

Mobile Indigenous Peoples and Conservation

Motion for a resolution at the 3rd IUCN World Conservation Congress, Bangkok, Thailand.

Sponsor:

Green Line Association (Al-Khat Al Akhdar (Lebanon, NG/1375)

Co-sponsors:

IUCN National Committee, Jordan

The Sierra Club

Institute for Research and Sustainable Development, Iran

Mountain Environment Protection Society (MEPS), Iran

CENESTA- Centre for Sustainable Development and Environment, Iran

UNDERSTANDING that mobile indigenous peoples (*e.g.*, nomadic and transhumant pastoralists, shifting agriculturalists, hunter-gatherers, seasonally mobile floodplain and delta inhabitants and sea-nomads) 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 identity¹;

NOTING that since time immemorial, mobility is an effective component of community strategies for the conservation of wild and domestic biodiversity and the sustainable use of natural resources;

MINDFUL of the Millennium Development Goals and STRESSING that globalisation, violent conflicts and policies of mobility restriction and sedentarisation have deprived mobile indigenous peoples of access to natural resources, affected their cultural identity and capacity to manage natural resources, and have led them in many cases to poverty;

NOTING with APPRECIATION IUCN Resolution 1.53 (Montreal, 1996) on Indigenous Peoples and Protected Areas; IUCN Recommendation 2.92 (Amman, 2002) on Indigenous Peoples, Sustainable Use of Natural Resources, and International Trade; the principles of the Dana Declaration; as well as Recommendation 26 and 27, and Durban Accord Outcomes 3 and 5 of the 5th World Parks Congress;

FURTHER NOTING the special reference to nomadic and pastoral communities taken by the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas (Kuala Lumpur 2004) with regard to the need to promote an enabling environment (legislation, policies, capacities, and resources) for the involvement of stakeholders in decision making, and the development of their capacities and opportunities to establish and manage protected areas, including community-conserved areas;

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1. ENDORSES the principles of the Dana Declaration on Mobile Peoples and Conservation;
2. WELCOMES the creation of the World Alliance of Mobile Indigenous Peoples (WAMIP) announced at the 5th World Parks Congress, Durban 2003, whose objectives include conservation of natural resources as well as sustainable livelihoods for mobile indigenous peoples;
3. COMMENDS the IUCN Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP) & the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) for the valuable work they have done to bring to the fore the issues of mobile indigenous peoples and conservation at the 2003 World Parks Congress;

¹ Dana Declaration, 2002 (<http://www.danadeclaration.org>).

4. REQUESTS the Director General to contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of natural resources by mobile indigenous peoples through:
 - a. ASSISTING the IUCN members in the implementation of the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas by providing support to understanding the relationship between mobile indigenous peoples and conservation, including their knowledge and skills on the sustainable use of natural resources;
 - b. DEVELOPING exemplary projects and programs where mobile indigenous peoples participate fully and effectively in managing land and natural resources through adaptive approaches that build upon their traditional resource management systems for conservation and sustainable use
5. REQUESTS all IUCN Commissions, within their mandates and programmes, to give due recognition to mobile indigenous peoples and their special capacities, needs and rights, and
6. REQUESTS in particular the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA) and the Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP) to articulate appropriate policies, practices and mechanisms for:
 - information sharing and Prior Informed Consent regarding protected areas and MIPs;
 - ensuring, that the rights and capacities of mobile indigenous peoples (e.g., access and benefit sharing) are dealt with intelligently and in ways that ensure biodiversity conservation and sustainable livelihoods;
 - recognising mobile indigenous peoples' community conserved areas as a protected area governance type that builds upon their customary and evolving institutions and norms and contributes to landscape and seascape conservation;
 - supporting conflict management among mobile and sedentary communities and other partners including through co-management approaches
 - facilitating cross-border mobility and trade in transboundary protected areas by mobile indigenous peoples who have traditionally lived in and used those areas.