

The Peoples of the World Foundation

Education for and about Indigenous Peoples

Annual Report 2016



Turrialba, Costa Rica. On an autumn night like this, in 2016, Isel Payán, an indigenous Cabécar woman, made a twelve-hour attempt to reach the town to seek medical attention. She died a few days later.

Indigenous Peoples: 2016 in Review

Honour Water is a computer singing game that features songs in the Anishinaabemowin language. It was released in 2016 following collaboration by Elizabeth LaPensée – an Anishinaabe educator. The game and the songs bring our attention to the importance of water as a giver of life. The timing could not have been more poignant: the Sioux of North Dakota also brought our attention to the importance of protecting water and, at the same time, to the reluctance of our mainstream media to cover the story.

Another little-covered story came from Central America when an indigenous, Honduran, Lenca woman, Berta Cáceres, was assassinated for trying to protect her people's land and resources.

A world away in northwestern Mongolia, a much younger woman – an indigenous, Kazakh teenager – showed us that even when the barrier is centuries of patriarchal tradition, girls can overcome that barrier and do anything that boys can do.

From Costa Rica we heard another story that garnered little mainstream media coverage. For the cost of clearing a road of a six-

month old landslide, an indigenous Cabécar woman paid with her life.

The Amazon Defense Coalition continued its legal battle against Chevron in a case that is fast becoming one of the most legally complex cases in history. The ADC announced a new film that will document the case.

Back in the United States, ancestral Paiute land in Oregon was invaded, and parts of that people's heritage destroyed amid neo-colonial bigotry. Back in Asia, the Rohingya people of Burma were, perhaps, the most persecuted of all indigenous people in 2016. Their situation spotlighted the increase in the number of forcibly displaced indigenous people as a result of persecution, war, natural disasters and other causes. As their numbers increase, our acceptance of these people seems to be decreasing.



A Young Ngäbe Girl, Panama, 2016.

Highlights

In 2016 we released our second feature-length documentary, *Peoples of the World: The Maya*. Our field assignments took us back to Central America where we continued our work in Panama and began working in Costa Rica. We added significantly to the content of our Web Portal and we supported indigenous education projects in Costa Rica.

Assignments

In 2016 we returned to Central America to work in Panama and Costa Rica. In Panama we worked with the Ngäbe people; in Costa Rica we worked with the Bribri and the Maleku peoples.

Web Portal

In 2016 we continued our “tic-tac-toe” development strategy for our Web portal. “Tic” involves keeping our portal up to date with information technology trends. “Tac” refers to the content on our portal. “Toe” is design — the user interface to, and user experience of, our Web portal.

Tic. We performed minor technology enhancements to parts of our Web portal, most of which were transparent to our visitors. This involved mainly updating page scripts to use more modern technology.

Tac. 2016 was a “tac” year. We continued to publish monthly opinion editorials about current, global events that affect indigenous people, with an accompanying photograph from our archives. Opinion editorials are published on the first day of each month and

are linked from our Web portal home page at:

<http://www.peoplesoftheworld.org/>

We also published our eighth, annual Indigenous Peoples Calendar. The calendar is available for free download from our Web portal at:

<http://www.peoplesoftheworld.org/calendar.jsp>

Each month the author updates their opinion editorial from twelve months prior, to include relevant news from the intervening time. It then becomes the story for that month's calendar page. Beginning the following year it is archived on our Web portal indefinitely.

We published photo-ethnographic articles about the Maleku, Toba and Poqomchi' peoples. They are available on our Web portal at:

<http://www.peoplesoftheworld.org/text?people=Maleku>

<http://www.peoplesoftheworld.org/text?people=Toba>

<http://www.peoplesoftheworld.org/text?people=Poqomchi'>



A Young Maleku Girl, Costa Rica, 2016.



A Toba Boy Playing Football, Argentina, 2015.



Poqomchi Maya People, Guatemala, 2013.

We released our second feature-length documentary, *Peoples of the World: The Maya* with English audio narration and Spanish subtitles. It is available for online streaming rental and purchase from our Web portal at:

<http://www.peoplesoftheworld.org/maya/>

We also made our first feature-length documentary, *Peoples of the World: Southeast Asia* available for online streaming rental and purchase. It is available from our Web portal at:

<http://www.peoplesoftheworld.org/sea/>

We published a new travel story: *On Being Indigenous*. It is available on our Web portal at:

<http://www.peoplesoftheworld.org/individuals/indigenous/>

Toe. We made minor design enhancements to some sections of our web site. These enhancements improved the user experience on mobile devices.

Social Networking

Throughout 2016 we continued to regularly update our Facebook page with announcements and news stories about, or affecting, indigenous people at:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Peoples-of-the-World-Foundation/243657765700765>

Resources

Our Web portal continued to help fulfill the second part of our mission — “education about indigenous peoples.” It was visited about as frequently in 2016 as in 2015.

The resources on our Web portal continued to be used extensively by Non-Governmental Organizations, non-profit and media organizations, journalists, students and educators around the world.

Programs

In 2016 we donated a total of \$300 under our *Institutional Education Grants* program to organizations in Costa Rica. These donations helped *Centro Ecológico Maleku Araraf* and *Asociación de Guías Turísticos Indígenas Bribri de Talamanca* to promote

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ecotourism-based educational programs that provide additional, sustainable income to their communities.

Finances¹

Donations in 2016 were down compared to 2015, falling by 22%.

Table 1 below shows a summary of our 2016 balance sheet (amounts are in US\$).

Income	500
Expenses	(730)
Balance	(230)

Table 1. 2016 balance sheet.

We acknowledge the contributions of our donors, our directors – who personally funded our operating costs – our advisors, interns and others who contributed their expertise, time, energy and resources in 2016.

Plans for 2017

2017 will be a “Toe” year. We will modernize the design of our Web portal, making it more responsive, dynamic and interactive. We will continue to add new content and we will complete the translation into Spanish of *Peoples of the World: Southeast Asia*.

Our current plan for 2017 is to begin new assignments in one or both of Central Asia and eastern Africa.

We will publish our ninth, annual *Indigenous Peoples Calendar*.

¹ Financial data appearing in this report have not been audited by a Certified Public Accountant.