



Dana Declaration +10 Workshop Participant Statement on the Situation of Pastoralist Communities of the West Bank for Rio +20 Conference

We, participants at the Dana Declaration +10 Workshop - members of mobile peoples' organizations, conservation and academic institutions, and civil society organizations, as well as individual experts and practitioners:

Considering that many pastoralist peoples and communities are suffering from dispossession of their lands and restriction of access to natural resources key to their economies and cultures;

Concerned that such processes of dispossession are creating situations of greater vulnerability and poverty in such communities and threaten their very survival;

Aware that 28,000 pastoralists of the West Bank are experiencing the rapid decline of their traditional livelihood due to restricted access to natural resources;

Mindful also that 44% of the West Bank is restricted to Palestinians due to the presence of Israeli installations including settlements, military areas, the Wall and its buffer zone, National Parks and nature reserves, and that the majority of pastoralist communities live on the scarce remaining range land as refugees;

Conscious that the current policy of the state of Israel of establishing nature reserves and National Parks inside the occupied territory does not focus or deliver on conservation objectives but serves instead as an excuse for occupation of the land, expulsion of the pastoralist communities, and dedication of the land to Israeli settlements and other uses totally different from conservation objectives;

Concerned that the effects of the policies and practices of the Occupying Power, including administrative demolition, settlement expansion and movement restrictions, result in the forced displacement of the pastoralist community and the loss of their livelihoods;

We, participants at the Dana Declaration +10 Workshop 2012,

1. Call on the governments of the world to avoid measures that lead to further the dispossession of pastoralist communities and to put in place policies and practices that support them and reduce their vulnerability;
2. Express in particular our solidarity with the pastoralist communities of the West Bank, who are in a situation of extreme vulnerability;
3. Call on the international community to promote the implementation of measures which:
 - Recognise, uphold and protect the social, economic and cultural rights of the pastoralist community of the West Bank.
 - Secure free and permanent access to natural resources for the pastoralist community of the West Bank.
 - Acknowledge and promote the partnership of the pastoralist community in genuine nature conservation initiatives.
4. Call international and regional organizations working to support the livelihoods of mobile peoples and especially pastoralist communities to:
 - Help inform the international community about the challenges facing the pastoralist communities of the world and especially of the West Bank;
 - Provide assistance to pastoralist peoples and communities facing situations of vulnerability and deterioration of their livelihoods, in particular the pastoralist community of the West Bank;
 - Invite representatives of the West Bank communities to join international processes where issues relevant to mobile peoples are addressed and integrate them into networks and other information sharing and action oriented mechanisms.

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(in alphabetical order)

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