



**SOCIETY FOR
THREATENED
PEOPLES**



forced labour camps in China
23,000 demand
the renegotiation of the free
trade agreement!

#NoComplicity



ASSOCIATION
OF EUROPEAN
TRADE

CAMPAX

FOR THE PROTECTION OF
HUMAN RIGHTS



Annual Report

2020

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Editorial

The year 2020 was marked by far-reaching changes and new challenges. The coronavirus crisis has made us all aware of how important solidarity is for a society. Solidarity does not only mean support packages for the Swiss economy and shopping for elderly neighbours, though. After all, while pandemics are horrific for any society, the implications for indigenous communities can be devastating: they are particularly susceptible to infectious diseases, their access to the health system is often poor, and important political activities to assert their rights have been cancelled or carried out virtually.

This has become evident in Brazil, for example: while Covid-19 cases multiplied there, President Bolsonaro put the economy first. The STP therefore supported the coronavirus emergency fund of the indigenous communities, allowing some of them to continue their centuries-old struggle for land and an intact rainforest despite Covid-19. With success! The Tupinambá and Munduruku communities took an important step further in demarcating their territories. And the Yanomami held several workshops on sowing and reforesting cocoa seedlings as part of their cocoa project, which made them more economically independent. Read more on page 6.

The coronavirus crisis has clearly demonstrated the economic dependence of European countries on China: when the crisis began in China, there was a lack of urgently needed goods such as respiratory masks. It cannot be ruled out that these originate from forced labour. Given the dire human rights situation in China, this is unacceptable: at least one million Uyghurs are being held in re-education camps and tens of thousands have been deported for forced labour. On page 8, you can read about the activities with which the STP campaigned for a new approach to Sino-Swiss policy last year.

We invite you to read more about the STP's work in this annual report. We would like to share our successes and highlights with you, because you have made a significant contribution by being a member and/or making a donation. Thank you very much for your support.



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Christoph Wiedmer
Co-Director



Lisa Mazzone
President

In 2020, the STP accompanied several delegations, launched campaigns and petitions, supported a national referendum campaign and, with an online podium, mastered the leap into the coronavirus age of digital events. Here are some of those moments in pictures:

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER - DECEMBER - JANUARY - FEBRUARY - MARCH - APRIL - MAY - JUNE - JULY - AUGUST - SEPTEMBER

Moments 2020 STP



100 % grateful



Kazakh Sayragul Sauytbay speaks during a panel discussion and vigil about China's crimes and Switzerland's responsibility.



active in 4 countries



The STP contributes to the broad mobilisation of the population in the campaign for the Responsible Business Initiative.



30 pages of know-how



During the national climate camp in the federal square, the STP raises awareness of indigenous rights in connection with the energy transition.



3'000 cocoa seedlings



Uyghurs gather in the federal square and present a petition demanding the renegotiation of the free trade agreement with China.



29 km of borderline demarcated



As part of their cocoa project, the Yanomami in the Amazon conduct several workshops on sowing and reforesting cocoa seedlings.



5 active campaigns



Bernese voters say Yes to the credit for a transit site for foreign travellers in Wileroltigen.



23'000 petition signatures



The indigenous leader Davi Yanomami travels from Brazil to the UN in Geneva and speaks about the grave situation with which the indigenous peoples in the Amazon are faced.



2'443 new supporters

Brazil: “Hands off the Amazon!”

The coronavirus pandemic is greatly exacerbating the situation for the indigenous peoples in the Brazilian Amazon: while the world has been focusing on the crisis, the systematic deforestation of the Amazon rainforest has dramatically increased. Indigenous communities are resisting despite the coronavirus crisis and are continuing their demarcation work that will allow their lands to be recognised as such.

Brás Antônio Marques de Gastro, General Cacique of the Tupinambá of the low Tapajós. Photo: Thomaz Pedro



ACTIVITIES

In March, the STP accompanied the indigenous leader Davi Kopenawa Yanomami to the UN in Geneva, where he drew attention to the grave situation of indigenous peoples in the Amazon. Following the outbreak of the pandemic, the STP contributed financially to a coronavirus emergency fund run by the Brazilian indigenous umbrella organisation APIB and supported the Tupinambá and Munduruku communities in the demarcation of their lands. The STP was also involved in an international coalition to ensure that Brazil’s membership of the OECD would be linked to the country complying with human rights and environmental standards. In the summer, the STP, together with APIB and other partners, carried out a social media campaign as a result of the devastating forest fires, calling for long-term measures to protect the Amazon and the rights of the indigenous peoples.

