

Forest Peoples Project



Annual Report 2004

Forest Peoples Project

The Forest Peoples Project was established on 29 October 1999 as a company limited by guarantee to become the UK-registered charitable arm of the Forest Peoples Programme. The Forest Peoples Project was registered as a UK Charity in August 2000.

Aims and activities

Our aims are to support indigenous and tribal forest peoples to:

- ⑥ promote their collective and individual rights;
- ⑥ secure their lands and manage their natural resources;
- ⑥ build their capacity to carry out actions for the long-term relief of poverty;
- ⑥ educate policy makers, agencies and civil society about their concerns and aspirations.

We work to achieve these aims by means of :

- ⑥ technical support, capacity building and policy advice for forest peoples;
- ⑥ networking with NGOs, indigenous support organisations and agencies;
- ⑥ researching and analysing the situation of forest peoples;
- ⑥ providing information on forest peoples.

The Board and Staff

Our board :

Saskia Ozinga (Chair)
Nicholas Hildyard (Treasurer)
Carolyn Marr (Member)
Tricia Feeney (Member)
Justin Kenrick (Member)

Area of expertise:

Aid, trade and environment
Environment and development policy
Indonesian peoples, forests and environment
Development policy
Social anthropology

Our staff:

| | |
|-------------------|------------------------------|
| Marcus Colchester | Director |
| Dorothy Jackson | Africa Coordinator |
| John Nelson | Policy Advisor |
| Albert Barume | Legal Advisor |
| Louise Henson | Senior Administrator |
| Lucy Mulvagh | Project Officer |
| Isabelle Herisson | Finance Officer |
| Lindsay Hossack | Administrator |
| Penninah Zaninka | Uganda field worker |
| Belmond Tchoumba | Cameroon project coordinator |

Photo credits:

Marcus Colchester: page 11 (right); Elaine Gardner: page 6; Dorothy Jackson: front cover, page 4, 5, 10,11 (left); Jerome Lewis, page 9; John Nelson: page 7,8.

Editing, design and production: Dorothy Jackson

Cover picture: Twa women at Kashodo, Kivu Province, DRC, supplement their meager incomes from wage labour with mushrooms foraged from the forest.

Overview of the year

The Forest Peoples Project's overall long-term goal is improved social, economic and environmental living conditions for indigenous and tribal forest peoples. We aim to contribute towards this goal by helping forest peoples gain control over their futures through defending their rights, engaging with policy makers and strengthening their capacity to carry out sustainable development for the long-term relief of poverty. Closely linked to this is our work to influence the forest debate with the aim that forests are protected for sustainable use by people with secure rights. Our work therefore adopts a rights-based approach with strong advocacy and capacity building components. Highlights of 2004 include the following:

⑥ Our rights, livelihoods and education project in Rwanda increased the food security and incomes of 2505 Twa people, supported 60 children at secondary school and enabled over 500 Twa to gain literacy skills. Our project partner CAURWA produced three influential reports on the dire situation of the Twa and the denial of their rights.

⑥ Our "Dancing Pots" project in Rwanda trained 16 potters groups (292 potters) in business development and improved technology, developed new markets and increased awareness of the situation of the Twa. Potters groups' incomes from pottery and dance performances doubled compared with 2003.

⑥ Twa excluded from the Mgahinga and Bwindi Impenetrable Forest National Parks in south-west Uganda consulted with their communities to produce their own agenda for development, which they presented to donors.

⑥ We created a forum for indigenous Bagyeli communities affected by the Chad-Cameroon oil pipeline to discuss land issues with Bantu farming communities and government authorities. We mapped Bagyeli lands in the pipeline zone and persuaded the pipeline agency to consult more effectively with the Bagyeli communities.

⑥ Our Parks and Peoples project strengthened dialogues between indigenous communities and managers of protected areas in Cameroon, Gabon and Uganda, and ensured the visibility of the Mbendjele in the proposed timber certification of a logging company in Republic of Congo.

