



**Stand up for the Sacred**  
Sacred Air, Sacred Waters, Sacred Lands. Sacred Life!

**Defienda lo sagrado!**  
Aire Sagrado, Aguas sagradas, Tierras Sagradas, Vida Sagrada!

#Hopeisinthepople #unify  
#DefendersoftheLand  
Cultural Survival [www.culturalsurvival.org](http://www.culturalsurvival.org)

**2013-14**

Cultural Survival  
**BIENNIAL REPORT**

This report covers the period from January 1, 2013 to December 31, 2014 and financial information for September 1, 2012 to August 31, 2014.

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Cover: Cultural Survival Staff proudly marches at the People's Climate March in New York City on September 21, 2014. L-R: Rosy Gonzalez, Cesar Gomez and Suzanne Benally. Photo by Danielle DeLuca.

Right: 311,000 demonstrators attended the People's Climate March in New York City on September 21, 2014 demanding climate justice. Indigenous Peoples marched at the frontlines. Photo by Danielle DeLuca.





FOREFRONT OF CHANGE

COMMUNITIES FOR JUST TRANSITION

CLIMATE MARCH

WE WANT CLIMATE JUSTICE NOW

CRISIS

# A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



I'm very pleased to share with you in this biennial report Cultural Survival's 2013-14 progress to advocate for and serve Indigenous Peoples around the globe.

This work is deeply meaningful to me.

Growing up culturally, Diné (also known as Navajo) and Santa Clara Tewa, I consider my vocation to be a lifetime progression, an inter-generational process, and a web of experiences that shape commitment, passion, and advocacy. I draw inspiration every day from my great, great grandmother five generations back who made her way alone on foot from the Fort Sumner concentration camp in New Mexico to her Aboriginal homelands.

Her journey was one of taking back control that had been stripped from her (and her family and community) and finding a new life that allowed her to pass along her wisdom to the next generation – on her own terms.

Similarly, Cultural Survival's journey over the past two years has been one focused on empowerment while ensuring that Indigenous cultures are practiced and respected.

While Cultural Survival's 2013-14 activities are impressive, collectively and even more significantly, they represent a growing movement to ensure that Indigenous Peoples have a seat at the table. Cultural Survival is at the front lines of this work that actually has far-reaching ramifications.

Increasing development pressures by governments and multi-national corporations to exploit finite and sensitive Indigenous resources is making our efforts more urgent. An estimated 95 percent of the top 200 places on earth with the highest and most fragile biodiversity are located on Indigenous territories. When these lands are plundered for minerals, timber, farmland, oil, and other resources – as they routinely are – there are global implications for the future of our planet. Simply put, if these delicate resources are gone, we will face not only loss of cultures, languages and lifeways, but also changes to our own local environments.

Thankfully, Cultural Survival does not work alone. I am humbled by the dedication of our Board members, talented staff, Indigenous partners, allies in the nonprofit world and at government agencies, and donors who lend their time, expertise, networks, activism and financial support.

Together, and with friends like you by our side, we will continue to persevere until Indigenous communities secure the rights – human rights, the right to participate and have a voice, the right to practice their cultures and speak their languages, the right to access the same opportunities as others, and the right to control and sustainably manage their assets and resources – to which they are legally and morally entitled.

I offer my most sincere thanks to all who share our values, concerns and priorities and whose support will undoubtedly make a difference as we move forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Suzanne Benally". The signature is fluid and cursive.

**Suzanne Benally** (Navajo and Santa Clara Tewa)  
Executive Director

# 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.

# ADVOCACY PROGRAM

If Cultural Survival had not stepped in to investigate, stand up for us and our rights, and continue to fight for us, we would not be able to still exist. Cultural Survival is like our warrior for our entire tribe.”

**JOHN LENANYANGERRA, SAMBURU COMMUNITY LEADER, KENYA**

We have transitioned our former Global Response Program into a broader Advocacy Program that encompasses a range of advocacy actions. Cultural Survival’s advocacy work supports grassroots Indigenous movements as they put pressure on governments and corporations to protect, respect, and fulfill the rights of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to honor Indigenous Peoples rights-- to their lands, lives, cultures, and the right to determine for themselves the future they will lead.

