



**SOCIETY FOR  
THREATENED  
PEOPLES**



**Annual Report**  
**2019**

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## Editorial

Since December 2019, the Coronavirus has been spreading around the world at tremendous speed: the pandemic is turning the lives of millions of people upside down - also in Switzerland. **But we continue our work and the fight for the human rights of minorities and indigenous peoples also under difficult conditions.** In times of Corona, this has been particularly important: both travelling Roma, Sinti and Yenish in Europe and indigenous communities in Brazil are especially vulnerable to the new virus.

**The Uyghurs in China are also at great risk:** while the Chinese government is sending protective masks and nurses around the world to make a name for itself as a crisis manager, it has detained up to three million Uyghurs in internment camps, where they are kept under precarious conditions. There, a virus outbreak would have devastating effects. In addition, the virus threatens to cause their suffering to be forgotten. In November 2019, the leak of Chinese government documents (“China Cables”) provided unmistakable evidence of their suppression. Uyghur representative Dolkun Isa, speaking at the podium on “Human Rights in China” in Bern, demanded: “It is not the right time to do business with China.” On page 8, you can read about our work with the Uyghur and Tibetan communities and our activities for a fairer economic policy in Switzerland.

**Indigenous leaders in Brazil called for measures to protect indigenous people against the Coronavirus.** In this regard, however, little can be expected from President Bolsonaro: never has he hidden his contempt for the indigenous. He wants to force them to assimilate, to exploit the Amazon and to abolish indigenous territories. The murder rate of indigenous people has risen sharply under Bolsonaro, and last summer, forest destruction proceeded at a pace not seen for years. In November, the STP officially launched its new campaign “Hands off the Amazon!” to support indigenous people in Brazil in their fight for more rights. Read more on page 6.

**The STP, that's you too!** Through your membership and/or donation you become part of the movement for justice for minorities and indigenous communities. Many thanks for your contribution!



### IMPRINT

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**Christoph Wiedmer**  
Co-Director



**Lisa Mazzone**  
President

In 2019, the STP accompanied indigenous delegations, organised panel discussions, started protest actions and also ended one campaign.

 **100% grateful**



Representatives of NGOs, the gold sector and science come together for a panel discussion on "Switzerland and gold" during the STP's anniversary.

 **10'000 likes**  
on Facebook



Dolkun Isa, president of the World Uyghur Congress, visits Switzerland to participate in a panel discussion on human rights in China.

 **4 panel discussions**



In Oslo, coastal communities and NGOs are protesting to call attention to the social dimensions of Ocean Grabbing.

 **6 countries in which we were active**



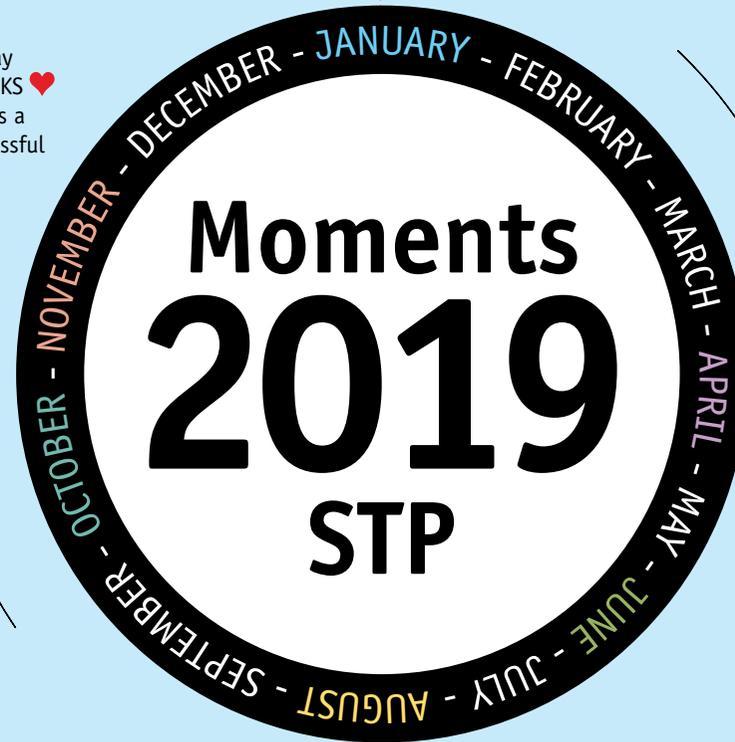
A Sami delegation is fighting against a copper mine, in which Credit Suisse is involved.

