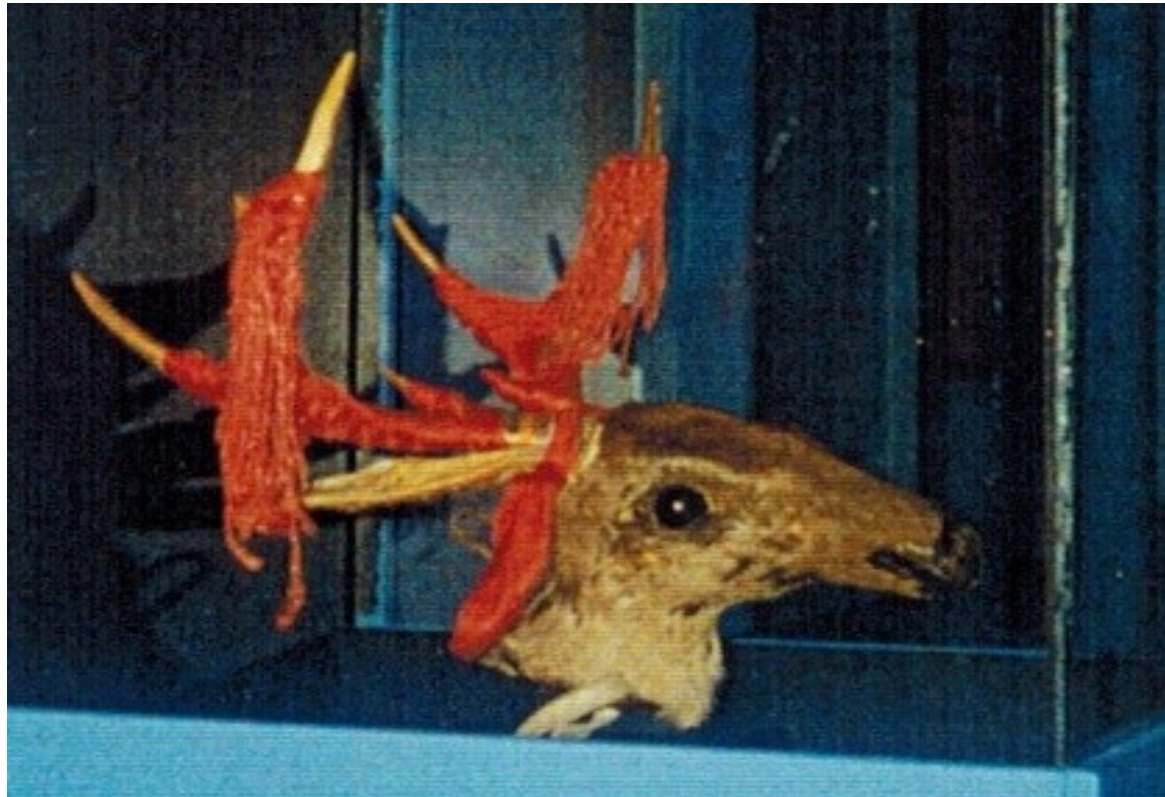


**Sacred Yaqui Maaso Kova (ceremonial Deer Head) displayed in the National Ethnological Museum, Stockholm Sweden,
Photo taken on August 11, 2003**



INTERNATIONAL INDIAN TREATY COUNCIL

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During the reign of Mexican Dictator Porfirio Diaz (1876 – 1911), in retaliation for their continued resistance, Yaquis were captured and sold to **plantation** owners in **Oaxaca**, the **Valle Nacional** and **Yucatán**. At least 5,000 Yaqui were sold into forced slavery. Some, like the group in Tlaxcala where the Maaso Kova was “collected”, were under direct control of the Mexican Army.





YOEMEM TEKIA FOUNDATION
7631 S. CAMINO TETAVIECTI
TUCSON, AZ 85746
phone: (520) 879-5782 fax: (520) 879-5787

September 11, 2008

The Yoemem Tekia Foundation, Cultural Foundation of the Pascua Yaqui Tribe, is aware that during the International Indian Treaty Council's recent trip to Sweden, sacred Yaqui cultural objects were seen in the Museum of Ethnography in Stockholm. We would like to request that the International Indian Treaty Council initiate dialogue with the government of Sweden on how the Yaqui Cultural Leaders can begin the process of repatriation of these Yaqui cultural objects.