Reports to international bodies, representation at international gatherings, advocacy campaigns, training

grassroots activists and communications supported Cultural Survival’s Advocacy Program.

During 2013-14, Cultural Survival published and submitted seven reports to the United Nations Human Rights Council during its Universal Periodic Review process of evaluating a country’s human rights performance. Our reports on Honduras, the Marshall Islands, Mongolia, Panama, Kenya, the United States, and Belize recommend improvements for respecting Indigenous rights.

Cultural Survival ensured that our organization and several Indigenous leaders were represented at international gatherings at the highest levels, including the:

- May 2013** **UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII)** in New York City, a two-week long event during which state representatives, UN officials, and Indigenous Peoples and their organizations meet to address themes and concerns that affect Indigenous Peoples. At the 2014 event, Cultural Survival hosted representatives from Indigenous communities in Peru, Guatemala, and Kenya who met with the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and other UN bodies;
- May 2014**
- June 2013** **World Conference of Indigenous Peoples** in Alta, Norway (coverage was picked up and featured by Native Public Media, a major Native American media network);
- Sept 2014** **World Conference on Indigenous Peoples** in New York City, with an Indigenous media team providing coverage and producing informational radio programs for dissemination to Indigenous community based radio stations worldwide;  
**International Funders for Indigenous Philanthropy’s World Summit** on Indigenous Philanthropy in New York City; and  
**People’s Climate March** in New York City attended by 311,000 people and 1,500 organizations making it the largest climate march in history.



Apu David Chino inspects the toxic waste left by Argentine company Pluspetrol Norte which operated petroleum extraction for over 43 years in his community of Nuevo Andoas on the Pastaza River in northern Peru. Photo by Danielle DeLuca.

Numerous advocacy campaigns, supported by Cultural Survival's online communications reaching international audiences, letter writing, site visits and bringing Indigenous leaders to international gatherings brought to light environmental damage, removal from Indigenous lands, and violations of Indigenous rights. While some victories have been won (for now), other fights are still in progress. Besides campaigns supporting efforts in Russia, Bangladesh, Cameroon, Peru, Kenya, Belize, Guatemala, and Ethiopia, others include:

*these harmful interests.*

- *Mayan leaders in **Peru** successfully holding off US Capital Energy, a Texas-based oil company, from initiating drilling on their lands. The group also successfully won Supreme Court appeal that re-affirmed the Maya people's rights to collective land ownership throughout southern Belize. They developed a thorough consultation framework defining procedures for gaining the Free, Prior, and Informed Consent of their communities for projects on their land, and U.S. Capital Energy has taken some steps toward respecting this process.*
- *The Iberá wetlands system in Corrientes, **Argentina** is one of the world's largest bodies of freshwater. The livelihoods of the Guaraní people have suffered from the elimination of biodiversity in more than half of the wetlands and devastated freshwater levels resulting from Harvard Management Company's investment in vast mono-crop pine and eucalyptus plantations. Efforts are underway to press Harvard University to divest itself of*
- *Quechua activists in the **Peruvian Amazon** who are fighting 40 years of corporate oil contamination of a delicate rainforest and Indigenous water systems. A Cultural Survival-produced video was featured on national news in Peru. We also facilitated meetings for Indigenous leaders with both current and former UN Special Rapporteurs. Today, the battle still wages to protect communities from an extension of the oil company's permits.*
- *In **British Columbia, Canada**, the Tsilhqo'tin Nation protected its sacred lake from turning into a toxic waste site when Canada's Federal Environment Minister put an end to a mining proposal. Since then, the Supreme Court of Canada issued a ruling giving land title to the Tsilhqot'in Nation, and the Tsilhqot'in have declared the area around Fish Lake as a tribal park for the use and enjoyment of the community.*
- *The Masaai people of **Kenya**, who have been forcibly evicted from their homes in the name of biothermal energy extraction, gained enough attention to receive visits from World Bank representatives and the UN Special Rapporteur on Indigenous Rights. Hopefully, these first steps will help to bring justice to the Masaai.*

An on-site training in Punta Gorda, Belize and a widely disseminated printed guide has spread the word to Indigenous communities on their right to Free, Prior, and Informed Consent. In addition, two workshops in Massachusetts trained representatives of New England Tribes on the process of the Universal Periodic Review and helped to contribute to the UPR report on the United States submitted by Cultural Survival.

