

Grants Awarded in 2005

The Grants Facility for Indigenous Peoples supports the **aspirations of Indigenous Peoples** and aims to help fulfill a vital development need of Indigenous Peoples' communities. Through small grants, the Grants Facility supports projects that include Indigenous Peoples in development operations, improves their access to key decision-makers, empowers them to find solutions to the challenges they face, and promotes collaboration in the public and private spheres.

In its second year of operation (June 2004 – July 2005), the Grants Facility awarded 33 grants from 22 countries to organizations working with and supporting Indigenous Peoples. The total amount funded was \$488,000, with the average grant amount at \$14,800.

1. Comunidad Mapuche Lonko Puran, Argentina

✧ \$15,000

✧ Recuperando el Ixofijmogen - Biodiversity

For millennia, the Mapuche have lived in equilibrium with their environment. Now the environment that has supported them is under assault, they are suffering from material poverty, and their identity is under threat as alterations in the ecosystem erode the beliefs and practices that have sustained them. This biodiversity preservation project involves husbandry of an endangered bird sacred in Mapuche religious life and philosophy. The project will fund a farm in Neuquén, Argentina for the “choyke” (“ñandus petiso,” or small ostrich), to preserve a species that, due to habitat destruction, has been reduced by 70%. The preservation of this symbolic animal is not only a contribution to the protection of the planet's biodiversity, but will strengthen Mapuche cultural identity and provide economic income from the sale of products derived from the choyke and through cultural tourism. If successful, this project can be a model for other Mapuche communities who wish to replicate its success.

2. Indigenous Peoples Development Services, Bangladesh

✧ \$14,000

✧ Strengthening Indigenous Peoples Initiatives

Indigenous and tribal peoples in Bangladesh often lack access to information; they do not know when they are qualified for protection by international human rights instruments. This project will help Indigenous Peoples in Bangladesh to understand and communicate their rights and needs effectively to government, civil society, NGOs and international agencies, and promote action and advocacy on their behalf. It is hoped that as the wider society recognizes the legitimate aspirations of tribal people as a result of the project activities, the will to support indigenous communities will strengthen. The project, targeted directly to 10 communities in Greater Mymensingh district, will raise awareness through national media and other public education initiatives and events, and will also focus on organizing and legal support. Media campaigns, including coverage of

events such as International Mother Language Day and International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples, will be supplemented with publication of a journal on indigenous issues. Legal support will also be provided in specific cases of human rights violations. Also, about 20 women in the Garos matrilineal community will be given resources for traditional activities for income generation.

3. Rakhaing Development Foundation, Bangladesh

✧ \$10,000

✧ Promoting Rights for Rakhaing Indigenous People

Until 1794, the Rakhaing people enjoyed an abundant livelihood in their own kingdom in the area between present Bangladesh and Myanmar. However, eighty percent of them now live in extreme poverty, and the rest struggle to maintain adequate livelihoods. Opportunities for economic improvement are limited and due to their low social status, they face discrimination. This project is an effort to raise the spirits of the people. It will promote basic human rights and revitalize Rakhaing cultural heritage by encouraging the language among Rakhaing youth and educating the people about Rakhaing culture. The project will use teacher training for language classes, periodicals, and heritage documentation for curriculum development. Preservation of traditions and language, increased support and respect from government, and positive media coverage of cultural events will all serve to lift “depression and hopelessness.”

4. National Garifuna Council of Belize, Belize

✧ \$12,000

✧ Garifuna Dance Project

The Garifuna are a unique people in Central America who have triumphed over numerous challenges, from their inception as a community of escaped slaves to their current struggle to meet basic daily needs. Although Garifuna have been successful fishermen, farmers, and store owners, and sought jobs as nurses, teachers, and police, they have gradually been marginalized in those professions. Today, youth perform poorly in school, and the pride and energy required to pass on cultural heritage is often lost in the daily grind of survival. This project seeks to counter this malaise by tapping into the deep cultural resources of a people; reviving the Garifuna gifts of dance, drumming, and traditional dress. Belize has a thriving tourism sector, but until now Garifuna have not captured much market share, despite the richness and uniqueness of their cultural past and customs. The project culminates in a development plan for a cultural tourism product.

