



## **Global Source Book on Biocultural Diversity: Worldwide Experiences in an Integrated Approach to Sustaining Cultures and Biodiversity**

**by Luisa Maffi and Ellen Woodley  
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### **BOOK LAUNCH IUCN Bookstore Lounge, 2nd floor, CICB Wednesday, October 8, 17:00**

Over the past decade, the idea of “biocultural diversity” has emerged as a powerful concept to express the “inextricable link” of biological and cultural diversity—the total diversity of life in nature and culture. Biodiversity and cultural diversity are interconnected and interdependent, and they are jointly threatened. There is a growing recognition of the vital importance of biocultural diversity for planetary sustainability and of the need to protect and sustain it. Throughout the world, individuals, communities, and organizations are working to revitalize and maintain biocultural diversity, but much more must be done.

How do we bring about favorable change for biocultural diversity? One way is to increase the visibility of what people are doing on the ground to maintain and restore it. The innumerable efforts that are underway at the local level often fall “under the radar” for lack of visibility, and the lessons from these projects cannot easily be learned. Terralingua has written down the lessons learned from 45 projects from all continents in a **Global Source Book on Biocultural Diversity**, which is available to all those who want to learn more about these efforts and their global significance.

The **Global Source Book on Biocultural Diversity** is the very first resource of its kind. It is made available in electronic form, with a companion page on Terralingua’s website, where an interactive world map allows people to find the projects’ locations and learn more about them. New projects can be added by sending us the information, thus making this source book a “living resource”, constantly updatable and expandable. Terralingua’s website also hosts a discussion forum specifically devoted to issues relevant to biocultural diversity conservation. By creating a network of biocultural diversity conservation practitioners, we are also helping to “connect the dots” among people worldwide who are working to strengthen and recover the health and vitality of local cultures and environments.

#### **About the Authors:**

**Luisa Maffi, PhD**, is co-founder and director of Terralingua. She is one of the originators of the concept of biocultural diversity and editor of the landmark book *On Biocultural Diversity: Linking Language, Knowledge, and the Environment* (Smithsonian Institution Press, 2001). (maffi@terralingua.org)

**Ellen Woodley, PhD**, coordinated the Source Book project. She is an international consultant with twenty years of experience working on environment and development, with a special focus on integrating local environmental knowledge in ecosystem management. (ellen.Woodley@sympatico.ca)

#### **About Terralingua:**

Terralingua is an international NGO that supports the integrated protection, maintenance and restoration of the biocultural diversity of life through an innovative program of research, education, policy-relevant work, and on-the-ground action. Visit [www.terralingua.org](http://www.terralingua.org).