co-hosted by the Traditional Diné Farmers Association. It was attended by over 140 Indigenous traditional food producers, knowledge holders and food sovereignty rights activists from 7 countries including the US, Mexico, and Canada. Strategies to protect Indigenous food production, defend natural biodiversity and eco-systems in Indigenous Peoples' homelands and internationally were endorsed by consensus in the final Conference Declaration. Participants shared and exchanged seeds, knowledge and methods for restoring and protecting the resiliency of our food systems and defending our food sovereignty.



Yaqui and Diné farmers shared drought resistant seeds at the 6th International Indigenous Peoples Corn Conference to build resiliency to climate change, September 30th.



IITC Co-sponsored the 25th Annual "Corn and other Native Seeds Fair" with IITC affiliate Proyecto de Desarrollo Rural Integral Vicente Guerrero in Tlaxcala Mexico, March 11th -12th.

- On January 28th, June 17th and September 9th IITC hosted the 7th, 8th and 9th virtual meetings of the International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Food and Water Sovereignty. They focused on information and strategy-sharing to strengthen self-determined participation in UN bodies impacting our Food Systems and address common threats including climate change, agro-chemicals and loss of land, water and biodiversity. Participation grew to include over 400 Indigenous food producers, knowledge holders, youth, elders, and Food Sovereignty advocates from all regions.
- IITC continued to support Food Sovereignty projects on Indigenous Peoples lands based on original knowledge, seeds and practices to build resiliency, adapt to climate change and restore and strengthen food systems. In 2023 IITC provided pass-through grants, with support from the Agroecology Fund, for on-the ground-projects carried out by the United Confederation of Taino People on Boriken (Puerto Rico), the National Coordination of Guatemalan Widows (CONAVIGUA) in Guatemala, and the Kuna Youth Movement in Panama, as shown in the following photos:



Taino community member clearing land for UCTP Konuko (traditional garden) Project in Mayaguez, Boriken (Puerto Rico), September 16th.





(Above) Kuna Youth Movement members harvesting Yucca in the Niadip Community Farm, October 7th.

(Left) CONAVIGUA project participants transplanting seedlings for a community garden in Xecoxol Tecpán Guatemala, June 30th.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

IITC's Environmental Health Program carried out information-sharing, training, leadership-building and advocacy addressing the intergenerational health impacts of pesticides, persistent organic pollutants, mercury, extractive industries and other environmental toxics. The Program promote safe alternatives, challenges environmental violence, 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. The Program also focuses on building the capacity of Indigenous women to defend their reproductive health rights and advocate for their Peoples. To learn more:

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



Indigenous Women from North, Central, South America, Arctic and the Pacific gathered at Nisenan and Miwuk Indigenous territories (Lincoln, California) on March 27th-28th at the Indigenous Women's Roundtable on Mercury. They shared the causes of mercury contamination in their territories, including past and current gold mining, and the cumulative impacts on their traditional food- and eco-systems, cultures, health and development of babies and children. They also discussed strategies for solutions including reducing exposure sources, government and corporate clean-up of contaminated sites, and increased participation in the United Nations Minamata Convention on Mercury.

- IITC's delegation to the 5th Conference of the Parties to the Minamata Convention on Mercury, October 30th November 3rd, included three women from directly impacted Indigenous Peoples. Historic gains were made in the official outcomes including recognition of the disproportionate impacts on Indigenous territories due to gold mining and the severe health disparities among Indigenous women, girls and children as a direct result of mercury exposure.
- IITC continued to work with the UN Joint Meeting on Pesticides Management (JMPM) to implement its 2022 commitment to amend the International Code of Conduct on Pesticides to recognize the rights of Indigenous Peoples including the right to Free Prior and Informed Consent. On September 25th IITC submitted a groundbreaking Information Document as requested by the JMPM on Pesticides and Rights of Indigenous Peoples in support of this process. It contained testimonies and studies submitted by Indigenous Peoples in the US, Mexico, Guatemala, Argentina, Boriken (Puerto Rico) and Nigeria addressing the impacts on their human rights, intergenerational and reproductive health, food sovereignty, cultures, and biodiversity. To download: https://www.iitc.org/program-areas/environmental-health/#Pesticides

IITC continued our long-standing participation at the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) focusing in 2023 on ensuring that the unique, distinct, internationally recognized rights of Indigenous Peoples are implemented, protected and safeguarded in the implementation of the CBD's Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) adopted on December 19th, 2022.