⑥ Our new Legal and Human Rights Programme helped our Rwandan partner CAURWA mount an informed response to the government's decision to deny CAURWA legal personality, and increased our Ugandan and DRC partners' understanding of national laws and international human rights.

⑥ We supported the Piaroa and Hiwi peoples of the middle Orinoco, Venezuela, to map their lands and file a claim for the Sipapo basin, which is the core of their ancestral territory.

⑥ Maps created by the Evenki people of Siberia, with FPP's support, were successfully used in a court case to oblige a petroleum company to re-route a proposed oil pipeline around a trapping area critical to local livelihoods.

Batwa people in Rwanda: Rights, livelihoods and education

**A COUNTRY WITHOUT
EXCLUSION AND
DISCRIMINATION,
WHERE THERE IS
ECONOMIC AND
SOCIAL EQUALITY
AND RESPECT FOR
CIVIL RIGHTS.**

CAURWA's vision.

This five-year programme works with our Twa partner CAURWA (Communauté des Autochtones Rwandais) to promote the rights of the Twa, the indigenous people of Rwanda, and reduce their poverty.

The programme integrates human rights and advocacy work, education and income-generating activities. It is funded mainly by Comic Relief, with co-funding from Trócaire, the European Commission (EC), ActOnAid, MRG, the UN and the British Embassy in Kigali. FPP provides organisational capacity building and technical support.

Advocacy and human rights

CAURWA faced a major challenge this year when the Rwandan authorities decreed that CAURWA must eliminate references to 'indigenous' and 'Twa' from its name and statutes, in order to obtain legal personality and continue operating. The government considers these terms to be 'divisionist' and in contravention of its policies and laws to remove all references to ethnicity in its post-genocide efforts to reconcile Rwanda's Hutu and Tutsi ethnic groups. However, critics believe the government has used the excuse of ethnicity to suppress freedom of expression and political opposition. Several other Rwandan NGOs promoting human rights have been targeted by the government.

With technical support from our new Legal and Human Rights Programme (see page 10) we provided legal and strategic advice, helping CAURWA to draw on national laws

and international human rights conventions to support its right to legal personality as an indigenous organisation, and to engage in informed dialogue with the authorities. We also coordinated efforts with CAURWA's main donors in Rwanda, Trocaire and the EC, to discuss CAURWA's case with the Rwandan authorities. In late 2004, CAURWA began a country-wide consultation with Twa communities to discuss options open to CAURWA. The final decision will be taken by CAURWA's members at an extraordinary General Assembly in mid-2005.

With technical support from FPP, CAURWA produced three major reports on the situation of the Twa. The first was a 'shadow' NGO report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in March. Treaty-monitoring bodies such as the CRC take NGO reports into account when examining the State's official reports of its implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. As a result of CAURWA's report, the CRC expressed concern at Twa children's limited access to basic social services and the violation of their rights to survival and development, to enjoy their own culture and to be protected from discrimination. The CRC recommended a government study to assess the needs of Twa children and, in collaboration with Twa leaders, elaborate a plan of action to protect Twa children's rights.

CAURWA submitted a similar 'shadow' report to the African Commission of Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) in November. The ACHPR Commissioners questioned the Rwandan government representatives closely on the lack of measures to address the Twa's acute needs, and the denial of CAURWA's legal personality.

CAURWA launched the report of its comprehensive national socio-economic survey of Twa communities (completed in 2003) at a round table attended by government representatives and donors. The survey was carried out in close collaboration with the national statistics office and the Ministry of Local Affairs, and shows that the Twa are severely disadvantaged with respect to all the main standard of living indicators, including land ownership, education, health,

CAURWA's national survey showed that most Rwandan Twa lack land, adequate housing and access to basic social services. CAURWA's human rights, advocacy and community development work addresses these injustices.



employment, housing, and incomes. The round table participants were impressed with the thoroughness of CAURWA's work and shocked by the objective evidence of the glaring discrepancies between the socio-economic situation of the Twa and the Rwandan population as a whole.

