

Quadrennial Report, covering the period 2014-2017, as submitted to the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs on 15 May 2018

Introduction

Structural Analysis of Cultural Systems (S.A.C.S.) is a non-profit NGO carrying out research with focus on indigenous cultures and the respective regions; conducting empirical studies and intervention projects; providing consultation, education and training.

Aims and purposes

In fieldwork, S.A.C.S. lays emphasis on giving workshops to indigenous communities, informing about the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and discussing strategies to implement these rights. S.A.C.S. also carries out questionnaire studies in order to better understand trans- and intercultural issues.

Significant changes in the organization

There have been no significant changes.

Contribution of S.A.C.S. to the work of the United Nations

S.A.C.S. has conducted the following fieldwork during the reporting cycle:

- 2014: Panama (Emberá people), Cameroon (Bagyeli),
 - 2015: Panama (Emberá-Wounaan), Perú (Bora, Yagua, Cocama),
 - 2017: Laos (Akha, Lanten), Vietnam (Bahnar),
- during which consultations with indigenous leaders took place and workshops were given on the implementation of the UNDRIP.

At public events, like the annual Berlin “Long Night of the Sciences”, presentations are given to inform about the UN mechanism regarding indigenous rights.

Also, S.A.C.S. has initiated projects in Peru and Namibia to help people gain access to fresh water. These projects had previously been described to UN Water (“Highly effective fog-water collection with *Pinus canariensis*”).

The S.A.C.S. “Tourinfo” project has been listed by UNESCO Germany as measure to maintain cultural diversity.

Participation in meetings of the United Nations

S.A.C.S. representatives attended:

- the 7th session of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP) of the Human Rights Council (HRC), Geneva, Switzerland, 7-11 July 2014, with a statement on “Indigenous Peoples and Natural Disasters” and a paper on “Indigenous Peoples and Natural Disasters: A Survey on EarlyTsunamiAwareness”,
- 8th EMRIP session (Geneva, 20-24 July 2015, statement “Indigenous Peoples’ Rights with Respect to their Cultural Heritage”),
- 9th EMRIP session (Geneva, 11-15 July 2016, statement “Human rights of indigenous peoples in relation to tourism”),
- 10th EMRIP session (Geneva, 10-14 July 2017, statement “EMRIP’s Interactive Dialogue with Human Rights Institutions”).

S.A.C.S. Representatives also participated in:

- 60th session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), New York, USA, 14-24 March 2016 (statement on “Indigenous Women’s Empowerment for Cultural Sustainability”),
- UNPFII 15&17 of ECOSOC, New York, USA, 2016&2018 (with Contributory Papers “Some Notes on Conflict, Peace and Resolution” / “Indigenous peoples and their land rights”).

Cooperation with United Nations Bodies

S.A.C.S. gave the following on-site-workshops to support the implementation of the UNDRIP:

“Turismo cultural sostenible. Taller de empoderamiento indígena”,

- in Panamá, 2015:

- Emberá puru, Chagres, Panamá, 20 February 2015;
- Peña Bijagual, Darién, Panamá, 24 February 2015;
- Puerto Lara, Darién, Panamá, 25 February 2015;
- El Tirao, Darién, Panamá, 26 February 2015;
- Ellapurú Emberá, Chagres, Panamá, 1 March 2015;

- in Peru, 2015:

- Iquitos, Loreto, 3 October 2015;
- Nueva Vida, Loreto, Perú, 6 October 2015;
- San Andrés, Loreto, Perú, 7 October 2015;
- Aldea Cocama, Loreto, Perú, 8 October 2015;
- Confederacion de Nacionalidades Amazonicas del Peru (CONAP), Lima, Perú, 9 October 2015;

“Culturally sustainable tourism. Workshop for indigenous capacity building”,

- in Laos, 19 March 2017:

- Nam Huay Khua (Akha people);
- Done Xay, Laos (Lanten people),

Written reports on these activities:

- Report Indigenous Rights Situations in Southeast Asia,
 - Brief Report on Indigenous Rights Situations in Loreto, as well as a
 - Survey on Early Tsunami Awareness
- were given to EMRIP and are also available online at <http://s-a-c-s.net/uno/papers-and-reports-to-the-un/>.

In Panama, data were collected for the 2014 EMRIP questionnaire study on the implementation of Indigenous Rights.

S.A.C.S. initiatives taken in support of MDGs/SDGs:

- project on natural water supply
(SDGs 3/6/7/13/15)
- promotion of “oil from algae”
(SDGs 6/7/10/11/13/15)
- “Tourinfo” project,
(MDG3, SDGs 10/15/16)
- initiative against FGM
(MDGs: 3/4/5/6; SDGs: 3/5/10/16)
- participation in CSW60
(MDG3, SDGs 5/16)
- study on AIDS orphans
(MDG6, SDGs 3/10/16)
- Tsunami survey
(SDGs 11/13)