IITC delegates with Saami Quechua and Haudenosaunee allies at the Convention on Biological Diversity Article 8j Workshop in Geneva November 13th.

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, fully participatory 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 addressed the US failure to uphold Treaty Rights and restated the need for a fully participatory redress process for Treaty violations in its October 2023 submission to the UN Human Rights Committee for its periodic review of US compliance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights resulting in an historic recommendation released on December 7th which called on the United States to "Take additional measures to honour the treaties that it has entered into with Indigenous Peoples and strengthen mechanisms for consultation with Indigenous Peoples on their implementation."



IITC co-sponsored the Oceti Sakowin (Seven Council Fires aka Great Sioux Nation) Treaty Gathering in Rapid City South Dakota December 12th-14th and provided updates on recent advances to defend Treaty rights at the United Nations. IITC Co-Founder, Board member and former IITC Board President Bill Means, was among the elders honored for his decades of work to defend Oceti Sakowin Treaty Rights by the Oglala Lakota Nation on December 12th.

In July, IITC joined Yaqui Cultural Leaders and Traditional Authorities from Sonora Mexico and Arizona, United States in celebrating the return of the Yaqui Maaso Kova (ceremonial deer head) from Sweden after 20 years of focused advocacy including by IITC at various UN bodies. IITC also continued to work for the creation of an international mechanism for repatriation of Indigenous Peoples' sacred items and human remains in accordance with Articles 11 and 12 of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. In September, IITC participated in drafting a UN Human Rights Council Resolution calling for "the development of a process and a mechanism to facilitate the international repatriation of Indigenous Peoples' cultural objects and human remains, in cooperation with Indigenous Peoples".



The Sacred Maaso Kova and other ceremonial items were finally returned from Sweden to the Yaqui Nation, Vicam Pueblo, Rio Yaqui, Mexico on July 12th.

CLIMATE CHANGE

IITC considers the Climate Crisis to be an existential, urgent threat that cuts across all other program areas. In 2023, IITC continued to support the responses and strategies of grassroots Indigenous Peoples to build resiliency and advocate for their rights and knowledge to be respected in national and global climate action. In 2023 this continued to include the effective participation of knowledge-holders, youth and delegates from North, Central, South America, the Arctic and Pacific at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change as well as building networks of Indigenous Peoples from all regions. For more information:

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

On December 3rd, during COP 28 in Dubai, IITC's Executive Director Andrea Carmen, Biodiversity and Human Rights Coordinator Juan Leon Alvarado and IITC Communications Coordinator Roberto Borrero joined a new international Indigenous Peoples Coordinating Body for a Summit to be held in 2024 on "Transition Minerals and Indigenous Peoples Just Transition". The Summit, planned for October 2024, will address violations of Indigenous Peoples' rights when mining of "transition minerals" such as lithium, cobalt, copper and nickel are approved and fast-tracked despite protests from the Peoples whose lands, waters, cultures and food systems will be negatively impacted. It will also promote the development of Indigenous Peoples' just transition strategies. IITC also co-hosted a side event on "Transition Minerals" on December 3rd at COP 28th to share the outcomes. Other IITC COP 28th side events focused on Loss and Damage, Human Rights and Indigenous Fisheries.