5. The Kamanakao Association, Botswana

- ✧ \$10,000

- ✧ My Culture, My Diamond: Empowering the community through cultural revival
The Wayeyi of Northwestern and Central Botswana have struggled to remain viable. This project provides the essentials that will create a window to economic and cultural revitalization. With basic infrastructure, Wayeyi women can reinstate production of traditional dance costumes, which are made from post-harvest sorghum refuse, wool, and beads and distributed to schools for use in traditional dancing. This project will fund transportation for the raw materials for the costumes, and will just as importantly fund a small hall to serve as a workspace, storage area, and commercial clearinghouse. In addition, local farmers will be able to bring their wares to be resold in bulk to schools. It is anticipated that the multi-use cultural center will represent an exciting and significant strengthening of Wayeyi empowerment and cultural survival.

6. News Agency for Publicizing the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Brazil

- ✧ \$25,000

- ✧ Reporting News on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

There is an urgent need for accurate representation of the stories, rights, and needs of the marginalized indigenous communities in Brazil, which have been reduced from about 5 million persons in the year 1500 to 400,000 today. A website maintained by a full time journalist and an aggressive outreach to national media outlets is this organization's energetic response to this need. The project builds on the informal momentum already evident among indigenous community leaders and will have Indigenous leaders serving on the Board. The effect will be to significantly raise the profile of indigenous issues, holding the government accountable to its promises and advocating for improved policy. The business model the project will follow is based on the previously successful 1992 "ANDI" (News Agency for Children Rights), which includes an independent financial monitoring system.

7. Association of the Indigenous Peoples of Oiapoque, Brazil

- ✧ \$10,000

- ✧ Establishment of The History and Traditional Research Center of the Indigenous Peoples of Oiapoque

Rapid changes are overtaking the northern region of Amapa in Brazil, including superhighways, power lines, pay phones, TVs, construction which disregards traditional architecture styles, and a population surge. The environmental and social impacts are threatening traditional knowledge and culture. No physical space for meetings, trainings and research exists to consolidate and support the various teaching and preservation efforts underway. But this project will establish a "History and Traditional Research Center of the Indigenous Peoples of Oiapoque," housed in an existing historic building: "Chief Coco's House," built in the 1940s. Indigenous leader Manuel Primo dos Santos, known as Coco, built the house, which served as a store and school, and a village quickly grew up around it

that served as the cultural center for the region. Indigenous leaders emphasize that the house is a symbolic mooring point for community identity, and its significance goes beyond mere utilitarian space. Rather, the house provides a rich cultural background to the workshops on history and environmental planning that the grant will also support. The workshops aim to document local knowledge of history and place, using existing anthropological research and satellite images as working material. The results will support strategic planning activities and materials developed for use in schools. The community members will volunteer labor for the renovation and assess the project performance.

8. Tin Hinan, Burkina Faso

✧ \$18,000

✧ Promoting Human Rights in the Oudalan Region and Constructing Effective Citizenship for the Indigenous Communities of the Region

The nomadic, semi-nomadic and sedentary traditional Touareg people are socio-economically and politically marginalized. They are uninformed about the democratic process and their rights as citizens; in urban areas they are relegated to the poorest quarters. Through diffusion of information and organized dialogues, Tin Hinan's project will cultivate a sensibility on the part of the authorities at various levels, and within the indigenous community, regarding human rights, and will encourage the revival of traditional methods for conflict resolution and problem-solving. This work builds upon previous empowerment projects. Tin Hinan has conducted trainings for 20 women in management and marketing, and supported the promotion of their products. Tin Hinan has also undertaken trainings in literacy and use of technology and in sensitization to the necessity of educating children, especially girls.