CAURWA continued to lobby the government on Twa land rights, as the new land law moved from committee stage towards being adopted. CAURWA resolved five cases of expropriation of Twa lands, through negotiations with neighbouring communities and local authorities. Five further cases are still pending.

During 2004, CAURWA maintained its collaborative links with human rights and women's NGOs, to obtain their assistance in increasing Twa women's awareness of their rights. CAURWA's sensitisation about the increased rights of married women under the new inheritance law has resulted in 369 Twa couples legally registering their marriages.

Sustainable livelihoods

CAURWA's income generating work is vital to alleviate Twa communities' poverty enough so that they can afford to put time and effort into defending their rights and engaging with local government agencies. During 2004 CAURWA worked with 128 Twa cooperative associations in eight provinces, comprising 988 men and 1,516 women, and reaching an estimated 12,520 direct and indirect beneficiaries - about 40% of the Twa population, although some of the beneficiaries are non-Twa.

CAURWA provided training in management of associations, agriculture, animal production and health; distributed seeds, fertiliser, pesticides and tools; and helped associations get use rights to local authority-held land. The project also provided training for two sewing centres, and nine tile making centres.

Food security in all the target communities continues to increase – most families now eat two meals per day. Associations are investing cash generated from sales of harvests or small ruminants in improving their housing, and buying additional livestock. Sixty-three associations now have bank



accounts, and 46 associations are paid up members of local health insurance schemes, and thus eligible for subsidised health care for their families. Five associations have obtained credit from local credit and savings associations in their areas.

Education and literacy

Sensitisation by CAURWA and the increased financial resources available to communities has led to an increase in primary school enrollment. By the end of 2004, 1,040 children from participating communities were in primary education. CAURWA supported 41 boys and 19 girls at secondary school, and opened seven new REFLECT literacy centres, increasing the number of learners by 60%. By December 36% of them could read and write.

Organisational Development

CAURWA now has 157 members, who elected new members to its Governing Body and Oversight Committee thereby increasing rural Twa involvement in CAURWA's affairs. Four new junior staff were recruited (two are Twa) and personnel management systems were improved. A third vehicle and improved office systems increased work efficiency.

An evaluation by the EC of CAURWA's human rights work concluded that it had a high level of effectiveness, helping to increase Twa capacity to improve their living conditions and participate in society, as well as contributing to promoting the rule of law in Rwanda, participative democracy and community organisation.



top: A Twa women's association and their goats, at Nyancyondo, Butare Province.

bottom: CAURWA's agriculture programme is increasing incomes and food security for rural Twa.



Twa pottery: income generation through Fair Trade

"While visiting Rwanda early last year I saw a Twa traditional dance arranged by Dancing Pots... The dance performance was certainly the most soulful I witnessed during my time in Africa and had significant cultural resonance."

Tanya Love, tourist.

"The Dancing Pots initiative is very well known in Rwanda. You should be proud of your achievement and of what the Twa people have managed."

DFID-Kigali representative.

This project, also carried out in collaboration with our Rwandan partner NGO CAURWA works in an integrated way on all aspects of pottery development with Twa potters, and promotes Twa dance and culture. The main funder is the Big Lottery Fund with additional funding from UK trusts including the Onaway Trust, Rowan Trust and Allan & Nesta Ferguson Charitable Trust, and from Norwegian Church Aid and Canadian Cooperation in Rwanda.

Under its brand name, Dancing Pots, the project's sales outlet in the Rwandan capital Kigali orders consignments of pots from the Twa potters and sells them to the public. Dancing Pots also coordinates public events and tourist visits to potter communities. These activities help increase national and international awareness of the situation of the Twa.

During 2004, working with 292 potters in 16 local associations, the project increased the skills of the Twa potters and local project staff in business management, production quality and marketing. The product range was extended with new, high quality designs including glazed and painted ware, and new markets were found. Tourism and dance activities also increased. As a result, potters' incomes doubled compared with the previous year, averaging £277 per group - a substantial amount for Twa communities.