IITC COP 28 delegates from the North America, Latin America, and Pacific regions with UN Special Rapporteur on Climate Change and Human Rights Ian Fry and Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Francisco Cali Tzay in the Indigenous Peoples Pavilion before IITC's "Human Rights and Climate Change interactive Dialogue" side event on December 4th.



IITC youth delegates took at leadership role at COP 28 in launching a new Indigenous Youth Forum on Climate Change. Onelin Masardule is shown in this photo chairing a meeting of the Youth Forum in the Children and Youth Pavilion on December 4th.



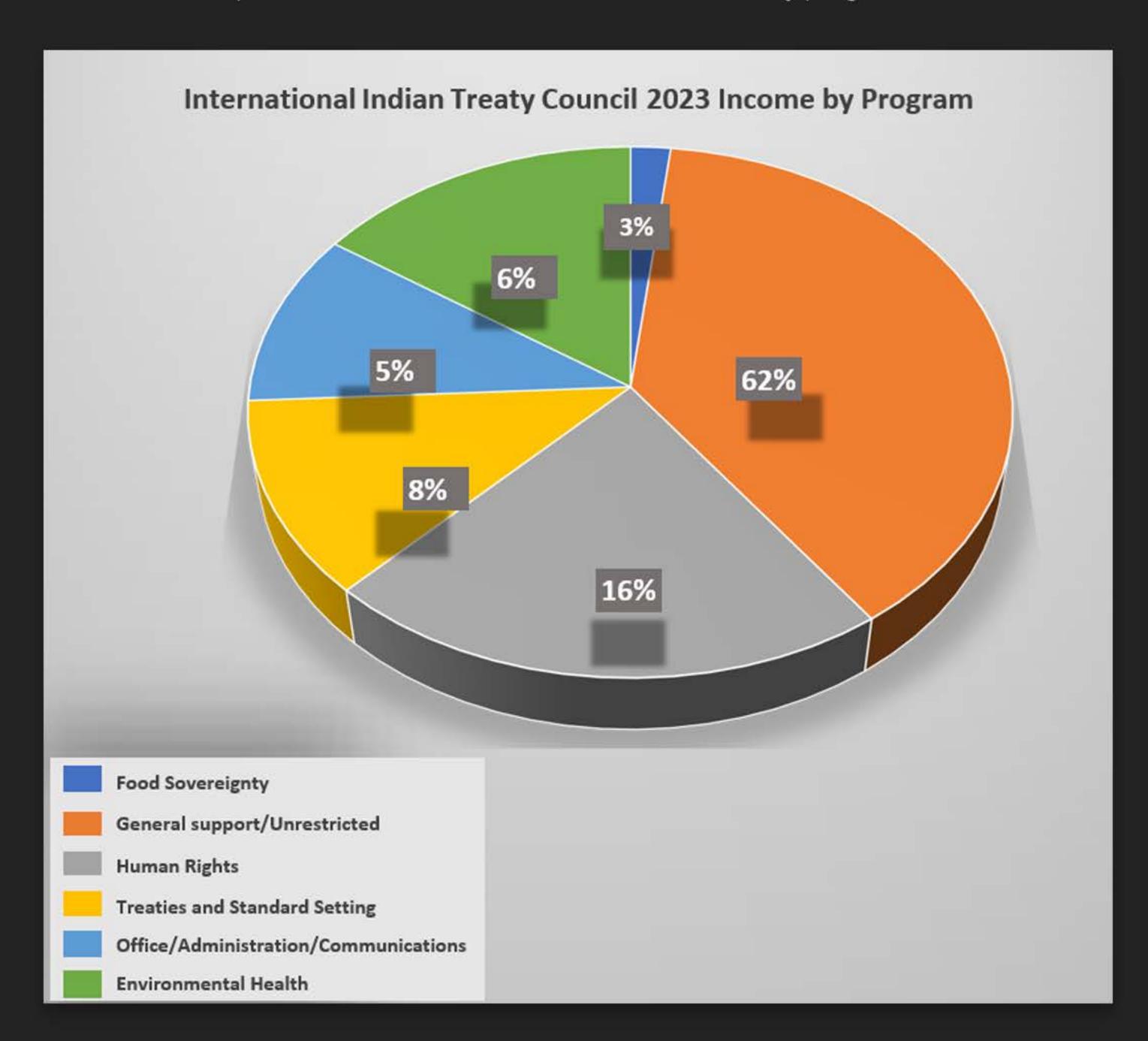


IITC knowledge holders at COP 28 presented Indigenous practices for eco- and food system restoration and climate resiliency, including water system restoration methods carried out by the Nation of Hawaii and practices to protect and maintain soil health used by Yaqui farmers in the Sonora Desert.

2023 FISCAL REPORT

In 2023, ITC received a total of \$2,346,705.63 from Foundations, Tribes, organizations, events and sales, and individual donors. In addition, ITC received \$93,324.68 in In-kind contributions for travel, events costs, communication and consultant services. This amount also included 6 passthrough grants used to support Indigenous grassroots Health, Cultural and Food Sovereignty projects. In addition, ITC's program work in key areas including Food Sovereignty and Protected Areas/Environmental Health, was sustained by grants that were carried over from 2022 and therefore were not included in the 2023 income. ITC's total expenditures in 2023 were \$1,625,512.26, leaving a net amount of \$735,139.41 at the end of year to carry over into 2024. As in previous years, ITC kept its expenditures for administration, management and fundraising to under 21% of the total.

The chart below provides the breakdown of IITC's 2023 income by program area.



THANK YOU!

IITC's staff, Board of Directors and affiliates express our sincere appreciation to the following foundations, Tribes, and organizations whose generous contributions made our work possible in 2023:

AgroEcology Fund

Bay and Paul Foundations

The Christensen Foundation

Groundswell Fund

Tides Foundation

Wilmington Trust

