

4.053 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* which was adopted by the Dana Conference, (Jordan, April 2002), and noting that two IUCN Commissions, the World Commission on Protected Areas (WPCA) and the Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP) participated in the organization of this meeting;

RECALLING Resolution 1.53 *Indigenous Peoples and Protected Areas* adopted by the 1st IUCN World Conservation Congress (Montreal, 1996) and Recommendation 2.92 *Indigenous peoples, sustainable use of natural resources, and international trade* adopted by the 2nd IUCN World Conservation Congress (Amman, 2000);

FURTHER RECALLING guidance provided in Recommendation V.26 *Community Conserved Areas*, Recommendation V.27 *Mobile Indigenous Peoples and Conservation*, and Outcomes 3 and 5 of the *Durban Accord*, noted by participants in the Vth IUCN World Parks Congress (Durban, 2003), and Resolution 3.018 *Mobile peoples and conservation* that was adopted by the 3rd IUCN World Conservation Congress (Bangkok, 2004);

CONSIDERING that in many cases, the pursuit of development and conservation has alienated mobile indigenous peoples from the 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; and

COMMENDING and SUPPORTING the *Segovia Declaration of Nomadic and Transhumant Pastoralists*, resulting from the World Gathering of Nomadic and Transhumant Pastoralists (Segovia, Spain, September 2007), in furtherance of IUCN Resolution 3.018 and the *Dana Declaration*, celebrating the strong interrelation between biodiversity conservation, mobility and sustainable livelihoods;

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* contained in the Annex to this Resolution; and
2. COMMENDS CEESP and the other IUCN Commissions for the valuable work they have done to bring to the fore the special vulnerabilities of mobile indigenous peoples in biodiversity conservation;

In addition, the World Conservation Congress, at its 4th Session in Barcelona, Spain, 5-14 October 2008, provides the following guidance concerning implementation of the IUCN Programme 2009-2012:

3. CALLS ON IUCN's Commissions and the Secretariat 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 policy support for a meaningful real inclusion and consideration of mobile pastoralists in all decision-making processes affecting them.

ANNEX:

Dana Declaration on Mobile Peoples and Conservation

- I. RIGHTS AND EMPOWERMENT. Conservation approaches with potential impact on mobile peoples and their natural resources must recognize 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.

State and agency members of the United States refrained from engaging in deliberations on this motion and took no national government position on the motion as adopted for reasons given in the U.S. General Statement on the IUCN Motions Process.