Advocacy Program efforts (and all of Cultural Survival's programs) were complemented by Cultural Survival's communications program that includes an online presence (through our website and social media), mainstream media coverage, publications (including our award-winning Cultural Survival Quarterly), and e-newsletters. In these ways, Cultural Survival mobilized allies, brought international attention and pressured governments and corporations to respect the rights of Indigenous peoples, and provided a platform for Indigenous leaders to speak for themselves.



## COMMUNITY MEDIA

Strategizing in front of community radio station, Radio Xob'il Yol Qman Txun, in Todos Santos Cuchumantan, Guatemala.

*The goals are to empower the Indigenous Peoples of Guatemala to access and control information of importance to their rights and cultures, ensure that they have the ability to participate in the country's nascent democracy, promote their freedom of expression, and secure the right of Indigenous communities in Guatemala to own and operate community radio stations.*

40%

WOMEN



50%

YOUTH

2013-14 witnessed significant steps forward for the Community Media Program (previously called the Community Radio Program) overall, with some individual radio stations suffering from raids and persecution by the Guatemalan government.

Training events built the capacity of approximately 1,000 radio station personnel, community members and young people. An estimated 40% were women and 50% were youth. Trainings were offered through conferences and workshops hosted by Cultural Survival and others. A series of 24 exchanges between radio stations during 2013 and 2014 offered station personnel the opportunity to learn from one another, create bonds that continue to strengthen commitment to the community radio movement, and discuss approaches to protecting local environments and Indigenous self-sustainability. Three youth conferences in 2013 organized by Cultural Survival with three grassroots, Indigenous organizations from Belize, Guatemala and El Salvador reached more than 50 young people who will be the next generation of journalists and radio activists.

One useful aspect of the training resulted in the development of a Community Radio Impact Assessment tool that measures if and to what extent that station is achieving its goals. Resulting from their own assessments, stations adjusted their programming based on listeners' feedback.



Cultural Survival's network of 80 community radio stations across Guatemala grew to include three new stations in Guatemala, El Salvador and Belize. A meeting in September 2013 with 33 community leaders from communities in the municipality of El Estor, Izabal in Guatemala may lead to the establishment of a new station.

Our Guatemala staff and our allies at Sobrevivencia Cultural raised the issue of Indigenous and free media in national, regional, and international discussions. Venues included: the May 2013 UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in New York; the September 2014 UN World Conference on Indigenous Peoples; the September 2014 World Summit on Indigenous Philanthropy hosted by International Funders for Indigenous Peoples; the November 2014 National and International Forum of Indigenous Communication and Public Policy in Popayan, Cauca, Colombia; and the August 2014 "Second National Congress on Discrimination and Racism" organized by the Presidential Commission Against Racism in Guatemala.

Beyond public outreach, the courts have been another avenue through which Cultural Survival has pursued legal remedies for community radio stations. Following up on 2011 and 2012 legal arguments regarding whether current Telecommunications law denies Indigenous Peoples their rights, and Guatemalan



On air at Radio La X Musical Cajola, in Cajola, Quetzaltenango, Guatemala.

Constitutional Court's ambiguous findings, Cultural Survival heard in March 2014 that our petition (with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (filed in September 2012) has been selected as a case for priority handling. Our March 2013 meeting with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights in Washington, D.C. to plead our case undoubtedly helped to move this forward. We received a favorable response from the Commission who denounced the discriminatory laws and urged the Guatemalan Congress to change this legislation.

To bring to light the need to legalize community radio in Guatemala, in May 2014, Guatemala staff met with the UN Special Rapporteur for Indigenous Peoples, the Danish Embassy, the German Embassy, the Guatemalan Ambassador, and the Chilean Ambassador in New York during the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

Thanks to Cultural Survival's resources and resourcefulness, in August 2014, Radio Jun Toj of Rabinal, Baja Verapaz celebrated its return to the air after more than two years off the air. In May 2014, our team delivered computers and consoles to four radio stations, including two that had been raided and taken off the air (Radio San José and Radio Damasco). Following a December 2014 raid, Radio Juventud reclaimed its radio station equipment (aided by a judge who reversed an order) that was seized by government authorities. This was an unprecedented move on the part of the justice system.