These sacred objects are part of the Yaqui religion. They are used in ceremonies and need to be treated appropriately, and in the hands of Yaqui cultural leaders. The Yaqui people can suffer if they are not treated in the way they were meant to be.

We look forward to hearing back from the International Indian Treaty Council about the next steps we need to take in the repatriation of these objects.

Thank You

Rogelio Valencia
Rogelio Valencia
Chairman, Yoemem Tekia
Tropa Captain, Pascua Pueblo



Presentations and meetings at UNESCO, UN Permanent Forum, EMRIP and the Mexico UN Mission , 2016 - 2019





Meeting with Yaqui Political and Cultural leaders, Sweden's State Secretary for the Minister of Culture, the US State Department, IITC and the Swedish Sami Parliament to discuss repatriation of the Maaso Kova, May 11, 2016, Permanent Mission of Sweden to the UN, New York City



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Yaqui Cultural Leaders and Traditional Authorities of Arizona and Rio Yaqui Sonora agreed to form cross-border Maaso Kova Repatriation Committee on May 30, 2019



“The Yaqui culture has existed since time immemorial; our Cultural and Spiritual Societies have the responsibility and authority to guarantee its protection. Our Yaqui brothers and sisters that are in the United States are united to us by blood ties; only one Nation United for our culture, our history” -- from the Declaration signed by traditional authorities of the 8 Yaqui Pueblos, June 6, 2019



Vicam Pueblo, Rio Yaqui,
May 30, 2019

INTERNATIONAL INDIAN TREATY COUNCIL

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The Yaqui Maaso Kova Committee meeting and working together November 7th, 2019 and January 21, 2020, Vicam, Rio Yaqui Sonora Mexico



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Statement by Government of Mexico (INPI) to Sweden's Prime Minister

“We consider that the Maaso Kova, through the current legal processes, must be returned directly to the hands of a representative of the Yaqui Kolensias, whether from Arizona or Sonora, and that it be these Kolensias the ones to decide, without interference or external intermediaries, the place of its final rest...”

-- Signed by INPI Director General Adelfo

Rufino Montez

July 3, 2019



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In 2019, the UN EMRIP accepted a country engagement with the Yaquis and Sweden to discuss repatriation