SUCCESSES

On completion of the social media campaign, a tree mosaic picture signed by almost 100 organisations was presented to the Brazilian embassy and government. This resulted in a positive exchange with the embassy. Despite the difficult situation they face as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, the Tupinambá community made good progress in their demarcation work: they marked a total of 29 kilometres of border trail in the dense Amazon. As part of the cocoa project that aims to guarantee the Yanomami community a secure income in the long term, indigenous people conducted workshops on sowing and reforesting cocoa seedlings.

OUTLOOK

The STP continues to support the Yanomami’s cocoa project as well as the demarcation process of the Tupinambá and Munduruku. It is also involved in the Mercosur coalition to ensure that the rights of indigenous peoples are guaranteed in the free trade agreement. A detailed report on the impact of the planned construction of infrastructure in the Brazilian Amazon is set to be published in 2021.

“It is precisely in these times of uncertainty that indigenous communities must defend themselves!

And they must do it together!”

Cacique Bráz, Chief of the Tupinambá

March 2020 -----► Spring 2020

Davi Kopenawa Yanomami speaks at the UN in Geneva about the multi-faceted threats Brazil’s uncontacted communities are facing.

The coronavirus pandemic hits indigenous people hard: they are particularly vulnerable to infectious diseases, their access to the health system is often poor and important political activities such as the largest indigenous meeting, “Acampamento Terra Livre” (ATL), are cancelled or held virtually.

► Summer 2020

An area larger than 120 football fields disappears every hour in the Brazilian Amazon due to deforestation and fire.

► August 2020

A new report describes how European and especially Swiss banks finance the trade of controversial oil from the Amazon region to the USA.

► Autumn 2020

A group of the indigenous Tupinambá community in the Brazilian Amazon demarcates 29 kilometres of border trail of their territory during their expeditions.

► November 2020

A new 30-page handbook by the STP provides indigenous peoples with an overview of existing international legal instruments and is intended to serve as a basis for civic education workshops in Brazil.

China: Human rights before economic interests

The outbreak of the global coronavirus crisis has very clearly highlighted the European countries' economic entanglement and dependence on China. Switzerland urgently needs a fresh start in its policies in dealing with China: human rights must be prioritised over short-term economic interests.



Sayragul Sauytbay is a survivor of a Chinese internment camp in East Turkestan. Photo: STP

ACTIVITIES

The Federal Council continues to maintain its strong economic ties with China, despite the existence of re-education camps, forced labour and deportations in East Turkestan (Chinese Xinjiang) as well as the forced labour programmes in Tibet. The STP, in cooperation with the Uyghur Association of Switzerland and the campaign organisation Campax, has therefore launched the petition “#NoComplicity” that demands the renegotiation of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with China. The current arrangement offers no guarantees against products made under forced labour conditions entering Switzerland, as confirmed by a legal opinion commissioned by the STP from trade expert Thomas Cottier. On International Human Rights Day, the STP organised a vigil to join the Uyghur and Tibetan communities in calling on the Federal Council to prioritise human rights in its new China strategy.

SUCCESSES

The Foreign Affairs Committee of the National Council followed a petition by Tibet organisations and the STP by issuing two postulates. These now require a detailed report from the Federal Council on the situation of Tibetans in Switzerland and an evaluation of the human rights dialogue with China. On the occasion of an online panel and vigil on the human rights situation in China and Switzerland's responsibility, Sayragul Sauytbay, survivor of a Chinese internment camp, travelled to Berne. The STP also accompanied her to a meeting with the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs and a meeting with members of parliament from all parties. Several media prominently covered Sauytbay's visit.

OUTLOOK

The STP will continue to put pressure on the Federal Council to prioritise human rights in its China strategy. It is also engaging in dialogue with Swiss companies involved in East Turkestan.

“We cannot simply sit back and wait; China is committing ever greater crimes.”

Sayragul Sauytbay, survivor of a Chinese internment camp in East Turkestan (Chinese Xinjiang)

June 2020

The STP files a complaint with the Swiss Contact Point for the OECD Guidelines (NCP) against UBS due to the bank's business relationship with the Chinese group Hikvision. The latter plays a central role in the mass surveillance of Uyghurs in East Turkestan.

September 2020

Together with over 23,000 signatories, the Uyghur Association of Switzerland, Campax and the STP submit a petition to the Federal Council demanding the renegotiation of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with China.

November 2020

A legal opinion by trade expert Thomas Cottier underpins the need to renegotiate the FTA between Switzerland and China.