During 2004 the project stepped up training, providing 54 trainings for potters in business management and 16 trainings in production planning and quality control. Potters also learned how to use and maintain brick and electric kilns and hand wheels, and how to glaze pots. With labour provided by

the potters, the project built three brick kilns, and a fourth will be finished in early 2005. These investments helped increase potters' ability to deliver a diversified range of higher-quality products, and begin to supply orders on time and to specification.

The Dancing Pots centre, opened in central Kigali in December 2003, has been crucial to the success of the project. It has a large showroom and shop, offices, storage for stock and materials and training areas for potters, and houses the two electric kilns. The project trained local staff in retail management, marketing and publicity, and provided English language training to meet the needs of foreign customers and importers.

Dancing Pots participated at Rwanda's national trade fair, and many exhibitions and promotional events during 2004, including several high profile events for heads of state. The project holds the vice-presidency of the newly constituted Rwanda Handicraft Export Promoters Association (RWAHEPA), and recently became a member of the International Federation for Alternative Trade (IFAT), which will open up access to new international markets and trading partners. Links with the Presidential Working Group on Tourism were strengthened and the Dancing Pots Centre is included in Rwanda Tourism Agency's 'City Tours' bus tour organised for international visitors to Kigali.

The potters are involved in project decision-making through their representation on the project's management committee, and in meetings of their own Potters Association, during which orders, designs, market demands and potters' training needs are discussed. These meetings help foster peer learning and understanding of the requirements of a business enterprise.

The potters associations are self-managed cooperatives and hold regular association meetings to organise their internal activities. Most of the potters groups have women vice-presidents, strengthening Twa women's leadership and decision-making roles. Since the project began the organisational capacity of potters groups has improved markedly through training, and regular and frequent contacts with project staff, but more capacity building is needed.

A visit by British artist Pippa Small in June 2004 led to the project's first export order, and a display of Dancing Pot animal figurines at the Rebecca Hossack Gallery in London.



Promoting Bagyeli Land Rights and Sustainable Livelihoods in Cameroon

In Cameroon, FPP is into the third year of a four-year project to empower the marginalised Bagyeli people of southwest Cameroon to engage with civil society and defend their rights, in order to reduce their poverty and secure sustainable livelihoods in the long term. The project is funded by Comic Relief and DFID and implemented in collaboration with two local NGOs, CED and Planet Survey.

The project has its origins in the Bagyeli's request to FPP in 2000 to assist them in dealing with the Chad-Cameroon oil pipeline, which crossed their lands and was implemented without proper consultation with Bagyeli. The few compensation measures agreed were delivered in a way that further marginalised the Bagyeli in their dealings with their Bantu farming neighbours. The Bagyeli have yet to benefit from the local and regional development initiatives associated with the pipeline.

Our project aims to promote more secure access for Bagyeli communities to their land and increased participation by Bagyeli in civil society processes affecting them. This involves training Bagyeli to produce digitised maps of their customary land use using GPS technology. The project is also increasing the Bagyeli's knowledge about the pipeline project and Cameroon's policy framework and developing new institutional mechanisms to promote informed and equitable dialogue between Bagyeli and Bantu communities, government and the administrators of the pipeline project.

During 2004 the project raised the profile of the land issue with local government and traditional authorities by publishing Bagyeli maps (compiled during 2003) of Bagyeli's forest use in and around Campo Ma'an National Park. This park was created to offset the environmental impacts of the oil-pipeline, but has worsened the situation of local Bagyeli, whose ancestral hunting and gathering lands lie in the park.

During 2005, the project finished mapping Bagyeli lands in the pipeline zone and established a multiparty 'Land Forum' to support increased dialogue between Bagyeli, Bantu and government authorities on land issues. The project provided increased



Above: Bagyeli house near Bipindi, Cameroon.

support for meetings with Bagyeli representatives and the oil company COTCO, with FEDEC (the agency responsible for pipeline compensation and developing an indigenous peoples' plan to mitigate pipeline impacts), and with government ministries. As a result, FEDEC has integrated key elements of the FPP project into their own programme for Bagyeli, including the provision of identity cards, and the organisation of a multiparty consultative meeting that included Bagyeli representatives. The success of this approach bodes well for future policy work planned by the project. This policy work will be supported by a review of Cameroon's legal framework relative to the situation of the Bagyeli, a first draft of which was completed by our partner CED during 2004.