9. We Unite for the Promotion of the Batwa People, Burundi

✧ \$10,000

✧ Census of the Batwa Population of Burundi

In order to devise a development strategy for all the Batwa people of Burundi, the project will conduct a national census that will gather socio-economic and demographic information on the Batwa. It will just as importantly survey the Batwa on their aspirations and their views on the various problems that face them: loss of arable land, lack of education for their children, malnutrition and associated complications, ignorance of their human rights, and lack of knowledge regarding the prevention of HIV/AIDS.

10. Ratanakiri Natural Resource Management Network in association with Community Forestry International, Cambodia

✧ \$22,000

✧ Land Rights Information through Local Language and Media

Various forms of trickery have been used to contravene legal protections of indigenous land rights in the Cambodian province of Ratanakiri, in some cases turning the people into indentured servants on their own confiscated land. They may be told, for example, that they have no choice but to accept token payments,

as the land will otherwise be claimed anyway, or sale documents may be presented as “development project” documents for signature. These methods often exploit the fact that only ten percent of the indigenous people are literate. Several communities are already entirely landless and others are suffering hunger due to loss of arable land. The process has accelerated recently with the planning of a major road that will make the province a major route from Vietnam to Cambodia and Thailand. A network of community-based natural resource management committees has been created and has had some success in obtaining further legal protections, at least on paper. Because grassroots knowledge of the law is a key to wider enforcement, this new project seeks to reduce or eliminate the loss of land through strengthening this network’s internal communications capacity. The grant will go toward development of materials and for their dissemination throughout the network. It will also build the capacity of Indigenous community people in the techniques involved in educational media production.

11. Mbororo Social and Cultural Development Association of Cameroon, Cameroon

✧ \$10,000

✧ Project for the Creation of a Local Center for the Preservation of Endangered Plant Species

Plants with powerful medicinal properties, once plentiful on the savannah, are disappearing rapidly. These irreversible losses and the pace of change are reflected in this statement from the project proposal: “Every old man who dies in the community, departs with all his knowledge.” The project is designed to preserve the renowned Mbororo expertise on plant use, as well as to support sustainable development of the Mbororo people, through reinforcing their capacity to use and protect their environmental resources. Some traditional cattle-herding practices could be modified in order to take account of current environmental shifts and impacts, for example. A methodology for preserving Mbororo plant knowledge in a directory will be rapidly developed and the knowledge will be safeguarded within the community through systematic documentation, supported by establishment of a research and exchange center. The center will also be a botanical preserve for endangered plant species. This pharmacological base could serve as a possible future source of income generation for the Mbororo people as similar resources continue to be depleted globally and increase the value of medicinal plant repositories.

12. Warranka Indigenous legal Association with FLACSO-Chile, Chile

✧ \$10,000

✧ Inform the Nation about the Situation and Condition of Chile's Urban Indigenous People: Report on the "First Continental Meeting of Latin American/Caribbean Urbanized Indigenous People"

No one knows the settlement patterns of urbanized indigenous people in Chile, and their own perceptions of their life situations are likewise a mystery. How are they maintaining their ethnic identity? Is the transition to urban areas difficult? Are their basic needs satisfied? The purpose of this project is to develop a National Report on the situation and condition of urban indigenous peoples in Chile in order to improve the participation of indigenous representatives and organizations in the "First Continental Meeting of Latin American/Caribbean Urbanized Indigenous People." The data obtained in the project will be available for advocacy initiatives to benefit the indigenous community. By providing solid, publicly available numerical data, it may be easier for indigenous communities to obtain services, political representation, and other recognitions.

13. Artesan Workshop, Chile

✧ \$10,000

✧ Through Loom Weaving, We Rediscover Our Roots

The project attempts to salvage and preserve the Mapuche culture, specifically with regards to loom weaving, a craft that is in danger of disappearing. The activities of this project will help revive part of the Mapuche cultural heritage, foster group cohesion, provide income-generation, and invest in schoolchildren. Specifically, project funds will go towards setting up a shop with ten looms and three sewing machines, wool, traditional garb, consultation with an indigenous expert weaver for quality control, local demonstrations and workshops in schools, and transport to a crafts fair in the capital city.