December 2020

Ethnic Kazakh Sayragul Sauytbay travels to Switzerland for a panel discussion as well as for talks with the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (EDA) and with members of parliament.

December 2020

On International Human Rights Day, the Uyghur and Tibetan communities, Campax and the STP hold a vigil to demand a revision of Switzerland's China policy.

Switzerland: Corporations bear responsibility

When human rights and the environment are threatened by economic activities abroad, corporations based in Switzerland also bear responsibility. This year, the STP was involved in the “No Dirty Gold!” campaign and the Responsible Business Initiative for more accountability, due diligence and transparency on the part of Swiss corporations.

Girl from Cerro de Pasco (Peru), where a Glencore mine is poisoning the air and water. Photo: provided



ACTIVITIES

As part of the “No Dirty Gold!” campaign, the STP held various talks with refineries and demanded clean mining conditions, short supply chains and transparency in the gold industry. As one of the 14 supporting organisations out of a total of 120, the STP has also been committed to the cause of the Responsible Business Initiative from the very beginning. After all, indigenous peoples and minorities are frequently affected by the negative impacts of economic activities. The STP was actively involved in the referendum campaign and helped to promote the broad mobilisation of the population through all available channels in the final moments of the referendum campaign.

SUCCESSES

The STP has managed to make Swiss gold refineries more carefully investigate the origin of gold than was the case in the past, making the gold trade a little cleaner. Moreover, it is now clear to ever more Swiss people that business must not be allowed to act at the expense of people or the environment. This became clear in the huge mobilisation and visibility of the Responsible Business Initiative and the broad discussion in the run-up to the referendum. Despite disappointment over the initiative being rejected due to the majority of the cantons, it is gratifying that the broad discussion over the years has led to changing attitudes among the population. The Responsible Business Initiative has made the public aware of the issues, and businesses are under increasing pressure.

OUTLOOK

Despite the Responsible Business Initiative being rejected, the STP will continue to campaign for binding framework conditions for companies, demand accountability, conduct complaints and work towards greater transparency.

“We hold accountable Swiss companies that participate in projects affecting indigenous communities’ lands or contributing to discrimination against minorities.”

Christoph Wiedmer, Co-Director STP

- April 2015** ----- A broad coalition of organisations launches the Responsible Business Initiative. The STP supports the referendum as a supporting organisation.
- October 2020** ----- A report by Swissaid and Global Witness corroborates the STP’s assumptions and accuses the Valcambi refinery in Ticino of sourcing high-risk gold from Dubai.
- October 2020** ----- The Association of Precious Metals Manufacturers (ASFCMP) calls on Valcambi to comment on the allegations and to draw consequences where necessary. Valcambi continues to deny the allegations.
- Autumn 2020** ----- During the Responsible Business Initiative referendum campaign, support also grows among the middle classes: the church, many companies and local politicians speak out in favour of a Yes to the Responsible Business Initiative.
- November 2020** ----- Switzerland votes on the Responsible Business Initiative: the referendum gains approval among a majority of the population, but fails against the majority of the cantons.

Norway: Energy transition at the expense of indigenous peoples

In Storheia on the Norwegian peninsula of Fosen, a wind farm is threatening the Sami people's traditional way of life. The case illustrates how climate justice and human rights must go hand in hand.



Silje Karine Muotka is feeling the run on resources in the Arctic strongly. Photo: Åse M.P. Pulk/Såmedigggi

ACTIVITIES

In central Norway, a huge wind farm was built on land of the indigenous Southern Sami. "The wind energy plant is threatening reindeer husbandry and, with it, our culture," says Arvid Jåma, representative of the affected Southern Sami community on Fosen. The STP has filed a complaint against BKW with the Swiss Contact Point (SCP) for the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and is now in mediation with BKW. In September, the STP educated those present at the Climate Camp in Berne on the need to include indigenous communities in the energy transition and to protect their rights.

SUCCESSSES

The well-established cooperation with Norwegian Sami continued in 2020. According to research by the STP, Credit Suisse (CS) has terminated its business relations with the controversial Norwegian mining company Nussir ASA. The company plans to mine copper at the heart of the North Sami indigenous communities' reindeer grazing land and to dispose of the tailings in the sea. Even though it does not mean that the project is off the table, CS's withdrawal is in accordance with demands made by the Sami communities and the STP.

OUTLOOK

In early 2021, the STP is set to launch the new flagship campaign "Arctic life, indigenous rights now!" The campaign for the Sami in Norway has shown that indigenous communities in the Arctic face significant difficulties. In Siberia, in particular, indigenous peoples experience severe oppression by the state, which is why in the beginning, the new campaign will focus on these communities.

