

Appendix No. 1 : sources and resources

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Appendix No. 1: Sources and resources

A. Introduction

This appendix provides some brief notes on sources and resources on indigenous issues available in Switzerland. This may be useful for those interested in knowing more about these issues, and especially for those who want to work actively with organisations involved in indigenous support work.

B. International organisations

All the work dealing with human rights within the UN is organised under the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). The Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities is a subsidiary body under ECOSOC which is especially interesting in the present context. The Sub-Commission has established working groups which meet regularly before each of its annual sessions to assist with various tasks. One of them is the Working Group on Indigenous Populations. The Working Group reviews developments relating to the protection of the human rights of indigenous peoples. It meets in Geneva around mid-summer before the meeting in the Sub-Commission begins. Since it met the first time in 1982, the annual Working Group session has developed into a very important arena where UN-representatives have a unique chance of sitting face to face with the indigenous peoples whose rights they are concerned with. For the indigenous peoples themselves it is maybe even more important that they have a possibility of meeting each other. Gradually these informal meetings have developed into what is now referred to as the Indigenous Peoples Preparatory Meeting. The Preparatory Meeting takes place just before the Working Group session begins. The secretariat functions, connected with human rights questions, are taken care of by the Centre for Human Rights. All questions pertaining to the Working Group should be addressed to the Centre for Human Rights (address below).

Among the specialized UN agencies that deal with human rights, the ILO is the most important. Its concern for indigenous peoples is shown through its Convention 107 that deals specifically with indigenous peoples (address below).

There are a number of NGO's active in this field, and they publish some important journals and reports dealing with indigenous issues (addresses below).

C. Swiss official organisations

There are no national-level and official organisations devoted only to human rights issues among indigenous peoples. Two important organisations are, however, at least implicitly concerned with these issues. One is the humanitarian organisation – Red Cross International, and the other is the official Swiss Development Corporation (SDC). The work of both these organisations has implications for indigenous peoples' human rights, and it would be very important and interesting to document and detail this as a necessary prior step to creating public awareness on these issues (addresses below).

D. Swiss Non-Governmental Organisations

The Indigenous Populations' Documentation, Research and Information Center (DOCIP) primarily concentrates on collecting and cataloguing documentation on indigenous issues worldwide. DOCIP appreciates receiving material, and sends copies on request at moderate prices (address below).

Internationales Komitee für die Indianer Amerikas (INCOMINDIOS) is organised in local groups. It is concerned with the situation of the Indians in the Americas. INCOMINDIOS aims at supporting the Indian struggle for self-determination. It has a publication series (address below).

The International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA) has headquarters in Denmark and affiliations in Norway, Sweden and Switzerland. IWGIA's work covers indigenous peoples worldwide and is guided by the principle that indigenous peoples determine the form and content of the support. It has three publications series (address below).

E. Addresses

1. International organisations

- a) Anti-Slavery Society for the Protection of Human Rights
180 Brixton Rd., LONDON SW9 6AT,
United Kingdom
- b) Centre for Human Rights,
United Nations Office at Geneva
8–14 Avenue de la Paix, 1211 GENEVA 10
- c) Cultural Survival
11 Divinity Ave., CAMBRIDGE, Mass. 02138,
USA
- d) ILO, International Labour Standards Department
1211 GENEVA 22
- d) IWGIA, Fiolstraede 10
DK-1171 COPENHAGEN K, Denmark
- f) Gesellschaft für bedrohte Völker
Bundesbüro Postfach 2024,
D-3400 GÖTTINGEN
Federal Republic of Germany
- g) Minority Rights Group
29 Craven St., LONDON WC2N 5NT,
United Kingdom
- h) Survival International
310 Edgware Rd., LONDON W2 1DY,
United Kingdom

2. Swiss official organisations

- a) Croix Rouge Internationale
Avenue Paix 17, 1202 GENEVA
- b) Direktion für Entwicklungszusammenarbeit und
Humanitäre Hilfe (DEH)
Eigerstrasse 73, 3007 BERN

3. Swiss Non-Governmental Organisations

- a) DOCIP
POB 101, 1211 GENEVA 21
- b) Gesellschaft für bedrohte Völker Schweiz
Schwarzenburgstrasse 2, 3007 BERN
- c) INCOMINDIOS
Liebrütistrasse 30, 4303 KAISERAUGST
- d) Institut für Ökologie und angewandte
Ethnologie c/o Claus Euler, Bachenbülachstr. 4
8172 NIEDERGLATT
- e) IWGIA
Freiensteinstrasse 5, 8032 ZÜRICH
Phone: (01) 257 20 71

F. Recommended reading

Recently the number of publications in this field has begun to show a marked increase. This annotated list is selective and includes mostly recent titles. The interested reader will find that the selected readings provide for further inroads into the field depending on particular interests. Regrettably most of the literature available in English only. The readings are:

BODLEY, J. H. (1983): *Der Weg der Zerstörung. Stammesvölker und die industrielle Zivilisation*. Trickster.

(Contains extensive coverage on the global destruction of indigenous cultures.)

BRØSTED, J. (et al.) (eds.) (1985): *Native Power*. Oslo.

(A collection of papers devoted to indigenous peoples' right to self-determination.)

BURGER, J. (1987): *Report from the Frontier*. London.

(Contains an up-to-date overview of the situation of the world's indigenous peoples. Includes a select list of NGO's.)

DOWNING, T. E., KUSHNER, G. (eds.) (1988): *Human Rights and Anthropology*. Cambr. Mass.

(Presents a framework for bridging anthropology and the human rights advocacy. Includes an extensive topical bibliography.)

ICHI. (1987): *Indigenous Peoples. A Global Quest for Justice*. London.

(A comprehensive overview from a human rights perspective published by the Independent Commission on International Humanitarian issues. The two concluding chapters are important.)

IWGIA Yearbook. (1986, 1987): Copenhagen.

(Provides useful summaries of the situation for the world's indigenous peoples, together with reports on e. g. the standard setting activities within the UN.)

MOODY, R. (ed.) (1988): *The Indigenous Voice: Visions and Realities*. 2 Bd. London.

(An edited collection of indigenous peoples' own writings.)

Some important journals and periodicals: Cultural Survival Quarterly. Human Rights Internet Reporter. IFDA Dossier. INCOMINDIOS. IWGIA Document. IWGIA Newsletter. IWGIA Yearbook. Law & Anthropology. Minority Rights Group Report. Pogrom.