

The Christensen Fund Announcement of New Hires

Global Biocultural Diversity Program

The Christensen Fund is delighted to announce the appointment of two new staff to lead the development of the Global Biocultural Diversity Program.

Phrang Roy

Born and raised in the Khasi matrilineal hill tribe of Meghalaya state in Northeastern India, Phrang Roy is an internationally renowned expert on rural development, gender and indigenous peoples. Now serving as an Assistant Secretary-General within the United Nations system, Mr. Roy began his career as an Extension Agent working in agriculture and natural resource management in rural Maharashtra. In 1981 he joined the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) at the UN and focused on developing approaches to tackling poverty that were built upon valuing poor peoples' knowledge, cultures, traditional farming systems and historic natural resource relationships. His work has focused particularly on Africa and Asia. It has involved developing responses to the African famines of the 1980s that drew on the diverse traditional knowledge of African farmers to sustain resilience and work in Asia in the 1990s in partnership with research agencies, including CIFOR and ICIMOD, to understand and support traditional shifting cultivation systems. Serving as Director of the Asia and Pacific Division from 1997, he developed a focus in the division on gender and indigenous people in the most marginalized regions of Asia. In February 2002, he became the Assistant President of the newly re-engineered External Affairs Department and then in 2005 took over a special assignment as IFAD's Assistant President for Indigenous and Tribal Issues. As such, among other things, he has worked closely with the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

Mr. Roy graduated from the Indian National Academy of Administration and also holds a BSc in physics from Gauhati University and an MSc in Economics from the London School of Economics. He has frequently collaborated with researchers, artists, filmmakers and others to highlight indigenous, gender and agricultural issues from the experience of the people themselves. These efforts include a film, *Still, The Children are Here*, with Mira Nair and Dinaz Stafford, on the erosion of women's knowledge about globally important traditional rice varieties among the Garo. He is also a prolific public speaker on these issues; his key note address at the recent International Funders for Indigenous Peoples event in New York can be found at: <http://www.internationalfunders.org/images2/IFIPconferenceKeynote2006.pdf#search=%22phrang%20roy%22>.

Effective January 1st 2007, Mr. Roy will serve as the lead on TCF's global institutions and policies work, and in the development of a major initiative around valuing global agrobiodiversity.

Gleb Raygorodetsky

Born and raised in a small coastal village in Kamchatka, Russia, Gleb Raygorodetsky is a conservation biologist with expertise in resource co-management and traditional knowledge systems. His work has ranged geographically from the Brazilian Amazon

to the Canadian Beaufort Sea to the Russian Altai Mountains, and thematically from studying fledging synchronicity of sea birds to documenting traditional knowledge of indigenous people. He has conducted research on such varied species as kittiwakes and pumas, guillemots and grizzly bears, sea otters and reindeer. He has lived and worked with the Evèn reindeer herders of Kamchatka (Russia), the Aleut fur seal hunters of the Pribiloff Islands (Alaska), the Caboclos pirarucu fishermen of the Brazilian Amazon, and the Gwich'in caribou hunters of Canada's Northwest Territories. Most recently, Dr. Raygorodetsky explored the resilience of social-ecological systems undergoing rapid change, focusing on wildlife use in the Russian northeast after the collapse of the Soviet Union. He comes to TCF from the New York-based Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) where, for the last five years, he managed a portfolio of conservation projects in Kamchatka, Russia. His photographs have won international awards and appeared in numerous reports and web-based publications, including the *Wildlife Conservation Magazine*, *Cultural Survival Quarterly*, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Dr. Raygorodetsky holds a BS in Biology from the Far Eastern State University (Vladivostok, Russia), an MS in Biology from the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, and a PhD from an interdisciplinary program at Columbia University, with the thesis entitled *Strict Protection or Managed Harvest? Furbearers, Institutions and Socioeconomic Change in Kamchatka, Russia (1977-2001)*. With his late father, a writer, he has published a book in Russian called *Information for Survival: A book for the indigenous peoples of Russian Arctic, Siberia, and Far East (1995)*. His academic articles include (as co-author) "Regulating access to genetic resource under the convention on biological diversity: An analysis of selected case studies" in *Biodiversity and Conservation* 12: 1511-1524 (2003). With Gwich'in elders he wrote a book laying out their indigenous ecological knowledge: *Gwich'in Words about the Land: Nanh' Kak Geenjit Gwich'in Ginjik*, Gwich'in Renewable Board, Inuvik, NWT, Canada, 211 pp (1997). He has also published (and often illustrated) more popular articles, most recently on the plight of Kamchatka bears, which appeared in the February 2006 issue of the *National Geographic Magazine*.

As of July 1st 2006, Dr. Raygorodetsky is serving as the lead on TCF's work on knowledge building around biocultural diversity and resilience, and on global networking on issues of indigenous knowledge, communities and landscapes.

Bea Calo, Director of Operations

TCF is also delighted to announce, effective September 1st 2006, the appointment of **Bea Calo** as our Director of Operations. Bea comes to TCF from a diverse career focused primarily in the intersect of IT and international financial services. Her pioneering work, particularly with Charles Schwab and E*Trade Financial (where she rose to become the Director of International Business Strategy), has given smaller investors the freedom to control their portfolios and seamlessly access global markets. She holds a BSc from the London School of Economics, a Masters in International Management from Thunderbird and a PhD in Agricultural Economics from the University of California (Davis). She has worked and traveled around the world and lived in the Philippines, Tanzania and the UK.