"Global warming and the need for a 'green transition' are being used to justify the industrialisation of the Arctic – a very unfair climate plan."

Silje Karine Muotka, member of the Sami Parliament in Norway

November 2019 -----
The Swiss energy company BKW Energie AG (BKW) is involved in the construction and operation of a wind farm on the Fosen peninsula in Norway, which is in violation of the land rights and cultural rights of the affected Southern Sami people.

► **January 2020** -----
The STP files a complaint against BKW with the Swiss Contact Point (NCP) for the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises.

► **September 2020** -----
The mediation process between BKW and the STP begins.

► **September 2020** -----
During the national climate camp on the federal square, the STP uses the example of the Sami to raise awareness for indigenous rights in connection with the energy transition.

► **December 2020** -----
Credit Suisse complies with a demand by Sami communities and the STP by terminating its business relationship with the mine operator Nussir ASA. The mining company plans to operate two copper mines on the Repparfjord in northern Norway.

Switzerland: for minority rights

Roma, Sinti and Yenish people in Switzerland have spent years fighting against structural discrimination and demanding more respect, recognition and the observance of their rights. The STP has supported these minorities in their struggle in dealing with political pressure, education and legal action.

The lack of stop-over sites makes it difficult for minorities to maintain their travelling culture. Photo: Eric Roset



ACTIVITIES

There are too few stop-over sites for travelling Yenish, Sinti and Roma in Switzerland. Over the past six years, the STP has therefore done a great deal of educational work and set up a mediation service to create stop-over sites for travellers. The STP has actively fought racism and discrimination against Roma, Sinti and Yenish people through legal complaints and lawsuits. The STP is also part of a working group, which among other courses, gives lectures on racism and discrimination at the University of Applied Sciences and Arts Northwestern Switzerland and Zurich University of Applied Sciences. The association is currently preparing a textbook on the subject of the Yenish, Sinti and Roma.

SUCSESSES

The Bernese electorate approved a loan for the Wileroltigen transit site for foreign travellers in early 2020. The positive outcome of the vote has set the course for the creation of stop-over sites and will increase pressure on other cantons. Another success was the rejection of "Lex Travellers" in the Berne Police Act: travelling minorities cannot be evicted at short notice without an appropriate order and a judicial hearing. The Frauenfeld Higher Court followed a complaint by the STP and sentenced the SVP parliamentary party president of the Arbon city parliament, Roland Schöni, in the second instance for violating the Anti-racism Penal Code. Such successful lawsuits contribute to a decrease in racist public statements by politicians.

OUTLOOK

After more than 6 years of campaigning, the STP is set to greatly reduce the active campaign "Stop Antiziganism – For the Rights of the Yenish, Sinti and Roma in Switzerland". The STP will continue to take a stand on serious racial incidents and criminal cases.

"The Yes to the transit site is a positive sign in terms of the rights of the Roma, Sinti and Yenish who have lived here in Europe for centuries."

Stefan Heinichen, Roma and Sinti expert

February 2020

Bernese voters say Yes to the credit for a transit site in Wileroltigen. The new transit site will help to reduce pressure due to the lack of space for foreign travellers in Switzerland.

March 2020

A report by the NGO platform "Human Rights Switzerland" on the implementation of the UN Convention against Racism in Switzerland shows that concrete efforts are needed to combat racism, including racism against the Yenish, Sinti and Roma.

April 2020

The Federal Supreme Court rules against the "Lex Travellers" in the Berne Police Act. Travelling minorities cannot be evicted at short notice without an appropriate order and a judicial hearing.

May 2020

The Frauenfeld Higher Court sentences Roland Schöni, SVP parliamentary party leader in the Arbon City Parliament, for violating the Racism Penal Code.

Financial Report

The STP can again look back on a successful year. Thanks to the solid equity capital base, liquidity is assured. Without 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 2020

ASSETS	2020	2019
LIQUID ASSETS	943 906.72	775 865.78
OUTSTANDING ASSETS / RECEIVABLES	1 505.97	1 447.60
ACCRUED INCOME	27 796.80	44 671.05
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	973 209.49	821 984.43
TANGIBLE ASSETS	28 817.05	41 734.40
TOTAL CAPITAL ASSETS	28 817.05	41 734.40
TOTAL ASSETS	1 002 026.54	863 718.83