 **4 movie screenings**



After six years, the Sri Lanka campaign is brought to an end. A local movement keeps on fighting.

We say THANKS   
It was a successful year.



 **8 active campaigns**

 **7 successes**



Swiss Roma are speaking up about the use of the German "Z-word", which is still used a lot.

**3 indigenous delegations** 



The STP participates in the biggest mobilisation of indigenous people in Brazil: the Acampamento Terra Livre.

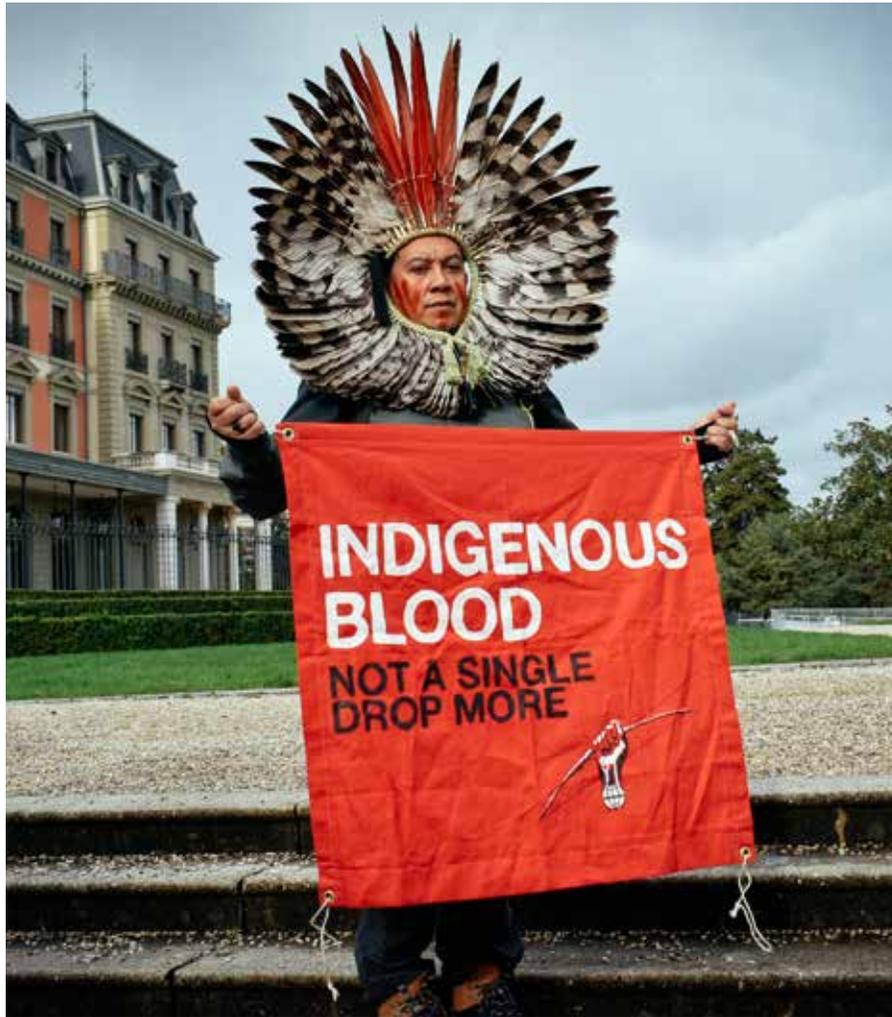
**21 press releases** 

We're on the move all year round

## Brazil: “Hands off the Amazon!”

“Hands off the Amazon!” is the Society for Threatened Peoples’ (STP) latest campaign. Together with indigenous communities in Brazil, the STP is standing up for human rights and is supporting the inhabitants of the Amazon in their efforts to protect their habitat.

