



Traditions for Tomorrow

Traditions pour Demain - Tradiciones para el Mañana

By asserting their culture, Amerindian peoples construct their future.

Otavalo Kichwas on the “small screen”

Inhabitants of the Andean region of Otavalo in Ecuador have been traveling the world from end to end for over a century. We come across them, men and women wearing their elegant costume, at our markets with their handicraft, in the streets with their music. In 2011, the young members of the Otavalo-based Kichua Audiovisual Producers Organization (APAK) produced “Mindalae”, the multi-award winning documentary on Otavalo migrants, which Traditions for Tomorrow, with the UNESCO, helped to produce and release.

Traditions for Tomorrow now finances the weekly production of the Kichua-Spanish TV program *Bajo un mismo sol* (Under one same sun), with the support of the Geneva Federation for Cooperation funded by the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation - SDC - and the Canton and City of Geneva. In total, nearly 150 half-hour programs were produced using advanced information and communication technology. They

are broadcasted on cable, university or private TV channels. Yet their main broadcasting is through YouTube and social media, thereby also reaching the so numerous Otavalo emigrants, all over the world.



Photo : APAK

Social or environmental issues as well as the various forms of cultural expression, knowledge and events are addressed: handicraft, traditional and ritual events, arts, gastronomy, regional affairs. Recently, *Bajo un mismo sol* has also started covering the Pacific coast and its Afro and mixed-blood population, as well as Amazonia and its wide ethnic diversity. Part of the program is developed with groups of youth trained by APAK in those often remote areas.

Culture in sustainable development

The 2016–2030 Sustainable Development Agenda was adopted by the UN in New York in September 2015. It takes over the Millennium Development Goals. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals and their 169 targets do not overlook culture. They recognize, though poorly, the role of culture in development, our leitmotiv since our creation. As from 2014, Traditions for Tomorrow has been working alongside other civil society networks to launch the global campaign for the Declaration “The future we want includes culture”. Translated into 8 languages, it was signed by over 1000 organizations and thousands of citizens from over 120 countries, the evidence for its universal impact.

20 years of Mayan education

In the early 80s already, in the very heart of the conflict that plagued Guatemala, schools were spontaneously created in some Mayan villages to fill the gaps that existed in the educational public service. The twenty-eight Escuelas Mayas de Guatemala today provide a contextualized education to nearly six thousand students in nine Mayan linguistic regions.

In 1994, they founded the Asociación de Centros Educativos Mayas (ACEM) to galvanize the network and offer their fifteen years of experience to the implementation of a bilingual and intercultural national education. Since, ACEM has published over forty school textbooks and trained hundreds of teachers. It is one of the main Mayan counterparts of the Ministry of Education in order to enforce the Educational Reform.

However, seeing itself so “caught up” in its work, ACEM contacted Traditions for Tomorrow for them to help put things into perspective and analyze the progress made. This will improve its work, enhance it regarding the outside world, and spread its experience beyond its network or its usual interlocutors.



Photo : ACEM

With the support of the UNESCO Participation Program and the Horizon Foundation from the Netherlands, ACEM :

- will produce a film that will be distributed through five hundred DVD copies, and posted on its website and on social media,
- will give out a thousand posters with the Mayan calendar, in primary and secondary schools,
- will have its own website to disseminate its activities and network with other similar initiatives in different countries of the region.

The project outcomes are actively shared with the Ministry of Education.

Traditions for Tomorrow's various affiliations

- Consultative status with UN-ECOSOC
- Official NGO partner of UNESCO (association status) and accredited to several Conventions for the protection of cultural heritage and of the diversity of cultural expressions, and of cultural heritage including in armed conflicts
- Permanent observer NGO to WIPO
- Member of the Geneva and Vaud Federations for Development Cooperation
- Member of the NGO-UNESCO Liaison Committee representing the International Federation of Coalitions for Cultural Diversity
- Board member of the CRID (network of French NGOs)
- Recognized a public utility in France (JO dated August 2, 2013)
- Non-profit organization recognized by the ZEWÖ (Zürich)



Definite comeback

For nearly fifteen years, because of the conflict, we suspended our activities in Colombia, sometimes at the actual beneficiaries' request.

