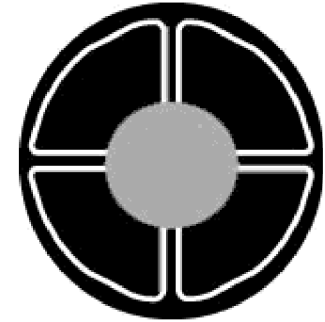


MISSION

Tribal Link is a communications network linking indigenous peoples with civil society, relevant networks, information, media and resources with a special focus on the United Nations system. Tribal link provides communication and outreach to the public regarding indigenous peoples, human rights and the International Decade of the World's Indigenous Peoples.

Tribal Link is non-profit organization with 501(c)(3) status. All donations to Tribal Link are greatly appreciated and are tax deductible.

TRIBAL LINK
FOUNDATION, INC.



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Objectives

The tribal peoples of the world are in grave danger. Since 1993, Tribal Link Foundation has been working toward their survival, and with them the survival of their traditional cultures and knowledge.

Recognizing the importance of indigenous peoples' participation in the issues that affect them, Tribal Link has set up an extensive facilitation and communications network. Working primarily within the United Nations system, Tribal Link seeks to link indigenous people with the people, resources, information and media which can help them.

The starting point of Tribal Link is that the world's traditional peoples must survive. This can only happen with the help of the modern world, which is also the primary threat to their existence. Tribal Link matches the urgent needs of the world's indigenous populations with the people and resources which affect them. Our activities include:

✧ *Strengthening the access of indigenous peoples to the United Nations. The decade 1995-2004 has been declared by the U.N. as the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People. Through our U.N. contacts, we seek to ensure that indigenous peoples are informed and included in major U.N. forums and conferences, and that international attention is focused on their urgent issues.*

- ✧ *Organizing events and forums at which indigenous people can publicize their issues.*
- ✧ *Ensuring indigenous peoples are informed and included in major UN and other selected forums, conferences and dialogues.*
- ✧ *Building strategic networks with related organizations on specific issues; linking indigenous peoples with relevant information, networks, and resources.*
- ✧ *Mobilizing project teams of media professionals to publicize - through print, film, video, TV, radio, the Internet, photography, and the arts - issues critical to traditional peoples and cultures.*

History

1992

The seed for the creation of Tribal Link was planted in the course of preparations for the June 1992 Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro (also known as the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development). Tribal Link played a major role in documenting and publicizing the First World Conference of Indigenous Peoples at Kari Oka, held just before the Earth Summit, which helped focus attention on the importance of indigenous people, their knowledge and culture, and the extent of threats to their survival.

1993

In October of 1993, in honor of the International Year of the World's Indigenous People and United Nations Day, Tribal Link, in collaboration with the UN Information Center and the US Congressional Caucus on Human Rights coordinated an exhibit of William Coupon's photographs of indigenous people at the Russell Rotunda of the U.S. Senate. The exhibit was followed by a reception with Rigoberta Menchu Tum, the 1992 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, as Guest of Honor, and included presentations by Congressmen John Edward Porter and Tom Lantos, Co-Chairmen of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus, and Senator Daniel Akaka from Hawaii. The event was attended by approximately 500 guests. Senator Akaka's participation led to his sponsoring a successful Bill on Indigenous People (H.R. 510) that passed in both the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives.

1996

Tribal Link has coordinated a number of other high-profile events and forums at the United Nations: a panel presentation on "Indigenous People, Shelter and Land" at the 1996 Habitat Conference in Istanbul; a presentation and discussion of the film "Amazon Journal" by Academy Award nominated filmmaker and journalist Geoffrey O'Connor at UN Headquarters in New York; a photography exhibit at the Philippine consulate of Philippine tribal life by one of the tribe's members; and others.

Present

Tribal Link has also coordinated presentations by: Davi Yanomami (Yanomami), Brazil; Roberto Mucaro Borrero (Taino Arawak), Caribbean; Manuel Saca, Ecuador; and others. We have arranged interviews of indigenous spokespeople on national radio on such issues as land rights, mining of indigenous lands, and intellectual property rights. We also initiated articles in Newsday, The Progressive, and the Associated Press wire service (AP stories are distributed to newspapers worldwide.) Tribal Link has made possible articles in Scholastic News, read by 1.5 million children internationally, on the threats to three indigenous groups: the Yanomami, the Juma, and the Navajo.