14. Center for Mountainous Area Development, China

✧ \$17,000

✧ Project for exploitation and utilization of non-timber forest products of Tujia farmers

The Chinese government has taken stringent measures to enforce environmental protection of forests and the indigenous Tujia of Hefeng County, who have made their livelihood from harvesting wood and herbs from the forest, have seen their income decline precipitously. This project will begin with education throughout Hefeng regarding the restrictions. A single village will be chosen based on survey data, from which 30 demonstration households will be selected and provided with crop seed. Technical training in cultivation of efficient and diversified crops will be provided to technicians and farmers. Tujia will be provided with fruit tree seedlings for replanting denuded slopes, and with guidance for planting medicinal herbs, fungi and grasses and for sustainably harvesting the rattan and bamboo used for traditional handicrafts. An association will be established, elected by the villagers, for the protection and use of forest resources. Local enterprise will be encouraged to purchase non-timber forest products. With these measures for

introducing new norms and methods, it is hoped that environmental preservation will become a community value and the focus of the local economy will shift, without a harsh cost to the indigenous people who have depended on timber extraction for income.

15. China Association of Ethnic Economy, China

✧ \$20,000

✧ Popularize HIV/AIDS Knowledge in Ethnic Minority Languages

Indigenous communities are being devastated by the spread of HIV and the economic and social problems it triggers. Although minorities make up just 8.4% of the entire Chinese population, they account for more than 36% of those who are HIV-positive. This project accepts the claim that systematic education is the best tool in preventing the spread of HIV and destigmatizing the illness, but notes that educational materials do not exist in minority languages. Project funds will thus be used to collect, sort, and edit HIV prevention materials and translate them into five minority languages: Uygour, Kazak, Mongolia, Tibetan, and Korean. Funds will also cover the production and dissemination of print and visual media, as well as publicity events, trainings, and lectures on preventing the spread of HIV.

16. Zio-A'I Foundation; Union of Wisdom, Colombia

✧ \$15,000

✧ Revitalization of an Endangered Language: Teaching Cofan grammar through the fifth grade

This project is designed to prevent the extinction of the language of the Siona and Cofa people, who live in the south of Colombia in the Department of Putumayo. It aims to strengthen the cultural identity and traditional norms of the Cofan community. The project will train teachers and parents through workshops and develop materials based on digitized information. It will reach 11 schools and 309 students and will involve 22 traditional authorities. It will also result in a lasting set of materials for ongoing use in continuing language instruction. The implementing organization was formed in 1985 by the indigenous traditional medicine men.

17. Tapurucuara Querarí-Vaupès, Colombia

✧ \$10,000

✧ Recuperation and Conservation of the Dances of the Carrizo, Yapurutu and Mavaco Peoples

The Tapurucuara community lives along the Querarí River in the northern section of the Vaupés Department in the Indigenous Reserve of Vaupes and consists of 488 inhabitants, mostly Cubeo, Curripaco, Desano and Yurema. The traditional dances of these peoples are under attack by evangelical sects who consider them “the work of the devil.” This project will provide support to the cultural dignity of these groups by beginning a dance school to revive three important dances.