Responding to requests from the Bagyeli communities, the project has employed four Bagyeli fieldworkers chosen by the communities. Their role is to help the communities increase their incomes through micro-projects. The communities have established a transparent process to hire, monitor and evaluate the fieldworkers.

The project has a continuing programme of socio-economic monitoring to help track changes in Bagyeli welfare carried out by our partners Planet Survey and CED. The project has continued to support Bagyeli to secure birth certificates and identity cards.

Indigenous Peoples and Protected Areas in Africa: from Principles to Practice

During 2001 to 2003, funded by the Big Lottery Fund, the Forest Peoples Project worked with African indigenous communities in seven countries to document the impact of protected areas on their lives, and their rights, and to strengthen their dialogue with managers of conservation areas. This work generated in-depth analysis of the obstacles preventing implementation of new, internationally-agreed conservation principles that respect indigenous peoples' land rights and give them a central role in conservation management.

The project provided local partners and conservation agencies with information about the new conservation principles, and enabled our partners to begin to engage with government and conservationists from an informed position. Our work in this area has given hope to many indigenous peoples who have been expelled from their traditional hunting and gathering areas by conservation projects.

Building on this foundation, FPP began a new project in 2004, with Comic Relief funding, to support indigenous forest communities living in and around protected areas in Central Africa to secure their land and resource rights. The project is working with communities in Cameroon, the Republic of Congo, Gabon, Democratic Republic of

Congo (DRC) and Uganda to help them develop the organisational and negotiation skills to challenge repressive conservation rules affecting their traditional territories, and to develop formal agreements with authorities protecting their rights.

New regional initiatives funded by international donors have identified 11 key 'landscapes' within the Congo Basin, which will be the focus of international forest management and conservation initiatives and interventions. These interventions will inevitably affect the indigenous forest peoples whose traditional territories lie within these landscapes.

FPP's project includes work with communities affected by protected areas in two of these landscapes. The 'TRIDOM' landscape includes the Dja Wildlife Reserve in southern Cameroon, Boumba-Bek National Park in south-east Cameroon, and the Minkébé National Park in northern Gabon. The 'Sangha' landscape includes Nouabale-Ndoki National Park in northern Republic of Congo, Dzangha-Sangha National Park in the south-west of the Central African Republic, and Lobéké National Park in the far south-east of Cameroon. Together the TRIDOM and Sangha landscapes cover more than 10% of the Congo Basin and are home to tens of thousands of indigenous forest peoples.

Around Boumba-Bek National Park in eastern Cameroon, FPP commissioned three local NGOs to assess the extent of participation of local Baka hunter-gatherers in the demarcation of the park boundaries by the government and WWF. Working closely with over 20 Baka communities living on the north-east side of the park, the investigators found that Baka communities had not been involved at all in boundary demarcation or the development of the new park rules. As a result of the boundary decisions, some Baka community lands now lie within the park, and under national law, Baka are barred from using them for subsistence.

The Baka communities will present the results of the investigation to the managers of the park - Ministry of Forests and Water (MINEF) and WWF - to press for their rights

The Campo-Ma'an National Park in south-west Cameroon was imposed on the ancestral hunting and gathering lands of Bagyeli communities.



and livelihoods to be addressed in the new management plan.

In Cameroon the project supported an extension worker to work with Bagyeli around Campo Ma'an National Park to gather information about park planning processes, to participate in meetings on Bagyeli land use and land rights, and to influence the authors of the provisional park management plan to take into account Bagyeli rights and livelihood needs. As a result of FPP's appeals to the World Bank and the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF), the management plan has now been withdrawn pending new consultations with NGOs and Bagyeli during 2005. This success has been highly motivating for local Bagyeli, who are keen to participate in the new discussions over the management of the park. FPP is continuing to support them to build their knowledge and capacities so that they will be able to negotiate effectively with conservation authorities as these new consultations take place.