Kreta Kaingang, indigenous leader from the south of Brazil, in front of the UN building in Geneva. PHOTO: STP



### ACTIVITIES

“Indigenous blood: not a single drop more!” This was the demand made by the indigenous delegation from Brazil during its European tour in November. The STP supported the delegation and organised talks with representatives from the world of politics and business, a demonstration, and a press conference. The indigenous peoples criticised the planned free trade agreement between the EFTA (including Switzerland) and Mercosur states, which include Brazil. The STP therefore demands that human rights and environmental protection be included in the wording of the agreement. The STP also supports the annual meetings of the indigenous communities in Tapajós Basin, the demarcation of their territories and a project for the cultivation of cacao. The demarcation is the basis for the recognition of land as indigenous territory, which also aids in the protection of the Amazon.

### SUCCESSSES

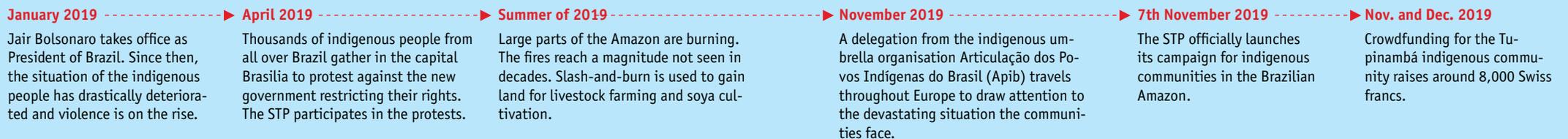
During the talks with the delegation, direct contact was established between those affected, representatives of trade organisations and the Swiss parliament. Many media outlets included the indigenous people’s concerns in their reporting. In addition, the STP has already been able to successfully complete an initial crowdfunding campaign for the Tupinambá community. Thanks to these funds, the Tupinambá are now able to continue the demarcation of their territory.

### OUTLOOK

The STP will continue to monitor the Mercosur free trade agreement with a critical eye. Further demarcation projects are planned and the support of the cacao project for the Yanomami community will continue. This is intended to offer young indigenous people alternatives to illegal gold mining. We will also continue to support the indigenous people’s political activism, in particular their efforts to assert their right to have a say in economic projects.

### “Our concern is for life itself.”

*Nara Baré, coordinator of Coiab, the umbrella organisation of indigenous organisations in the Brazilian Amazon*



## China: Increasingly brutal oppression of minorities

Leaked documents of the Chinese government confirm what has long been feared: between one and three million Uyghurs are being held in so-called re-education camps in East Turkestan (Xinjiang).



Dolkun Isa, President of the World Uyghur Congress in Bern. FOTO: STP

### ACTIVITIES

Tangible evidence of China's brutal treatment of Uyghurs is available since November 2019: the "China Cables" prove the existence of the re-education camps and the large-scale surveillance in East Turkestan (Xinjiang, China). Nevertheless, the Swiss Federal Council intends to maintain the free trade agreement with China. This is much to the dismay of the communities living in exile, whose members are experiencing China's growing influence. As part of its campaign with the Tibetan community in Switzerland, the Society for Threatened Peoples (STP) has already shown that monitoring is taking place here too. Together with other organisations, we called for the renegotiation of the agreement and organised a vigil and panel discussion with Tibetan and Uyghur partners to draw attention to the issue.

### SUCCESSES

On the occasion of the panel on human rights in China, the STP was able to receive Dolkun Isa, President of the World Uyghur Congress, in Bern and accompany him to a discussion with the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs. Several media outlets took the opportunity to interview Isa. Members of the small Uyghur community in Switzerland actively participated in the vigil and networked with the Tibetan community. The State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) has also announced its intention to invite stakeholders from the private sector to discuss how to deal with the human rights situation in China.

### OUTLOOK

The STP is continuing its research into the involvement of Swiss companies in East Turkestan and aims to persuade the companies concerned to exercise due diligence with regard to human rights. The STP will also continue to monitor the federal government's policies in relation to China.

**"The long arm of China's government is everywhere."**

*Dolkun Isa, President of the World Uyghur Congress*

Since 2014 -----> July 2014 -----> Since 2017 -----> March 2018 -----> September 2018 -----> November 2019

Start of the Chinese government's "anti-terror campaign" in Xinjiang.

The free trade agreement between China and Switzerland enters into force.

First reports of "internment camps" where Uyghurs are forced to "assimilate".