18. Organización de Mujeres de la Unión de Organizaciones Indígenas del Cantón Suscal, Ecuador
- ✧ \$10,000
 - ✧ Formation of Social Leadership and Development of the Indigenous Women of Suscal
- This project builds upon and supports a thriving process of self-empowerment in Suscal. At a regional indigenous meeting in Aug 2004, the membership of the women's group UNOICS determined to implement a community development process in each of its affiliated communities that would educate three women on themes relevant to organizing and community leadership so that they could spearhead economic and social development in their own communities. The deepening of membership and activities will strengthen the UNOICS network and political visibility for further work.
19. Network of Indigenous Women of the Northern Region of Pichincha, Ecuador
- ✧ \$15,000
 - ✧ Kichwa Warmi Makikuna: Weaving Our Identity
- After centuries of exploitation, discrimination, social marginalization and repression, groups such as the Kichwa long for a livelihood that can sustain family and cultural life. The project takes into account dilemmas at all levels – economic, social and political – recognizing that they are inextricably entwined. It thus aims to protect both the physical and cultural survival of 54 Kichwa families in 11 communities in Northern Ecuador by supporting the production and marketing of traditional arts and empowering the artisan network with leadership training.
20. National Council of Indigenous Lenca Women of Honduras, Honduras
- ✧ \$15,000
 - ✧ Strengthening of capacities and leadership for the political and economic advocacy at the local level with a gender perspective
- The project seeks to build local and institutional capacities, particularly among 1,200 women engaged in the National Council. It will give them knowledge of their rights, leadership and political participation and alliance-building training, and skills in contextual analysis of poverty and violence against women, as well as cover women's participation in markets and commercialization.
21. Association for the Development and Solidarity of the Moskitia, Honduras
- ✧ \$10,000
 - ✧ Assist with Production and Marketing of Honey in Wampusirpe
- The Moskitia region is extremely isolated and difficult to reach, which has contributed to an impoverishing lack of economic development. The region has virtually no trade based on sustainable use of resources, and the food that is imported is expensive. This project will establish small honey business in Wampusirpe, forming 11 families (66 people) in the community into a cooperative and providing them with materials and training. The project covers both production and marketing. At present, honey is harvested as it occurs naturally,

without cultivation. But the area is so rich in diverse plant species that it provides a perfect setting for production of a high quality honey.

22. Maasai Women for Education and Economic Development, Kenya

✧ \$25,000

✧ Establishment and Support for the Maasai Home Based Care Skills Support Centre
Since HIV/AIDS was first noticed in the Narok district in 1990, it has claimed more than 100,000 lives. Community workers with home-based care skills do not have access to gloves or other materials. The single regional hospital is given over 80% to HIV occupancy and birth attendants are untrained in preventing mother to child transmission. This project will begin with a situational analysis that involves all stakeholders and move forward to address these and other problems that the analysis reveals through such activities as training for birth attendants, destigmatization forums, voluntary counseling and testing facilities, and provision of gloves and other necessary materials. The implementing agency has set measurable outcomes on indices such as halting of female genital mutilation, HIV/AIDS prevalence, and reduced patient and infant mortality.

23. The Nyae Nyae Conservancy, Namibia

✧ \$25,000

✧ Water, Food and Stability in the Nyae Nyae Area: Preserving the social fabric
In pursuit of a better life, the Ju/'hoansi left Nyae Nyae and moved into a settlement scheme constructed by the South African government. As Toma, a prominent Ju/'hoansi explained, "We wanted foods that made us strong. We wanted clothes like other people. We wanted to have things, own things. Just that." The settlement seemed to offer a way into the larger world without being massacred or enslaved. Life there, however, was full of hunger, unemployment, alcohol and violence. In 1980's the Ju/'hoansi left the settlement and returned to earn a livelihood on their traditional land with a mix of farming, hunting and gathering, wage labor and the sale of crafts. A full return to the hunting and gathering lifestyle was not possible because the best of their land had been taken, and their youth had not learned the necessary skills while in the settlement. At first the return seemed successful, but after a decade, most farming efforts collapsed due to elephant damage. The purpose of this project is to secure the infrastructure and subsistence economy necessary to build stable self-sufficient communities. The proposed project will protect the water infrastructure of two large villages against elephant damage and support the planting and maintenance of village gardens in protected areas. These efforts will be conducted in harmony with the traditions of the Ju/'hoansi; as cooperative and communally shared spaces.