Certainly, returning to peace after fifty years of war does not happen by simply signing a peace accord. Yet, Traditions for Tomorrow decided to conduct a prospective mission in 2015. Convinced by the determination of our interlocutors - young civil servants in Bogota, heads of NGOs, researchers in academic circles and especially the populations themselves from one end of the country to the other -, we faced the facts: war, at least in people's mind, from now on belongs to the past.

United to protect cultural heritage

The destruction of cultural heritage is not to be outdone, when it comes down to the ravages resulting from wars. This is illustrated by the conflicts in the Near East. The destruction of these ancient sites, given wide media coverage, alerts the entire international community. Although less visible, the intangible cultural heritage surrounding such places is also directly affected, such as the history and knowledge concealed within these sites, the rites and traditions that therein take place. Traditions for Tomorrow contributes in this respect its field experience in conflict or post-conflict situations (El Salvador, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Colombia) to the work of the Committee of the UNESCO 1954 Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict. It thereby also takes part in the UNESCO #unite4heritage campaign.



Photo : Red Antorchas

Within a few weeks, three projects were identified and ready to start:

- The Ette Ennaka people - recently still nomadic - are two thousand individuals scattered throughout the plains at the foot of the Sierra Nevada of Santa Mar-

ta, close to Venezuela. The cultural survival of this people is threatened in the short term, despite the fact that the Ette Ennaka preserved their language (Ette Taara), their medicine, their traditional authorities (Grutta Kakwi) and visit their ceremonial centers, although some have become inaccessible. The project will restore access to such sacred sites, reference (video and brochures) their knowledge through intergenerational exchange dynamics and implement a cultural safeguarding plan involving traditional and public authorities.

- In Marialabaja (Department of Bolivar), combats between the armed forces, paramilitary groups and the various guerrilla have opened up deep wounds within rural populations. The youth, mainly Afro-Colombian, is now attempting to overcome its post-conflict traumas and to rebuild an untroubled living environment. With the support of the Horizon Foundation, the Red Antorchas NGO, composed of young Afros, works on music, dance and drama, produces CDs and DVDs, and addresses local authorities towards creating cultural dissemination sites in the region.

- In the southernmost part of the country, the authorities of the Kamentza people work with about a hundred preschoolers on building a traditional house, learning to garden, and receiving music and language classes, setting up cultural expression groups and paying visits outside their territory. In the process, they make links for encounters with non-indigenous children and disseminate tolerance and intercultural exchange. The project is supported by the Horizon and Hirzel (Geneva) Foundations.



Photo : Traditions for Tomorrow

Punkurani: the education challenge

The Punkurani secondary school, resulting from an initiative by the region's traditional authorities about ten years ago, is located in an arid, windswept area, lacking water and electricity. The students however knew that isolation and often harsh living conditions at the boarding school, materially disadvantaged

compared to official educational centers, would quickly be counterbalanced by quality education. Indeed, their exam results were immediately among the best in the region.

The challenge was therefore met successfully. The number of students is constantly increasing. The first graduates - more girls than boys - continue with higher education or professional training in fields that should bring them back, some day, to their region and their organizations. The Ministry of Education covers the wages of part of the teachers. The rest receive from the families a contribution for teachings not pertaining to the official program: traditional health care, Andean creeds and divinities, Quechua musical expressions and writing, etc.

With the support of the Hirzel and the Horizon foundations, Traditions for Tomorrow helped in constructing a building and sanitation, as well as supplying numerous equipment and material, including solar panels and, by satellite dish, an internet connection for the laptops that were provided by the government.