During 2004 FPP visited Baka communities living in and around the newly-demarcated Minkébe Reserve in northern Gabon, who have strong family ties with the communities living around the Dja Wildlife Reserve in Cameroon. The Baka of Dja and Minkébe have had similar experiences: they have not been involved in any of the discussions about park management, and consider that their subsistence hunting and gathering is threatened. Minkébe's management agency, WWF, has helped local Baka to establish their own NGO, but the NGO does not yet have a programme that reflects community concerns. FPP agreed with WWF and representatives from the Baka NGO, to support a Baka community consultation process, which will take place in early 2005.

FPP started a process of community consultation with Mbendjele Ba'aka hunter-gatherers living in the logging concession of Congolaise Industrielle des Bois (CIB) and in and around the Nouabale-Ndoki National Park in northern Republic of Congo. The mission was carried out in collaboration with Greenpeace International, as part of an assessment of the measures taken by CIB to comply with the Forest Stewardship Council's



A Mbendjele man replacing the stem of a wild yam after having dug up the tuber.

environmental and social standards for timber certification. CIB's management of the 1.3 million hectare forestry concession includes strong enforcement of wildlife protection rules, which are being implemented by the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS). But implementation of social standards is much weaker: FPP found that up to 6,000 indigenous hunter-gatherers living in the forests of the concession had not been involved in any discussions concerning the management plan, including the wildlife management plan, which affects them particularly.

In Uganda FPP continued to provide technical support to enable the indigenous Twa to start discussions with wildlife authorities and NGOs about access to the Mgahinga, Bwindi Impenetrable and Echuya forests for subsistence purposes. This has so far led to a formal agreement with a conservation NGO, Nature Uganda, that will help Twa to maintain their forest access and use as the Uganda Forest Department revises its forest zoning provisions.

In eastern DRC, the project contributed funds to RAPHY, a coalition of indigenous support groups, to develop a simple guide to DRC's new forestry law, as part of RAPHY's wider consultation with indigenous communities on the impacts of the law.

Africa Legal and Human Rights Programme

This project started in April 2004, with funding from the Law Society Charity and our sister organisation, the Forest Peoples Programme.

The Legal and Human Rights Programme contributes cross-cutting legal and human rights inputs to all our projects in Africa. It provides capacity building and technical support to enable our indigenous partners to use the national legal system and international human rights conventions to secure their rights.

In its first eight months, the project was particularly active in helping our Rwandan partner, CAURWA, respond to the government's decision not to give CAURWA legal personality unless it changed its name and statutes to remove reference to the Twa and 'indigenous' (see page 4). FPP produced a legal memorandum and a briefing to inform CAURWA about the legal and human rights framework relevant to their situation and helped CAURWA develop an informed position to support its dialogue with the government.

CAURWA and FPP submitted two reports on the violation of Twa rights in Rwanda to the 36th session of the African Commission on Human Rights (ACHPR) in November 2004. As a result, the situation of the Twa people was a key issue raised during the examination of the Rwanda state report, the first time that indigenous issues had received this level of attention at the ACHPR. ACHPR commissioners highlighted the lack of

political pluralism in Rwanda, the lack of protection of peoples' rights, the violation of Twa cultural rights and rights to land and questioned the Rwandan government's refusal to legally register CAURWA.

The project also helped CAURWA produce a supplementary report for the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (see page 4).

With the project's support, RAPHY, a coalition of indigenous support organisations based in Bukavu, eastern DRC, designed and implemented an awareness campaign for indigenous forest peoples about the impacts of DRC's forest and mining laws on indigenous communities. Activities included helping the coalition write simple guides to the laws in French and Swahili, produce posters and train field staff how to consult with indigenous communities and record their views. The results of the community consultation will feed into an advocacy campaign on these laws in 2005.

