

## Amazon Indigenous Coordinating Body Elects New Officers

The Coordinating Body for the Indigenous Peoples' Organizations of the Amazon Basin (COICA) held its annual meeting in November, 1992 in Manaus, and elected Valerio Grefa of CONFENIAE in Ecuador as its new General Coordinator.

The delegates also approved a new, more horizontal structure, abolishing the position of President. In its place, they created a Board of Directors to preside over the General Assembly, a Coordinating Committee comprised of the leaders of each of the nine national affiliates or their delegates, and an Executive Committee comprised of four thematic coordinators. Antonio Jacanamijoy (ONIC, Colombia) will be the coordinator for Territorial Defense, José Luis Gonzáles (CONIVE, Venezuela) will be the coordinator for Environment and Natural Resources, Evaristo Nugkuag (AIDSESP, Peru) will be the coordinator for Economy and Development, Orlando Melgueiro da Silva (COIAB, Brazil) will be the coordinator for Human, Political and Social Rights.

COICA also expanded its membership to include the national Amazonian federations from Venezuela (CONIVE), Surinam (OIS), Guyana (OIG), and French Guyana (FOAG). COIAB was selected the representative from Brazil. COICA's headquarters will move from Lima to Quito.

A working meeting between COICA's Coordinators and U.S. environmental and human rights organizations will be held in Washington DC on May 11-12.

COICA has also moved its offices from Lima, Peru to Quito, Ecuador and can be now contacted at:

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Photo Joseane Z. Daher

*Siá Kaxinawá and Paulo Cipassé Xauante from Brazil visit New York*

## Amazon Initiative: A working conference to protect Indigenous rights

The Amazon Initiative conference will be held on May 11 and 12, 1993 in Washington, DC with the purpose of forming a permanent coalition of NGOs with interests in the Amazon Basin. The conference will bring together northern NGOs and Indigenous representatives from the Amazon to develop concrete strategies for protecting the rights of Indigenous peoples and safeguarding their environment. The conference will also focus on the logistics of creating a permanent coalition based in Washington, DC.

Co-coordinators and participants include: Cultural Survival, Environmental Defense Fund, Friends of the Earth, Global Exchange, Oxfam America, Rainforest Action Network, Rainforest Foundation International, Sierra Club, SAIIC, World Resources Institute and World Wildlife Fund.

For more information contact SAIIC.

