



12TH INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF
ethnobiology
Hishuk-ish tsawalk... everything is one, everything is connected.

First Call for Contributions
12th International Congress of Ethnobiology
May 9-14, 2010 in Tofino, Canada

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS: September 18, 2009
EARLY CONTRIBUTIONS ARE ENCOURAGED.

Please read this document carefully. This document is different from the Call for Session Proposals. If you would like to propose a Session which you will chair, please see the Call for Session Proposals (due July 31). Please do not submit a proposal for a contribution that is part of a Session (please communicate directly with your Session Chair).

What is the International Society of Ethnobiology (ISE) Congress?



Recognition of the central role of Indigenous peoples in all global, regional, and local processes is a founding element of the [International Society of Ethnobiology](#) (ISE). Supporting and promoting the critical efforts of Indigenous peoples, traditional societies, and local communities in the conservation of biological, cultural and linguistic diversity has been the priority since the ISE's inception in 1988.

Twenty years ago, at the inaugural international congress held in Belém, Brazil in 1988, more than 600 people from 35 countries and 16 Indigenous organizations came together to discuss a common strategy to stop the rapid deterioration of the planet's biological and cultural diversity. They adopted the [Declaration of Belém](#), which explicitly outlines the responsibilities of scientists and environmentalists in addressing the needs of local communities, including establishing mechanisms by which Indigenous experts are recognized as proper authorities and are meaningfully and equitably engaged in all initiatives that affect them, their resources, and their environments.

Today, the ISE continues its groundbreaking efforts in providing a platform for a meaningful and respectful dialogue among people of diverse views, cultures and backgrounds. Cross-cultural sharing of ideas, issues and solutions across Indigenous and non-Indigenous, academic and non-academic, and theoretical and practical perspectives is a vital part of this dialogue that takes place face-to-face at international congresses, held every two years in varying parts of the world. During the ISE Congresses, participants tackle the most difficult and challenging, yet promising questions of our times – cultural and intellectual property rights, endogenous development, and agrobiodiversity, to name a few – informing the global discourse and advancing debates to qualitatively new levels.

A fundamental aspect of the ISE that sets it apart from other societies is the [Code of Ethics](#) that, based in “mindfulness,” fosters mutually respectful and beneficial relationships between different

knowledge holders. The Code of Ethics was adopted by the ISE membership in 2006 after a decade of development, and is a manifestation of the groundbreaking thinking, courage, and foresight of the ISE and a tremendously important contribution to the future of humankind.

Building on the traditions of past ISE congresses, the 12th International Congress of Ethnobiology in Tofino, British Columbia, Canada will yet again bring Indigenous and non-Indigenous participants from around the world to tackle the key issues of our times, such as community-conserved areas and food sovereignty. The Congress will include a wide range of formats for people to share their knowledge, ideas and experiences, ranging from talking circles, to film viewings and discussions, cultural performances, field trips, oral presentations and poster sessions. The Congress is intended to be highly interactive and participatory, and to foster a commitment by participants to building understanding and trust.

To help focus and guide dialogue and exchanges at the Congress, the broad themes of the Congress - language, community-conserved areas and food sovereignty - have been selected for their global significance as well as their importance for local community members and the Indigenous Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations. Contributions from all types of knowledge-holders are welcomed

Who can contribute?

We will accept proposals from anyone who shares an interest in the themes of the Congress and the principles of the International Society of Ethnobiology. You may submit on someone's behalf, provided you have their permission to do so. For example, you may submit on behalf of an elder or non-English speaking participant.

If your contribution is an academic talk, it should be no more than 15 minutes in length. Other types of contributions can be longer. You must specify the time length of your contribution.

Depending on the nature of your contribution, the Program Subcommittee may work with you to determine the optimal time, length, format and venue for your contribution.

We encourage many formats of communication and interaction designed to facilitate multidisciplinary content, intercultural discussion, and to bridge worldviews. Examples include (but are not limited to):

- Speakers (presenting with or without PowerPoint or slides)
- Storytelling
- Film
- Demonstrations (artisanal craft, food or medicine preparation, carving, etc.)
- Performance (dance, chant, singing, drumming, drama, other)
- Posters
- Art (carvings, paintings, other)
- Multi-media
- Talking circle

What are the criteria for selection?

The following criteria will be used by the Program Sub-committee:

- Does your proposal fit the Congress themes? Does it contribute to the diversity and richness of the Congress?
- Can your proposal be accommodated within the meeting venues and available audio-visual equipment or other equipment needs?
- Does your proposal complement other contributions and activities or does it significantly overlap with other proposals?
- Does your proposal agree with the [vision of the ISE](#) and the principles of the ISE's [Code of Ethics](#)?
- If appropriate for the format of your contribution, are you willing to contribute to the Congress Proceedings?