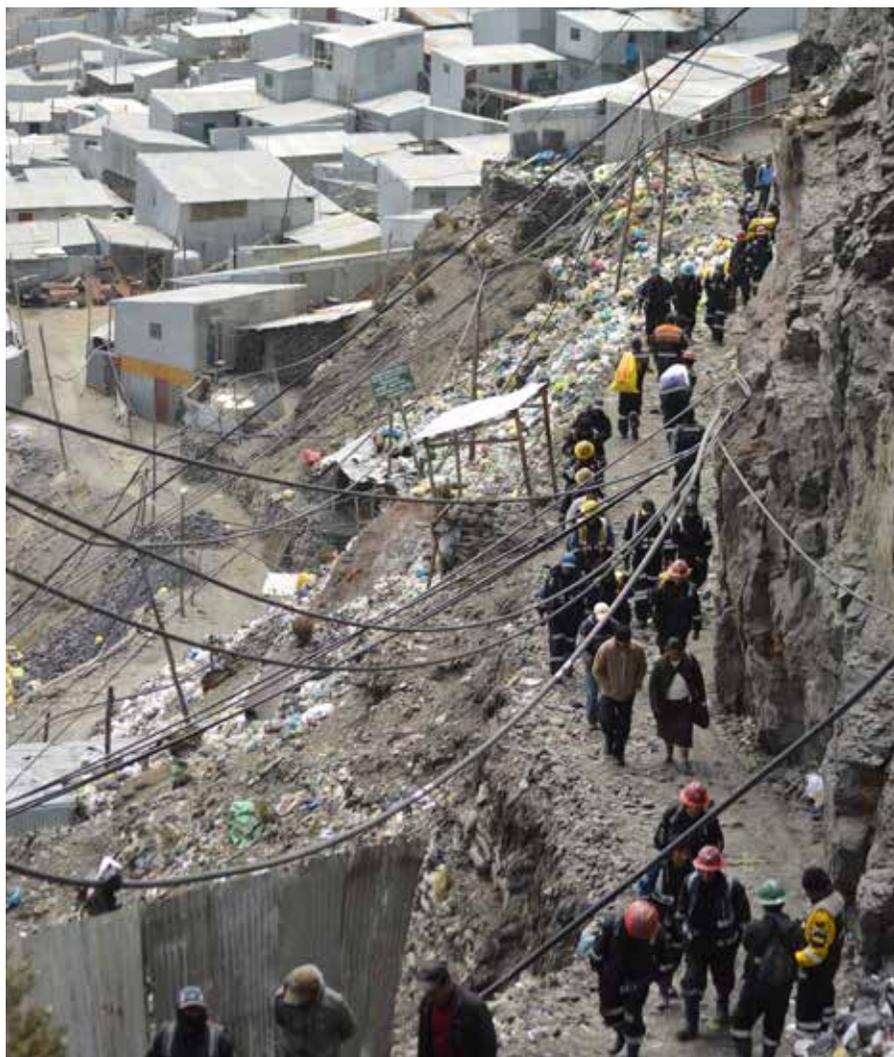
Publication of the STP's report on China's growing influence in Switzerland.

The STP and other organisations present a petition demanding more protection for the Tibetan community living in exile in Switzerland.

The New York Times publishes the "China Cables": 403 pages of leaked Chinese government documents. The documents provide the shocking proof that the re-education camps are not, in fact, "education centres" and suggest that communities living in exile are also victims of spying.

## Peru/Switzerland: No Dirty Gold

Dirty gold was again a major issue this year. There is no doubt that the gold industry has to act, but the refineries are dragging their feet over ceasing trade in dirty gold.



Miners on their way to work, La Rinconada, Peru. PHOTO: Maria Eugenia Robles Mengoa

### ACTIVITIES

Transparency in the gold business is a necessary step towards more sustainable gold mining. In January 2019, the Swiss Federal Customs Administration granted the Society for Threatened Peoples' (STP) request and decided to disclose the origin of gold of the four biggest gold refineries. But transparency appears to be toxic for the gold trade. The refineries immediately lodged an appeal with the Federal Administrative Court, whose decision is still pending. On the occasion of the STP's 30th anniversary, a podium discussion on the subject of gold took place, which brought together various representatives from the gold trade, NGOs, and science.