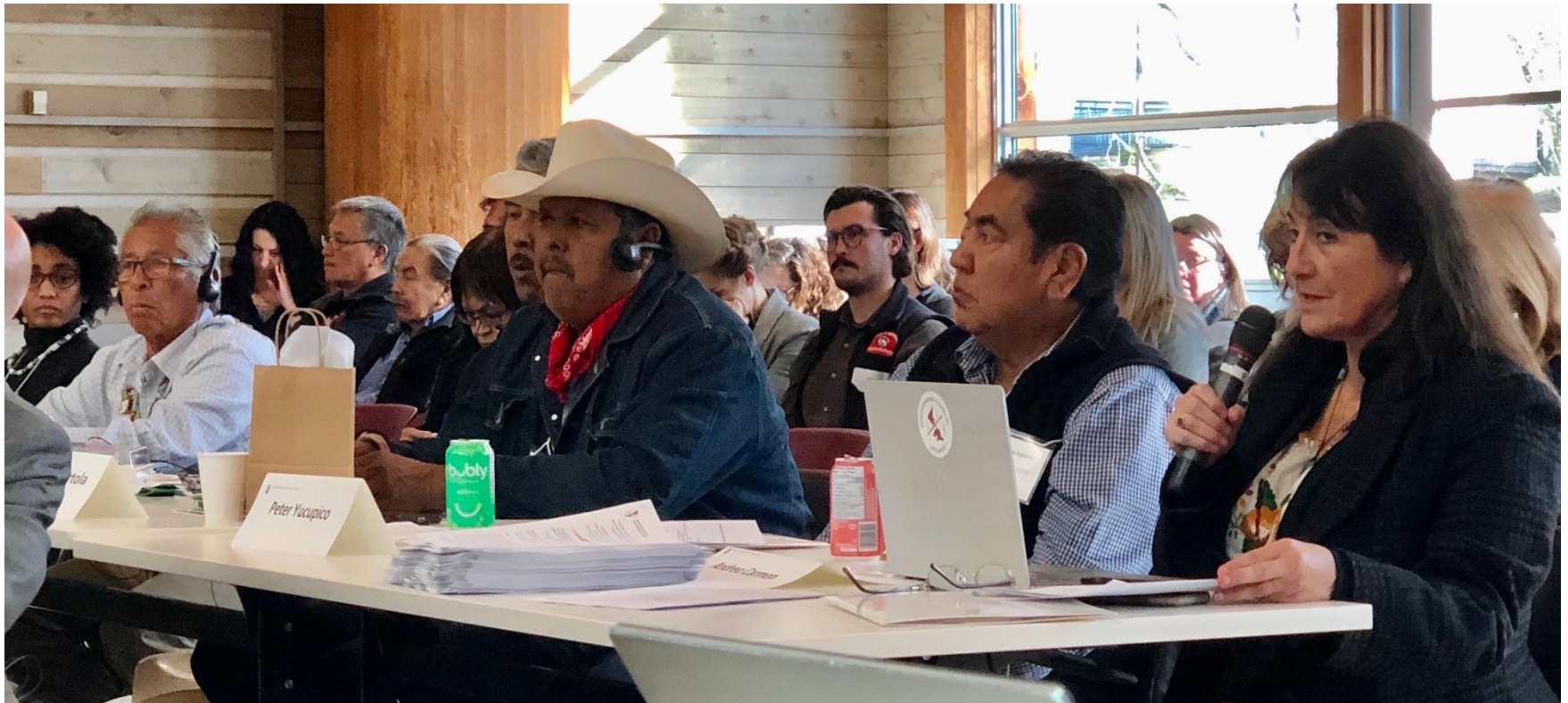
EMRIP Chair Kristen Carpenter



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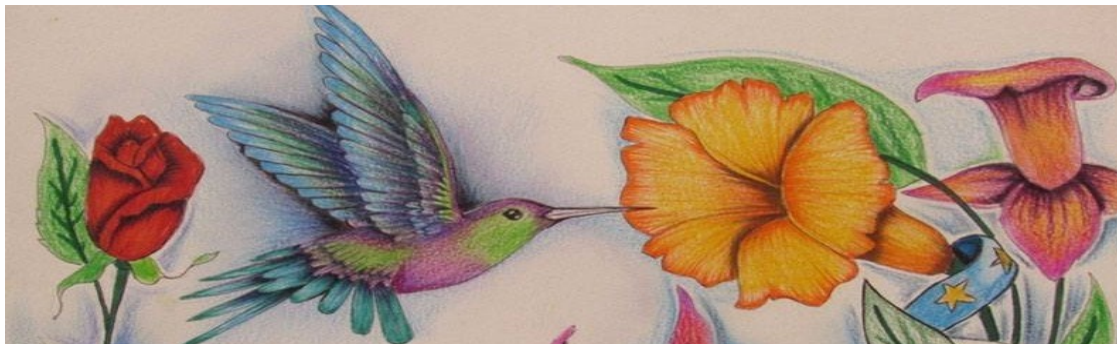
**2019 EMRIP Session
Geneva**

**EMRIP County Engagement with Yaqui leaders,
IITC, and the Swedish Museum of World Culture,
March 6, 2019, Vancouver British Columbia
Canada, in conjunction with the Expert Seminar
on International Repatriation, 4-5 March 2020**



Key Outcomes and Advances:

- Recognition of Yaqui and other Indigenous Peoples' **Laws**, traditions and customs on an equal basis with state laws in accordance with Article 11 of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- The 1st International Seminar for creating a new international mechanism for repatriation based on Article 12 of the UN Declaration and the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples 2014 outcome document
- Establishment of stronger relationships among the Yaqui cultural and traditional government leaders in Arizona and Mexico, with the Sami Parliament and with the governments of Sweden and Mexico
- **...And the Swedish Museum has agreed to begin the long-awaited process for repatriation of the Maaso Kova**





Despite these advances, the Sacred Yaqui Maaso Kova has still not been returned. But we know in our hearts that our Yaqui spiritual laws will prevail and he will finally come home.



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