International agreements and human rights treaties on freedom of expression, as well as the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, guarantee the right of Indigenous Peoples to have access to their own media and support the creation of local reports, written press, television, blogs and websites, and community radio”

**ANSELMO XUNIC AND CESAR GOMEZ**

# INDIGENOUS RIGHTS RADIO

“These programs are incredibly important. Often, we want to express ourselves [on development issues] in our community but we aren’t listened to. This initiative is important and it will help us when we’re confronting a situation where [authorities] are doing whatever they feel like and are not listening to us. We should be lied to; so we must be informed, like mentions in the radio programs. Usually we have only realized projects are happening when they are already working. From what we’ve heard in these programs, it’s more than clear: this will help us, and we can help more people.”

COMMUNITY MEMBER IN SUMPANGO, GUATEMALA

Cultural Survival’s Indigenous Rights Radio (IRR) Program, formerly known as the Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) Initiative, produces and distributes radio programming that supports local dialogue and action in Indigenous communities. IRR strengthens Indigenous Peoples’ capacity to claim their legal rights by increasing awareness and understanding of international human rights mechanisms and how they can become actively involved in policy decisions that impact them. So informed in their Native languages, Indigenous listeners are empowered in areas related to Free, Prior and Informed Consent, climate change and environmental issues, women’s rights, education, language and culture, land rights, self-determination, and youth leadership development. Indigenous-produced programming content ranges from short public service announcements to investigative, documentary style podcasts.

Production and distribution of our programs is an ongoing process. As of December 2014, we have produced 80 radio programs in English and 87 programs in Spanish, as well as 230 translations covering 19 Indigenous languages. We have built a database of over

1200 radio stations around the world, plus over 200 related organizations, and have distributed six rounds of content to 928 stations and 158 organizations. The radio programming plus distribution via Facebook, Twitter, and colleague audio platforms (iTunes, Radioteca, IsumaTV) reaches an estimated 10 million listeners.



Cesar Gomez interviews 2014 FIMI laureate Rosalina Tuyuc (Kak-chiquel) for an Indigenous Rights Radio program.

In fulfilling our objective of gathering information from high-level meetings and disseminating it to Indigenous communities in ways that are most accessible to them, Cultural Survival has become recognized as a leading producer of radio content on Indigenous Peoples' issues and events. Cultural Survival reported via radio programs in English, Spanish and Indigenous languages at events that included the:

- 
- May 2013** ***UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII)** in New York City, where our team interviewed Indigenous leaders from around the world, as well as members of the Permanent Forum, to gain insight into the challenges they face and their priorities, especially as related to international processes. Supported by Cultural Survival, Maasai leader Ben Koissaba attended the 2014 UNPFII and later organized a series of talk shows based on our *Free, Prior, and Informed Consent* programs on Maasai radio Maiyan FM in Kenya;*
  - May 2014** *Supported by Cultural Survival, Maasai leader Ben Koissaba attended the 2014 UNPFII and later organized a series of talk shows based on our *Free, Prior, and Informed Consent* programs on Maasai radio Maiyan FM in Kenya;*
  - June 2013** ***World Conference of Indigenous Peoples** in Alta, Norway (coverage was picked up and featured by Native Public Media, a major Native American media network);*
  - Oct 2013** ***Second Continental Summit on Indigenous Communication of the Americas** in Oaxaca, Mexico, where we produced a series of interview programs and built our network of community radio stations;*  
***World Conference of Indigenous Women** in Lima, Peru, where as members of the official media team, we captured and disseminated Indigenous women's perspectives on challenges to Indigenous Peoples and their ideas on how to move forward. Subsequently, we produced six radio programs, including an hour-long documentary in Spanish, on the effects of 40 years of oil contamination on Amazonian Indigenous communities in the Pastaza river basin in Loreto, Peru;*
  - Feb 2014** ***Site visit to Panama and Costa Rica**, where we visited Kuna, Ngobe, Bribri, and Brunca Indigenous communities, held community radio workshops, distributed our radio programs, and gathered interviews that were made into 14 programs sharing ideas on land rights, ancestral leadership, women's roles and challenges, freedom of expression, and other concerns shared by Indigenous communities worldwide;*
  - Sept 2014** ***People's Climate March** in New York City attended by 400,000 people and 1,500 organizations making it the largest climate march in history; and*  
***World Conference on Indigenous Peoples** in New York City (where we were contracted by the Conference's Global Coordinating Group, with some programming picked up by Native America Calling).*

In addition to on-location and next-day event programming, coverage in general regularly included: live social media; website and Facebook updates; articles in Cultural Survival Quarterly; email blasts; and public service announcements.