### SUCCESSES

The Peruvian public prosecutor's office is stepping up its measures against the export company Minerales del Sur, which is suspected of money laundering and illegal gold mining. Over the years, Minerales del Sur has supplied Metalor with more than a hundred tons of gold worth over 3.5 million US dollars. The STP has repeatedly drawn Metalor's attention to the shortcomings of its supplier – for a long time without success. Then, last summer, Metalor announced its withdrawal from small-scale mining. For the STP, this is only a short-term solution. In the long term, the conditions in artisanal mining must be significantly improved, as countless people in Peru depend on it. Metalor has sourced gold from extremely precarious mining conditions for decades and therefore has a responsibility to help bring about a sustainable improvement in small-scale mining.

### OUTLOOK

Up to now, refineries have not been obliged to disclose the origin of their gold imports as the Federal Administrative Court's decision is still pending. The STP continues to follow up its request for the disclosure of the customs statistics since transparency is an important step towards fairer conditions.

**“It is important to not only combat the destructive mining of raw materials, but also to promote alternative sources of income.”**

*Alfredo Vargas Pio, Mayor of San Jacinto, Peru*



## Norway: Swiss companies violate Sami rights

The Sami are the only recognised indigenous people in Europe. Reindeer husbandry is at the heart of their culture. In Norway, there are currently two major projects threatening the survival of the Sami culture and their traditional way of life. Swiss companies are also involved.



Aili Keskitalo is president of the Sami parliament of Norway. PHOTO: STP

### ACTIVITIES

Lost reindeer land, poison in the fjord: two copper mines planned by the mining company Nussir AG violate the rights of the Norwegian Sami and threaten their traditional way of life. Important grazing and calving areas are at stake. Plans to dump chemicals and heavy metals from the mine in the "Repparfjord", a fjord that is vitally important to the salmon population, also threaten the local fishing industry. Research carried out by the Society for Threatened Peoples (STP) has shown that the Swiss banking giant Credit Suisse (CS) bears some responsibility: it manages shares in Nussir as a "nominee shareholder".

### SUCCESSSES

The STP accompanied a Sami delegation in Switzerland. During direct talks, the Sami delegates demanded that Credit Suisse suspend its services to Nussir until a mutually acceptable solution is found. The visit caused quite a response: as a result of the media coverage, the client for whom CS was holding the shares came forward, which now allows the Sami to negotiate with him directly.

### OUTLOOK

The STP will continue its advocacy efforts that Swiss companies respect indigenous rights, not only in project financing but also in corporate financing and the equity business. In the "Storheia" area on the Fosen peninsula, despite a pending complaint made by the Sami people, a wind energy project has been realised with the help of investments made by the Bernese energy provider BKW. In early 2020, the STP filed a complaint against BKW with the Swiss Contact Point for the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises.

**"It has to be possible for our children and future generations to continue reindeer husbandry and to live according to our culture."**

*Mikkel Sara, reindeer herder*

#### December 2018

The STP supports the Sami in their opposition to a wind power plant in Storheia in western Norway with a short campaign.

#### December 2018

In Berne, a delegation from Norway calls on the Swiss companies involved to reconsider their investments in the wind energy project.

#### March 2019

The Sami file a complaint against the planned copper mines in northern Norway. They criticise insufficient consultation with the Sami communities.

#### August 2019

A Sami delegation from northern Norway calls on Credit Suisse to distance itself from the company involved in the copper mine. Affected Sami communities hold talks with the investor.

#### November 2019

The Norwegian Government rejects the complaint relating to the operation of the two copper mines in northern Norway. Public pressure on the future operators of the mines is growing.

## USA: Indigenous people in Standing Rock continue their fight

The conflict over Standing Rock and the controversial North Dakota Access Pipeline through Sioux territory is far from resolved. However, the Society for Threatened Peoples (STP) was able to achieve a partial success in mediation proceedings with Credit Suisse (CS).



Michelle Cook is an indigenous human rights lawyer. PHOTO: STP

### ACTIVITIES

In the USA, indigenous people and environmental activists protested against the construction of the North Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) at Standing Rock for months in 2016. The construction of the pipeline violated the rights of the local Sioux community. The Swiss bank CS was indirectly involved in its financing. The STP therefore filed a complaint with the Swiss OECD National Contact Point (NCP). The NCP aims to promote compliance with the OECD Guidelines by multinational companies. A mediation process was initiated between the bank and the STP, which was finally concluded in 2019.