75 peoples and minorities accompanied by Traditions for Tomorrow

<i>Costa Rica</i>	<i>Bolivia</i>	Ette Ennaka	K'anjobal	Saraguro	Huichol	Triqui	<i>Chile</i>	Creole
Borruca	Afro-Bolivian	Kamentza	Kiché	Shuar	Mam	Tzotzil	Aymara	Garifuna
Bribri	Aymara	Wayuu	Mam		Mazahua	Yucateco	Huilliche	Mayangna
Cabecar	Chipaya		Q'eqchi	<i>Mexico</i>	Mazateco	Zapoteco	Mapuche	Miskito
Ngobe-Bügle	Guarani	<i>Guatemala</i>		Afro-Mexican	Mixe			Nahuatl
	Qhara Qhara	Aguacateco	<i>Ecuador</i>	Akateco	Mixteco	<i>Peru</i>	<i>Honduras</i>	Rama
<i>El Salvador</i>	Quechua	Axi	Afro-Ecuadorian	Chamula	Nahñu	Aymara	Chorti	
Kakawira		Nahalchiteco	Cañari	Chinanteco	Nahuatl	Andean farmers	Garifuna	<i>Panama</i>
Lenca	<i>Colombia</i>	Ixil	Cofan	Chol	Nahuatl	Quechua		Kuna
Nahuatl	Afro-Colombian	Jacalteco	Kichwa	Choloteco	Purepecha		<i>Nicaragua</i>	Naso
	Embera-Chami	Kakchiquel	Puruway	Chontal	Tojolabal		Chorotega	Ngobe-Bügle

Our 30th anniversary in 2016

To celebrate this anniversary, Traditions for Tomorrow has in particular planned an exhibition presenting Slawo Plata's pictures, taken in Bolivia, Peru and Ecuador (see coverage). With his wife Nadia, video maker, Slawo traveled to illustrate the living environment and activities of these peoples, beneficiaries of our projects. The Plata's work will be presented in various places in Switzerland and France between May and November 2016 (info at tradi.info), including Quai Wilson in Geneva in September, and later around the UNESCO headquarters in Paris.

Moreover, in Otavalo (Ecuador) in October 2016, about thirty of our main indigenous and Afro-descendant partners from Mexico to Bolivia will get together, as well as some of our grant-makers, in order to discuss the activities we have been conducting together for thirty years.

Since 1986, Traditions for Tomorrow, international network, accompanies the efforts of indigenous peoples and minorities concerned about safeguarding their cultural identity in a dozen countries in Latin America.

Several hundreds of very concrete cultural or educational initiatives, chosen and conducted by the groups, were carried out in the field thanks to the support of members and donors, and public or private grant-makers. Traditions for Tomorrow contributes to strengthening confidence, self-esteem and dignity, to the restructuring of communities and to helping them face the challenges they are confronted with: this is "empowerment".

Besides, Traditions for Tomorrow is also active in sensitizing national and international public institutions and non-governmental organizations on issues

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such as indigenous peoples, cultural diversity, living cultural heritage and the intellectual property rights which flow from them.

Our main sponsors: the Horizon, Haella, Denis Guichard, Firmenich, Hirzel, Air France, Pictet Foundations, Le Rosey Institute, PricewaterhouseCoopers (Geneva), the Raiffeisen Bank of Gimel, Canon, kosdesign (Vevey), BSR printers (Gland), Schenk (Rolle).

And the institutional ones: UNESCO, particularly through its Participation Program and the International Program for the Development of Communication, the Swiss National Commission for UNESCO, the Geneva and Vaud Federations for Cooperation and their financial partners at cantonal and communal level, the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC), the City of Rolle (Switzerland).

Our present partners on the field: **Mexico:** CGCIP (Morelos), AFRICA (José María Morelos, Oaxaca), Fundación Santa María Yaviche (Oaxaca). **Guatemala:** Médicos Descalzos (Chinique), ADECOR (San Martín Jilotepeque), FUNDEBASE (Sacatepequez), ACEM (Guatemala City). **Colombia:** Red Antorchas (Mahates), Teje Teje (El Rodadero), Cabildo Kamentza (Sibundoy). **Ecuador:** APAK (Otavalo), AJKI (Iluman, Imbabura). **Peru:** PRATEC (Lima), Chuyma Aru de apoyo rural (Puno), Centro Sami (Cusco), CEPROSI (Cusco). **Bolivia:** Nación originaria Qhara Qhara Suyu (Chuquisaca), CESATCH (Sucre), ASUR (Sucre), Pukañawi (Sucre), Pusiuyu (Potosi).

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