24. Himalayan Indigenous Women Network, Nepal

✧ \$10,000

✧ Capacity-Building Program for Himalayan Indigenous Women of Nepal

Although the country of Nepal has enjoyed income from tourism, promoted in part through showcasing indigenous women in traditional dress, indigenous women have not been the beneficiaries of this income. Most development groups have focused their efforts on the lowlands, and the women of the Himalayas have been relatively neglected. Literacy rates are extremely low, and their participation in government and development is limited. Very little is understood about the needs and customs of Himalayan women, and they themselves do not have a grasp of the rights due them. This project will support an increased awareness among indigenous women of their situations as individuals and as a group by bringing them together from all parts of Nepal. This networking and exchange of information and experiences will provide the basis for raising a platform for addressing the issues most important to them. The women who are trained in indigenous rights will in turn train other women in their community. Programs for awareness-raising, such as street drama, posters and pamphlets on indigenous rights will supplement the establishment of an office and a district level workshop. Three profiles of indigenous women will be developed to bring attention to the realities of everyday life for indigenous women and their resilience in successfully meeting the challenges of their lives.

25. Nepal Federation of Indigenous Nationalities, Nepal

✧ \$30,000

✧ Insurgency and Displacement of Indigenous Peoples in Nepal

At the restoration of democracy in Nepal in 1991, hope for a society governed by the rule of law and participatory decision-making was high. Unfortunately this made the disappointment all the sharper when corruption and exploitation continued to broaden the gap between rich and poor and human needs were not fulfilled. Thousands of people have been displaced in the civil conflict – estimates range from 30,000 to 200,000. Indigenous people are thought to be one of the hardest groups hit – caught between the demands and violence of conflicting parties. The origins, destinations and cultures of the displaced are various, with no single distinguishing characteristic other than that of being displaced, and often socially marginalized and economically hurting in the new location. Children are often badly affected. At first the scope of the problem was ignored and passed off as seasonal migration and urbanization. But within a decade of the start of the conflict, the crisis reached undeniable proportions. This project hopes to obtain accurate data about the demographics of the problem – how have indigenous people been affected by displacement? Who and where are they now and what are their needs? Without this information, advocacy for redress cannot succeed.

26. Ngäbe-Buglé Orientation and Basic Development Center, Panama
- ✦ \$17,000
 - ✦ Congreso Nacional de Medicina Indígena
- This project fills a gap in connection by supporting a larger conversation about the value and content of indigenous knowledge of medicinal plants. By bringing together 30 practitioners of indigenous traditional medicine from the 7 indigenous groups in Panama, producing a paper to capture knowledge for future generations, and continuing dialogue between indigenous and non-indigenous doctors and healers, the project hopes to contribute to cohesive society that benefits from the knowledge of all its citizens and to raise the status and respect that accrues to indigenous knowledge. The CODEI proposes to hold two months of preliminary activities culminating in an Indigenous Medicine National Congress in the Kuerima community, in the Ngöbe-Buglé comarca.
27. Institute for the Basic Development of Kuna Yala (IDIKY), Panama
- ✦ \$20,000
 - ✦ Empowering Kuna Women to Implement the Legal Protections Afforded Mola Art
- Kuna art is being illegally used by businesses and intermediaries, and the artists themselves are not seeing a fair portion of the profits. Although the Kuna people pressed to have a law put in place to protect the use of their cultural products, its enforcement is ineffective because it is not known among the indigenous artists. This project will educate artists about trademarking their products and insisting on their rights. The implementing institution belongs to the Kuna General Congress (Kuna people's highest authority), which includes 49 communities.
28. Partners With Melanesians (PWM), Papua New Guinea
- ✦ \$10,000
 - ✦ Community Boundary Mapping
- The Melanesian peoples still practicing subsistence economies in the biologically rich tropical forest lands are being critically threatened by the pace of industrial logging, which puts short term profits for local elites above sustainability. One community obtained a court injunction in 1999 to protect the plateau area where they lived, which is rich in biodiversity and the sole home to the world's largest butterfly. But the plateau is in imminent danger again as the timber industry has moved to strengthen its political grip and to influence development policies that violate the environment and erode human rights. The community boundary mapping project aims to delineate the entire boundary of the Managalas Plateau through the use of Geographic Information System and other computer-based mapping applications. This will involve clan group members in the community who have already been trained and have begun the project, which is stalled due to harsh weather conditions and other obstacles. The hope is to have the entire mapped region declared a conservancy.