### SUCCESSSES

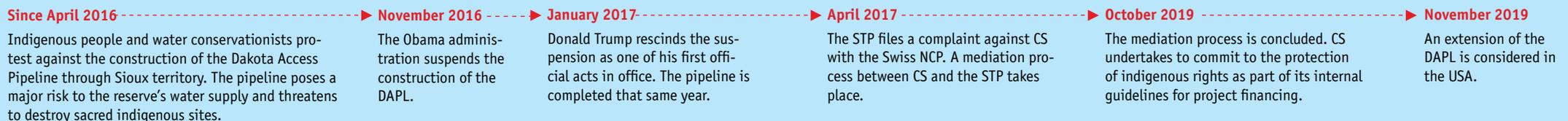
As a result of the mediation process between the STP and Credit Suisse, the bank undertook to voluntarily incorporate the concept of “Free, Prior and Informed Consent” (FPIC) into its internal, sector-specific guidelines on oil and gas, mining, forestry and agriculture in cases where indigenous communities are affected. For project financing, CS will in the future expect its clients to provide proof that the FPIC principles have been respected.

### OUTLOOK

The concessions made by CS were a small success. CS must now impose sanctions on borrowers in the event of violation or non-compliance with the guidelines. The STP will monitor the implementation of the new guidelines and expects them to be extended to other business segments: at present, CS’s internal guidelines are limited to project financing. US human rights lawyer Michelle Cook notes that CS needs to take further steps and, together with other indigenous representatives, filed a complaint with the US NCP in January 2020.

**“We’re not done with Credit Suisse yet.”**

*Michelle Cook, human rights lawyer in the USA*



## Financial Report

The STP can again look back on a successful year. Thanks to the solid equity capital base, liquidity is assured. Without the generous support from our members, as well as from donors, foundations and institutions, our work would be impossible. The STP would like to take this opportunity to express sincere gratitude for this support. The STP strives to use the available resources in an efficient, goal-oriented manner and to manage them economically.

### Balance sheet as on 31 December 2019

ASSETS	2019	2018
LIQUID ASSETS	775 865.78	826 053.94
OUTSTANDING ASSETS / RECEIVABLES	1 447.60	2 083.95
ACCRUED INCOME	44 671.05	17 371.10
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>821 984.43</b>	<b>845 508.99</b>
TANGIBLE ASSETS	41 734.40	56 184.40
<b>TOTAL CAPITAL ASSETS</b>	<b>41 734.40</b>	<b>56 184.40</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>863 718.83</b>	<b>901 693.39</b>

LIABILITIES	2019	2018
TRADE PAYABLES/ CURRENT LIABILITIES	80 794.75	91 741.20
ACCRUED EXPENSES / DEFERRED INCOME	127 875.01	142 650.40
<b>TOTAL BORROWED CAPITAL</b>	<b>208 669.76</b>	<b>234 391.60</b>
FUNDS	6 173.80	7 300.60
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>	<b>6 173.80</b>	<b>7 300.60</b>
ORGANISATIONAL CAPITAL	660 001.19	651 769.93
NET PROFIT / LOSS	-11 125.92	8 231.26
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<b>648 875.27</b>	<b>660 001.19</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>863 718.83</b>	<b>901 693.39</b>

### Income statement for 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2019

INCOME	2019	2018
SALES REVENUE	561.15	1 134.10
MEMBERSHIP FEES AND DONATIONS	1 651 667.94	1 630 836.65
CONTRIBUTIONS	18 000.00	311 257.29
OTHER INCOME	5 058.20	2 535.82
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>1 675 287.29</b>	<b>1 945 763.86</b>

EXPENDITURE	2019	2018
CAMPAIGNS AND PROJECTS	648 409.63	909 836.97
PERSONNEL EXPENSES	338 604.01	330 844.00
ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS	108 482.46	99 183.10
FUNDRAISING COSTS	574 150.80	582 935.55
DEPRECIATIONS	14 450.00	14 450.00
<b>OPERATING RESULT</b>	<b>1 684 096.90</b>	<b>1 937 249.62</b>
<b>FINANCIAL RESULT</b>	<b>-8 809.61</b>	<b>8 514.24</b>
FINANCIAL INCOME	-5 007.96	-5 497.60
EXTRAORDINARY EXPENSES	1 564.85	0.00
<b>RESULT BEFORE CHANGE OF FUNDS CAPITAL</b>	<b>-12 252.72</b>	<b>3 016.64</b>
TOTAL FUNDS CAPITAL	1 126.80	5 214.62
<b>ANNUAL RESULT</b>	<b>-11 125.92</b>	<b>8 231.26</b>

### General accounting principles

The financial reporting of the Society for Threatened Peoples (STP) complies with the professional financial reporting recommendations Swiss GAAP FER 21 and Kern-FER, as well as the Swiss Code of Obligations. This financial report represents the actual situation regarding assets, finances and profits.