In Uganda, the project produced an overview of laws and international obligations relevant to indigenous peoples to orientate members of our Ugandan partner UOBDU (see page 11). We began work with UOBDU to assess possible strategies for land rights cases, and started gathering information for a shadow NGO report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, to be examined during 2005.

In preparation for the May session of the UN's Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, FPP worked with central African indigenous women attending the prior African Indigenous Women's Conference in Nairobi, to help them develop their positions on key issues including HIV, child soldiers and sexual violence. The project facilitated meetings with women returning from the meetings to share experience and strengthen regional contacts between indigenous women's activists.

The project produced a briefing in French and English on the main international human rights standards and instruments relative to indigenous peoples in the target countries, and a time table of key upcoming events including examination of State reports by various UN treaty monitoring bodies.

Indigenous communities in DRC are threatened by a new logging law. FPP is helping local organisations inform communities about the law and develop advocacy campaigns.



Supporting Twa and UOBDU in Uganda

FPP has worked with the United Organisation for Batwa Development in Uganda (UOBDU) since 2000. UOBDU is a community-based organisation representing the Twa of south-west Uganda, who were expelled from the Bwindi and Mgahinga forests resulting in landlessness and acute poverty. UOBDU aims to gain land and access to forest resources for its communities, and support them to develop sustainable alternative livelihoods. This work is currently partly funded by Comic Relief.

During 2004, FPP helped UOBDU obtain funds from the Netherlands Centre for Indigenous People to build on community discussions held over the two previous years, and carry out a two-month community consultation to develop UOBDU's own programme for development. This programme sets out the Twa communities' priorities, namely land and housing, education and adult literacy, income generation and forest access and benefit sharing. It was presented to donors, NGOs and government in July 2004 so that they can orientate their planning to respond to the Twa agenda.

The Twa's first priority is to acquire land for their communities. FPP helped them find a donor to fund the purchase of 50 ha of land next to Bwindi National Park, which will become the largest Batwa multiple use area in Uganda. FPP will work with UOBDU and other local organisations to secure the land title, and develop management plans.



Community mapping in Siberia and Venezuela

Siberia

The Forest Peoples Project commenced a renewed project with the Evenki community organisation, Arun, and the national indigenous peoples' organisation, RAIPON, to develop a programme of assistance for the Evenki people of the Evenkyii Autonomous Okrug (EAO) in Krasnoyarskii Krai in Central Siberia. Oil and gas development and the advancement of the logging frontier are putting severe pressure on the lands of the reindeer-herding Evenki people.

During 2004, maps created by the Evenki people in a previous FPP land-use mapping project, were successfully used in a court case to oblige a petroleum company to re-route a proposed oil pipeline around a trapping area critical to local livelihoods.

Venezuela

FPP contributed funds from a private bequest to enable the Piaroa and Hiwi peoples of the middle Orinoco to map their lands and file a claim for the Sipapo basin, which is the core of their ancestral territory. The work was supported by the Universidad Nacional Experimental de Guayana - Centro de Investigaciones Antropologicas de Guayana (UNEG-CIAG). The project trained a team of young Hiwi and Piaroa in mapping techniques, surveyed the area and negotiated counterpart support from the local administration. The mapping will continue with further support from FPP in 2005.

below left: Bwindi Impenetrable Forest, Uganda

below: Dr. Alexander Mazutti, Director of the Centro de Investigaciones Antropologicas de Guayana, with the key members of the Piaroa Territorial Mapping Team



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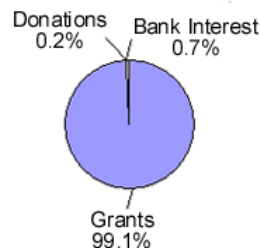
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Law Society Charity
Onaway Trust
Paget Trust
Rainbow Tours
Roger Vere Trust
Thomas Sivewright Catto Charitable Settlement

Income and Expenditure

Income: £368,741



Expenditure: £434,775



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