LIABILITIES	2020	2019
TRADE PAYABLES/ CURRENT LIABILITIES	51 113.95	80 794.75
ACCRUED EXPENSES / DEFERRED INCOME	180 671.70	127 875.01
TOTAL BORROWED CAPITAL	231 785.65	208 669.76
FUNDS	17 776.37	6 173.80
TOTAL FUNDS	17 776.37	6 173.80
ORGANISATIONAL CAPITAL	651 339.27	660 001.19
NET PROFIT / LOSS	101 125.25	-11 125.92
TOTAL EQUITY	752 464.52	648 875.27
TOTAL LIABILITIES	1 002 026.54	863 718.83

Income statement for 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2020

INCOME	2020	2019
SALES REVENUE	1 102.60	561.15
MEMBERSHIP FEES AND DONATIONS	1 772 312.73	1 651 667.94
CONTRIBUTIONS	44 500.00	18 000.00
OTHER INCOME	8 114.00	5 058.20
TOTAL INCOME	1 826 029.53	1 675 287.29

EXPENDITURE	2020	2019
CAMPAIGNS AND PROJECTS	742 890.20	648 409.63
PERSONNEL EXPENSES	302 311.53	338 604.01
ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS	73 971.32	108 482.46
FUNDRAISING COSTS	573 197.96	574 150.80
DEPRECIATIONS	14 835.00	14 450.00
TOTAL COSTS	1 707 206.01	1 684 096.90
OPERATING RESULT	118 823.52	-8 809.61
FINANCIAL INCOME	-3 631.70	-5 007.96
EXTRAORDINARY EXPENSES	0.00	1 564.85
RESULT BEFORE CHANGE OF FUNDS CAPITAL	115 191.82	-12 252.72
TOTAL FUNDS CAPITAL	-14 066.57	1 126.80
ANNUAL RESULT	101 125.25	-11 125.92

General accounting principle

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

The 2020 financial report was approved by the executive board on 22 February 2021 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/

Income statement

The following organisations have supported us significantly:

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM ORGANISATIONS	2020	2019
HEKS AMAZON	3 000.00	
HEKS AMAZON	4 000.00	
STIMMVOLK.CH	5 855.20	4 272.85
SUMOFUS AMAZON	4 460.00	
SUMOFUS AMAZON	4 485.00	
HANHHARTHOLZ AG	500.00	
HANHHARTHOLZ AG	1 000.00	
EV.-REF. KIRCHGEMEINDE SCHWARZENBURG	500.00	
EVANG.-REF. KIRCHGEMEINDE DÜRNTEN	200.00	
REFORMIERTE KIRCHGEMEINDE LIESTAL	500.00	
TEMPERATIO-STIFTUNG GOLD		2 000.00
TEMPERATIO-STIFTUNG AMAZON		8 000.00
GREENPEACE DELEGATION OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES FROM THE AMAZON		8 000.00

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM PUBLIC AUTHORITIES	2020	2019
EZA BASEL AMAZON	20 000.00	

Activity report

Who we are

The Society for Threatened Peoples Switzerland advocates for the rights of minorities and indigenous peoples. It is an association under the Swiss Civil Code and is the Swiss section of the Society for Threatened Peoples International. Other sections of STP International are located in Germany, South Tyrol / Italy, and Bosnia Herzegovina.

What we do

- We support local efforts to strengthen the human rights of minorities and indigenous peoples.
- We document and seek penalties for human rights violations and seek solutions together with the affected communities and all stakeholders.
- We protect the interests of those affected in cases where they cannot do so alone.

Organisation

Our Board of Directors is elected for two years (re-election is possible) and is made up of the following people:

Lisa Mazzone (president, elected until 2022)
 Göpf Berweger (vice-president, elected until 2021)
 Theodora Peter (elected until 2022)
 Marianne Helfer (elected until 2021)
 Eva Schmassmann (elected until 2021)
 Lea Ackermann (elected until 2022)
 Melanie Gajowski (elected until 2022)
 Miges Baumann (elected until 2022)

In 2020, the executive board met four times and worked for a total of about 150 non-remunerated hours for the STP.

Office:

In the course of 2020, a total of 19 permanent employees worked for the STP, of whom 6 were interns. Internships usually last 6–12 months.

Our supporters

Most income is generated from membership fees and donations made by individuals. At the end of 2020, the STP had about 16'000 active supporters – roughly the same as last year. The recruitment of members and donors, an important measure for fundraising, simultaneously serves to raise public awareness of the organisation's objectives. New members and donors are mainly recruited by means of stand campaigns on the street.

For various campaigns, we received donations and contributions from parishes, foundations and organisations. These contributions are described in detail in the income statement.

The STP would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all members, donors, foundations and public authorities for their generous support, as well as the executive board and employees for the commitment. 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!