We regret that your proposal may not be accepted in your preferred format, but we will do our utmost to ensure that you are able to contribute to the Congress.

Congress themes

The overarching theme of the 12th ICE is *Hishuk-ish tsa'walk*, a Nuu-chah-nulth First Nations phrase that embodies the concept of “everything is one,” the understanding that everything is connected and nothing is isolated from other aspects of life surrounding it and within it.

The sub-themes include:

1) Conserved and protected areas and people

There are a range of structures and institutions used to conserve and protect lands, resources, and human uses of lands and resources such as: Indigenous community conserved areas, tribal parks, biosphere reserves, marine protected areas, national and regional parks. These are all cross-cultural interfaces with varying degrees of ‘allowable’ cultural use of land and resources. Each holds the potential for both conflict and innovative co-management of land and natural resources. What is the role of ethnobiology within such areas? What are the advantages and disadvantages of different structures and institutional arrangements? Theoretical and practical contributions on this sub-theme are welcome, whether at the conceptual stage or grounded in concrete experiences.

2) Cultural transmission of knowledge in protecting and restoring biocultural diversity

Under this theme, we explore the cultural transmission of knowledge through language and education. Contributions should focus on the roles of language, education and language revitalization in preserving, maintaining and restoring biocultural diversity. For example:

- In many cultures, past church and state education policies have disrupted cultural transmission of knowledge, but what is today’s role of education? What practices and policies are required to ensure culturally-appropriate education?
- What are the lessons from language revitalization, and how can these be enshrined in policy to protect biocultural diversity?

Practical contributions on this theme are encouraged. A diversity of formats and media (e.g., audio, video, storytelling, performance art) is encouraged to foster cross-cultural sharing and communication among Congress participants.

3) *Traditional foods and food sovereignty*

Food sovereignty is the right of peoples to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods, and their right to define their own food and agriculture systems [1]. Food sovereignty puts those who produce, distribute and consume food at the heart of food systems and policies rather than being subject to the demands of markets and corporations. It includes and defends the interests of the next generation. Food sovereignty issues are of great importance and interest to Nuu-chah-nulth people and local communities, and under this sub-theme we hope to explore the relationship between ethnobiology and food sovereignty and learn about the world-wide experiences of ethnobiologists, practitioners, indigenous and traditional peoples who are helping to define, protect and put into practice these rights and associated responsibilities.

[1] Declaration of Nyéléni (text), Nyéléni 2007 - Forum for Food Sovereignty. Accessed online at http://www.world-governance.org/IMG/pdf_0072_Declaration_of_Nyeleni_-_ENG.pdf on 20 April 2009.

4) *Other topics*

Contributions that do not fall within one of the three sub-themes are also welcome. Congress organizers particularly encourage submissions on:

- (1) Putting ideas into practice and using practices to inform research, policy, education and action for the stewardship of biological and cultural diversity and ecosystem health.
- (2) Adaptive capacity and using cultural knowledge to adapt to local, regional and global changes

Submission requirements (please use this checklist BEFORE you send in your proposal).

You are encouraged to use the attached Word form. Your proposal must include:

- Your name, organizational affiliation, mailing address , email address and telephone number PLUS the same of any co-presenters.
- A title.
- An abstract or description, in 500 words or less.
- The preferred format of your contribution (presentation, poster, film, demonstration, etc)
- Any special audio visual or other equipment you will need (e.g., Power Point, sound system for music, wireless microphone or other specialized equipment).
- Please indicate which Congress theme your contribution fits in. Please read the Congress themes carefully. If it does not fit within a Congress theme, please describe how it contributes to the Congress overall.
- Please indicate if you are willing to contribute to the Congress Proceedings (if appropriate for the format of your contribution). For example, a paper, a video or recording of your performance or demonstration (we will work with you to record it), a digital copy of your poster.
- Electronic submissions sent by email must contain your name in the file name, e.g., John_Smith_contribution.doc or Maria_Cruz_Gomez_abstract.doc.**

You will be informed by mid-October 2009 about the status of your proposal. At this stage, successful proposals will be granted *final* or *preliminary acceptance*. Preliminary acceptance means you

will need to work with the Program Sub-Committee to finalize certain details before being granted final acceptance. Final acceptance of all session contributions will require Congress registration by November 30th, 2009.

Submit your proposal or abstract to:

Via e-mail: ice2010@tbgf.org
Via fax to: +1 (250) 725-2435
Via snail mail to: ICE 2010
PO Box 886
Tofino BC V0R 2Z0
CANADA

Issued June 25 2009