The 2019 financial report was approved by the executive board on 24 February 2020 for the attention of the members' assembly.

The complete annual financial statement and audit report can be ordered from the STP or downloaded from the website: [www.gfbv.ch/en/about-us/annual-reports/](http://www.gfbv.ch/en/about-us/annual-reports/)

## Income statement

The following organisations have supported us significantly:

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM ORGANISATIONS	2019	2018
GREEN CROSS WADI PROJECT		273 293.00
REFORMED PARISH OF SISSACH ROMA		5 000.00
FEDERATION OF SWISS PROTESTANT CHURCHES TAMILES		3 750.00
SWISS-TIBETAN FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION GSTF TIBET CAMPAIGN		5 000.00
TIBETAN YOUTH ASSOCIATION IN EUROPE TIBET CAMPAIGN		2 000.00
TIBETAN COMMUNITY IN SWITZERLAND & LIECHTENSTEIN TIBET CAMPAIGN		5 000.00
TEMPERATIO FOUNDATION LAND GRABBING IN SRI LANKA		6 000.00
GREENPEACE SAMPLING		3 300.00
HEKS BACKSTOPPING KOSOVO		4 525.45
STIMMVOLK.CH	4 272.85	3 388.90
TEMPERATIO-STIFTUNG GOLD	2 000.00	
TEMPERATIO-STIFTUNG AMAZON	8 000.00	
GREENPEACE INDIGENOUS DELEGATION FROM THE AMAZON	8 000.00	

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM PUBLIC AUTHORITIES	2019	2018
NO CONTRIBUTIONS		

## Activity report

The STP's activities are focused on disseminating information, campaigning and implementing projects. To carry out this work, the STP depends on a sufficiently high number of members and donors. In 2019, the STP invested a total of CHF 574'150 in fundraising activities. The recruitment of members and donors, an important fundraising measure, simultaneously serves to raise public awareness of the organisation's objectives. New members and donors are mainly recruited by means of street campaigns. At the end of 2019, the STP had approximately 16'000 active supporters (PY 17'300). For various campaigns, we received donations and contributions from parishes, foundations and organisations.

The executive board met five times in 2019 and worked for a total of ca. 180 non-remunerated hours for the STP.

### Board and office

**Executive board** **Lisa Mazzone** president (elected until 2020); **Göpf Berwerger** vice-president (elected until 2021); **Sonja Beeli** (elected until 2019); **Theodora Peter** (elected until 2020); **Marianne Helfer** (elected until 2021); **Eva Schmassmann** (elected until 2021); **Nora Refaeil** (elected until 2020)

**Sonja Beeli** has resigned as member of the executive board. From 2007 to 2019 she was a very dedicated part of our executive board. We greatly appreciated her contribution and thank her for her many years of commitment.

In the course of 2019, a total of 22 permanent employees worked for the STP, including 6 interns and 1 apprentice.

### STP International

The Society for Threatened Peoples Switzerland is the Swiss section of the Society for Threatened Peoples International. The purpose of STP Switzerland is in line with the objectives of STP International. No membership fee was paid to STP International for the year 2019. Other sections of STP International are located in Germany, Austria, South Tyrol / Italy, Bosnia Herzegovina and Northern Iraq. The STP has representatives in various other countries.

The campaigns and projects were described in detail in the annual report.

**The STP would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all members, donors, foundations and public authorities for their generous support. Without them all our work would not be possible - thank you very much!** The STP would also like to thank the executive board, the employees and the interns for their untiring commitment to human rights!

# Become an ally of minorities and indigenous people

through:  
a MEMBERSHIP



a  
DONATION



or a  
BEQUEST



## Become active - support us!

Our work is only possible with your support. With your membership or donation, we support minorities and indigenous peoples all over the world.

For further information, see:



# Thank you!