29. Porgera District Women's Association Inc., Papua New Guinea

✧ \$8,000

✧ Adult Literacy Schools

The project seeks to address illiteracy among the Ipili people through a literacy training program that will target 100 new literacy trainers. Components of the project include training of trainers, training of adult literacy teachers, and purchase of printing equipment. The project hopes to see 200 professional adult literacy teachers trained to teach in their own remote areas and to lower the incidence of illiteracy by 1000 people. It is also envisaged that young women will take on leading roles in their communities.

30. The Centre for the Support of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Russian Federation

✧ \$10,000

✧ Inter-Ethnic Tolerance; Invitation to a dialogue

With the vanishing of Soviet citizenship as an identity, all groups in Russian today are undergoing some form of identity shift. For the indigenous peoples of the North, this is especially pronounced. The implementing agency sees a real danger of fragmentation and nationalism; in the fertile soil of uncertainty and generational cleavage, xenophobic youth organizations inimical to tolerance take root and thrive. This project will help young people go beyond mere survival to become socialized into tolerance based on positive ethnic identity. Toleration seminars and study visits will result in a published manual for future use.

31. Association for Promotion of the Batwa, Rwanda

✧ \$20,000

✧ Traditional knowledge and natural resource management

The Batwa lived in Rwanda before other ethnic groups arrived, but were forced them to retreat from their traditional lands, deeper into the forests. More recently, these forests have been declared Protected Areas, making the traditional Batwa way of life literally illegal. About 65% of Batwa have been able to obtain some recognition; the remaining people are destitute; squatters on the land they once freely inhabited. The objectives of the project are to advocate for Batwa fundamental rights to socio-economic well being, sustain their traditional way of life, promote land protection and natural resource management, and improve the participation and empowerment of youth and women in poverty reduction. Specifically, a dance troupe will generate revenue, stem exodus of youth to urban areas, and promote cultural vitality. A pyramid training effort will inform Batwa of their rights and of ways to communicate their plight. Agricultural planting, co-managed with government agencies, will provide food security and possible income. Within this prong of the project, cultivation of traditional herbs will provide revenue and medical resources for the Batwa, who do not have access to modern treatments.

32. Griqua Ratelgat Development Trust, South Africa

✧ \$10,000

✧ Development, Preservation and Promotion of Griqua Ratelgat Sacred Sites.

The Griqua community of Southern Africa is undergoing a revival, spurred by the preservation of sacred sites on a farm called Ratelgat in the Western Cape. The people believe that these developments fulfill prophecies made by respected leaders now buried there. The last component of this rejuvenation is the construction of an amphitheater for community cultural gatherings and events, religious services, and strengthening of ethno-tourism. Ratelgat is not simply an infrastructure project, but is part of a larger effort to develop the Griqua community and the broader communities of South Africa. The amphitheater will be a hub for the broadcast of cultural and educational values.

33. Terrawatu, Tanzania

✧ \$15,000

✧ Conservation of Maasai Traditional Medicine and Indigenous Healing

As the Maasai have adapted “new” lifestyles -- agro-pastoral, money-based, and based on Christian-centered beliefs -- they have seen a decline in the specialized medicinal knowledge that was once taken for granted among the majority of Maasai. Many young Maasai no longer know the names or uses of plants, and diversity of actual surviving plants has also declined. The implementing agency has a three-pillar approach to conservation: 1. Cultivation of indigenous species, 2. Establishment of traditional health clinics, and 3. Medicinal tea product development. The agency has already worked on conserving traditional Maasai medicinal plant species and establishing traditional medicine clinics staffed by Maasai traditional healers and their apprentices. This project will impact the physical preservation of biodiversity, the health of hundreds of people who benefit from the clinics and thousands of people who learn about and use Maasai teas, as well as impacting the economic well-being (through the sale of teas) of local communities.