Webinars, side events at international gatherings, and site visits to Indigenous communities brought awareness of the use of media to inform Indigenous people about their rights.

# BAZAARS

Participating in Cultural Survival's Bazaars has helped us continue to generate our art, culture, and the knowledge of our ancestors. The benefits of the Bazaars have gone directly to the artisans that auto-generates their own economy, clothing, and nourishment.”

FELICIA HUARSAYA VILLASANTE, AYMARA WEAVER FROM PERU

The Cultural Survival Bazaars are a series of cultural festivals that provide Indigenous artists from around the world the chance to sell their work directly to the American public. Hundreds of artists, cooperatives, and their representatives sell traditional and contemporary crafts, artwork, clothing, jewelry, carpets, and accessories at the Bazaars. In addition, the Bazaars offer a wide assortment of cultural performances and presentations, which include live music, Native American storytelling, craft-making demonstrations, as well as the chance to speak with guest artisans and community advocates.

During 2013 Cultural Survival held ten Bazaars in New England and New York City. The Pequot Nation celebrated the 15th Anniversary of their museum in Mashantucket, CT and they invited Cultural Survival to hold a Bazaar at the museum in August 2013.

In 2014 we held nine Bazaars in New England locations, including Amherst, Boston, Cambridge, Falmouth, and Tiverton. Cultural Survival Bazaars were included in a list of the five best holiday markets in and around Boston by WBZ CBS News in December 2014.

In relation to program development, external relations building, and professional development, program staff traveled to Washington, DC in June 2014 to observe the Smithsonian Folklife Festival and to Santa Fe, NM in July 2014 to visit the Santa Fe International Folk Market. Through these travels we hope to find new vendors, artisans, potential partners, and learn about how other events operate.



Top: FELICIA HUARSAYA VILLASANTE  
Middle: A creation by Domingo Bernard.  
Bottom: Sidy Maiga and Afrimanding perform.

# THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS!

Cultural Survival offers its sincere gratitude to the donors, supporters and volunteers who make possible our work to serve Indigenous Peoples. We thank you for your moral and financial support.

For many years I have observed the astute advocacy and constructive actions of Cultural Survival and their Indigenous partners in building a network of community radio stations in Guatemala. The collaborative strategy has been brilliant, the teamwork consistently remarkable, and the funding carefully directed and judiciously spent. I am grateful for the opportunity to channel my commitment to Indigenous rights, dignity, and equal standing in the global community through Cultural Survival.”

SUSANNA B. PLACE, MILTON, MA

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Visiting Radio Ak'Kutan in the only Indigenous community radio station in the Toledo District of Belize.

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**Kaimana Barcarse** (Native Hawaiian), Radio Producer

**Mark Camp**, Deputy Executive Director

**Jessie Cherofsky**, Indigenous Rights Radio Program Associate

**Danielle DeLuca**, Advocacy and Indigenous Rights Radio Program Manager

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**María del Rosario 'Rosy' Sul** González (Kakchikel Maya), Radio Producer

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**Miranda Vitello**, Development Associate

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Don Butler

Aileen Charleston

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Ryann Dear

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# FINANCIAL REPORT

REVENUES	FY 2014	FY 2013
Contributions and Subscriptions	692,126	544,606
Grant Revenue	273,542	148,810
Indigenous Crafts Bazaar Income	401,955	441,581
Investment Income	1,096	587
Realized and Unrealized Gain (Loss) on Investments	174	3,482
Sales of Publications	7,557	2,816
Other income	2,562	5,767
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>1,379,012</b>	<b>1,147,649</b>

EXPENSES	FY 2014	FY 2013
Programs and Publications	1,145,010	1,183,097
Fundraising	137,418	166,359
General Administrative	93,668	91,874
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>1,376,096</b>	<b>1,441,330</b>



On air at Radio Ak'Kutan in the Toledo District of Belize.

