

CGR4.MOT126

Mobile indigenous peoples and biodiversity conservation

NOTING that mobile indigenous peoples (e.g., nomadic pastoralists, sea-nomads, shifting agriculturalists and hunter-gatherers) are a subset of indigenous and traditional peoples whose livelihoods depend on extensive common property use of natural resources and whose mobility is both a management strategy for sustainable resource use and conservation and a distinctive source of cultural identity;

RECOGNIZING that mobility is used as a strategy for the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable use of natural resources;

CONSIDERING the mounting scientific evidence that mobile use of natural resources in many cases promotes environmental integrity and conservation of both wild and domestic biodiversity;

NOTING the Principles of the Dana Declaration on Mobile Peoples and Conservation (<http://www.danadeclaration.org/>) which was adopted in Dana, Jordan, April 2002 in the organization of which two of IUCN's Commissions (WPCA and CEESP) participated;

RECALLING IUCN Res 1.53 (*Indigenous Peoples and Protected Areas*) adopted by the 1st Session of the World Conservation Congress (Montreal, 1996) and Rec 2.92 (*Indigenous Peoples, Sustainable Use of Natural Resources, and International Trade*) adopted by the 2nd Session of the World Conservation Congress (Amman, 2000);

RECALLING FURTHER guidance provided in the 26th and 27th Recommendations endorsed by participants in the Vth IUCN World Parks Congress (Durban, 2003), the *Durban Accord* Outcomes 3 and 5, and Res 3.018 (*Mobile peoples and conservation*) that was adopted by the 3rd Session of the World Conservation Congress (Bangkok, 2004); and

CONSIDERING that in many cases, the pursuit of development and conservation has alienated Mobile Indigenous Peoples' lands and resources traditionally used by them, with the consequent loss of livelihoods and erosion of cultures, and resulting in the loss of indispensable indigenous knowledge of customary management of biodiversity resources and conservation practices needed today;

The World Conservation Congress at its 4th Session in Barcelona, Spain, 5–14 October 2008:

1. ENDORSES the five principles of the *Dana Declaration on Mobile Peoples and Conservation* as presented in the Attachment;
2. CALLS ON IUCN's Commissions to:
 - a. Adhere to the five principles of the Dana Declaration; and
 - b. Seek a positive and constructive alliance with mobile indigenous peoples' organizations such as the World Alliance of Mobile Indigenous Peoples (WAMIP) through concrete field-based conservation initiatives; and
3. COMMENDS IUCN's Commissions for the valuable work they have done thus far to bring to the fore the special vulnerabilities of mobile indigenous peoples in biodiversity conservation.

Sponsors:

The Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature, Jordan
Jordanian Hashemite Fund for Human Development
Royal Marine Conservation Society, Jordan
Arab Group for the Protection of Nature, Jordan
Society for the Protection of Nature in Lebanon

Endorsements:

Ecological Society of the Philippines
Forest Peoples Programme, UK

Comment:

*This motion is approved on appeal based on the fact that it calls for endorsement of the principles of the Dana Declaration. Res 3.018 (Mobile peoples and conservation) only **notes** the principles of the Dana Declaration. This motion is referred to Plenary for consideration.*

Attachment:

Dana Declaration on Mobile Peoples and Conservation

- I. **RIGHTS AND EMPOWERMENT.** Conservation approaches with potential impact on mobile peoples and their natural resources must recognise mobile peoples' rights, management responsibilities and capacities, and should lead to effective empowerment;
- II. **TRUST AND RESPECT.** Beneficial partnerships between conservation interests and mobile peoples should be based upon mutual trust and respect and address the issue of discrimination against mobile peoples;
- III. **DIFFERENT KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS.** In planning and implementing conservation of biodiversity with mobile peoples, there is a need to respect and incorporate their traditional knowledge and management practices. Given that no knowledge system is infallible, the complementary use of traditional and mainstream sciences is a valuable means of meeting the changing needs of mobile peoples and answering conservation dilemmas.
- IV. **ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT.** Conservation of biodiversity and natural resources within areas inhabited or used by mobile peoples requires the application of adaptive management approaches. Such approaches should build on traditional/existing cultural models and incorporate mobile peoples' worldviews, aspirations and customary law. They should work towards the physical and cultural survival of mobile peoples and the long-term conservation of biodiversity.
- V. **COLLABORATIVE MANAGEMENT.** Adequate institutional structures for adaptive management should be based on the concept of equitable sharing of decision-making and management responsibilities between mobile peoples and conservation agencies. This is only possible if the existing decision-making mechanisms for biodiversity conservation become more democratic and transparent, so as to allow for the full and open participation of civil society and mobile peoples, in particular, and for the establishment of co-management and self-management systems.

Explanatory memorandum

The **United Nations** Special Rapporteur defines "Indigenous Peoples" as follows: "Indigenous communities, peoples and nations are those which, having a historical continuity with pre-invasion and pre-colonial societies that developed on their territories, consider themselves distinct from the other sectors of societies now prevailing in those territories, or parts of them. They form at present non-dominant sectors of society and are determined to preserve, develop and transmit to future generations their ancestral territories, and their ethnic identity as the basis of their continued existence as peoples, in accordance with their own cultural patterns, social institutions and legal systems."

The definition of Indigenous Peoples as used in the **International Labour Organization Convention No. 169** concerning the working rights of Indigenous and Tribal Peoples applies to both tribal peoples whose social, cultural and economic conditions distinguish them from other sections of the national community and whose status is regulated wholly or partially by their own customs or traditions or by special laws or regulations and to peoples who are regarded as indigenous on account of their descent from the populations which inhabited the country at the time of conquest or colonization.

Description of Indigenous Peoples given by the **World Bank** (Operational Directive 4.20, 1991): Indigenous Peoples can be identified in particular geographical areas by the presence in varying degrees of the following characteristics: a) close attachment to ancestral territories and to the natural resources in these areas; b) self-identification and identification by others as members of a distinct

cultural group; c) an indigenous language, often different from the national language; d) presence of customary social and political institutions; and e) primarily subsistence-oriented production.

“Common property systems” have well-established community rules for use/ownership. They are not the same as open access and include such land-use types as seasonal grazing and community conserved areas.