



Forest Peoples
Programme

PRESS CONFERENCE

Media Centre, Barcelona International Congress Centre, Barcelona, Spain
11am – 11.30am, Tuesday 7th October 2008

Protected Areas and indigenous peoples' rights: are conservationists really delivering on their message of change?

In 2003 the Conservation Community committed to respecting the rights of indigenous peoples in all conservation efforts worldwide. In a message to the world the 3000 participants of the Vth IUCN World Parks Congress in Durban issued an urgent call for 'a new paradigm' in conservation, based on participation, equity, respect for rights and recognition of indigenous peoples' own conservation systems. This new conservation direction was reconfirmed in the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas and by the 3rd World Conservation Congress in 2004.

Five years on, indigenous leaders and Forest Peoples Programme will assess, based on national reviews conducted by indigenous organisations in eight countries and interviews conducted with international conservation agencies, what progress has so far been made and what action is still required.

For many years Protected Areas have been accused of leading to indigenous communities' marginalisation, restrictions on resource use, increased poverty, and even forced resettlement and other human rights violations. This has further led to environmental mismanagement and conflict rather than conservation. Have these impacts become a thing of the past or could these same accusations still be made?

Speakers will include indigenous representatives from Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

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Notes

Event: These and other issues related to indigenous peoples and protected areas will be discussed in greater detail at an event held later on the same day:

The Role of Customary Laws and Practices in Conservation and Protected Areas), 2.30 - 4pm, Tuesday 7th October 2008 – Room 128

Forest Peoples Programme (FPP) is an international NGO, founded in 1990 to promote forest peoples' rights. FPP supports forest peoples in their efforts to secure and sustainably manage their forests, lands and livelihoods. Strategies to achieve this include promoting the rights and interests of forest peoples at local, national and international levels, providing them with opportunities to have an effective voice in decision-making processes, challenging top-down policies and projects that deprive local peoples of resources, coordinating support among environmental organisations for the visions of forest peoples, supporting community-led sustainable forest management, and publicising the plight of

forest peoples through research, analysis and documentation. For further information visit the website at www.forestpeoples.org