National Native American Boarding School Committee

Swift Foundation

San Francisco Arts
Commission

Assembly of First Nations

Center for Support of Indigenous Peoples

Marisla Foundation

Tucson Climate Action and Adaptation Committee

One Fire Associates LLC

NDN Collective

Pascua Yaqui Tribe

First Nations Development

Arizona Commission for the Arts

Asian Indigenous Peoples Pact

Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation

Indigenous Peoples of Africa Coordinating Committee

United Confederation of Taino
People

University of Arizona

San Francisco Grants for the Arts

Arts Foundation for Tucson and Southern Arizona

We also thank the 185 individual donors whose contributions helped to make our work possible, along with the organizations, consultants, professional service providers and UN agencies who provided much appreciated in-kind support for IITC's work in 2023.



In Remembrance: Hinewirangi Kohu

IITC thanks the Indigenous Peoples' movement and world community for their words of remembrance and condolence on the passing on February 15th, 2023, of IITC Vice President, Māori Nation elder and Knowledge Holder Hinewirangi Kohu Morgan. Her profound teachings and tireless work in support of women, children and Māori cultural teachings will always be remembered. Hinewirangi's affirmation that the "woman's womb is the first sacred site" inspired IITC's comprehensive work on Environmental Health through the Indigenous Women's Network on Reproductive and Intergenerational Health which continues to this day.



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, Beaver Lake Cree Nation, Alberta Canada, Treaties 1-11 · Tai Pelli, IITC Board Secretary/Treasurer, United Confederation of Taino People, Caribbean Region · Maria Celestina Balan, Centro de Proyectos para el Desarollo Intregral Indigena (CEPROD), Guatemala · Radley Davis, Pit River Nation, California · Rodney Factor, Seminole Nation, Oklahoma, Seminole Sovereignty Protection Initiative · Leonard Foster, Diné Nation, National Native American Prisoners' Rights Coalition, Arizona · William A. Means, Oglala Lakota Nation, Wicahpi 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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