



**REPORT ON CAPACITY BUILDING  
WORKSHOP FOR MOBILE INDIGENOUS  
PEOPLES**

**AT THE 5<sup>th</sup> UNITED NATIONS PERMANENT  
FORUM ON INDIGENOUS ISSUES**

**TUESDAY MAY 23RD, 2006**

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## Introduction and Aims:

The Capacity Building Workshop for the representatives of mobile indigenous peoples was held on May 23<sup>rd</sup>, during the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, in New York. This workshop was hosted by UNDP and facilitated by INTRAC, Oxford.

The aim of the workshop was to build the capacity of the 22 participants to represent themselves and their issues at the national, regional and international levels, in the context of human rights and biodiversity conservation. . The pursuit of mobile lifestyles which often cross recognised national borders, is becoming more difficult to sustain. Common property resources which are being eroded by practices such as land conservation, and a lack of understanding of traditional resource management strategies practised by mobile peoples, are posing a major threat to the ancient livelihoods of mobile indigenous peoples, and forcing them into vulnerability.

The workshop was attended by twenty two representatives of mobile peoples from Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, India, United Arab Emirates, Jordan, Kenya, Mali, Mongolia, Inner Mongolia, Morocco, Namibia, Senegal, Sudan, Palestine. At the end of the workshop, the participants unanimously decided that their strategy would be to recommend a joint WAMIP AND UNFPII workshop for the 2007 UN Permanent Forum. The theme of the workshop was chosen as mobility, land, territory and natural resources.

## Methodology of Workshop:

The methodology used was participatory learning. The facilitation was based on a methodology using a mix of presentations by the workshop participants, an inclusive of issues using the experiences of the participants. The structure of the workshop reflected the participatory methodology, which used group work, live case studies, plenary discussions and feedback methods.

The main aim of the workshop, which was to build the capacity of the 22 participants to represent themselves and their issues, centred around creating a space in the workshop to **share their stories** with each other, as **live case studies**.

The second objective was to have the participants act as peer consultants to each other, in order to unpack the different elements of their experiences, in the context of land rights and biodiversity conservation. The rationale here was that it would **create awareness** within the group of unique problems and similarities faced by mobile indigenous peoples.

**Peer consultancy** is also a tool which enables **group analysis**, and creates a dynamic of sharing, that encourages a certain ownership, not only of the issues, but also of the PROCESS of analysis and of arriving at **collective solutions and ways forward**.

The workshop methodology had to be designed around two limiting factors, which were that the participants, who represented many countries, spoke many different languages. There was no common language in the group, and there were multiple interpreters. The second constraint was that not all the participants were literate.

Another unexpected restriction was that some of the interpreters were not professionally trained interpreters, and were often NGO staff working with these particular issues. They were therefore not always 'on the job', which meant that sometimes, the participants were not engaged as much as they could have been due to the language constraints

Given the above constraints, for the **group work**, the facilitator carefully grouped the participants according to different geographical areas (and according to the available interpreters).

In addition to this, **Rich Pictures** was chosen as a tool to assist in the sharing of individual case studies. Rich pictures are an efficient, economical and illuminating way of a way of illustrating a real situation experienced by the participant. The participant draws a picture to summarise or represent a situation in all its complexity. The picture can take any form, such as a detailed drawing, an abstract sketch, or a cartoon-type diagram.

The Rich Pictures provide a way of representing the situation as a whole, giving the other participants a more holistic perspective at a glance. It can be read circularly or randomly, it can also show patterns and arrangements, without prejudicing the reader by dictating where they commence to read, or in the case of this particular workshop, without the reader having to know how to read.

The group worked really hard. They were enthusiastic about the rich pictures, and really got into the spirit of it, producing some moving illustrations, in great detail which included dead camels. The presentations were extremely interesting highlighting the emotion involved in this cause.

The participants started with Rich Pictures, either as individuals or sometimes in pairs if there were more than one of them, for example from Mongolia. Later, in their chosen groups, they used the Rich Pictures to help describe their issues and problems as live case studies to their peers. With the help of their peers, they unpacked the **issues**, politics and dynamics around each case study, and listed these to present in the plenary with the group. (see below for list of issues)

The thorough discussion with each other in the group work was designed to precede a **collective decision** of recommendations during the plenary, which the group would take forward after the workshop.

### Issues from group-work

## Workshop outputs

The participatory methodology ensured that the group owned the outcomes of the workshop

The outputs included

- A joint list of recommendations from the group for ways forward (see below for list of recommendations)
- A STRATEGY for ways forward for increasing the visibility and reducing the marginality of mobile indigenous peoples.
- A decision to hold a joint workshop for the 2007 UNPFII (UN Permanent Forum for Indigenous Issues)
- A priority theme for the workshop, picked from the recommendations, on Mobility, Land and natural resources
- A draft statement to be delivered to the 16 Board Members of the UNPFII

### Recommendations

- Need to learn from Best Practice in range land management e.g. West Africa: transhumant passports
- Best practice in investing in mobile livelihoods
- Best practice in drought management targeting mobile communities
- Proactive actions from governments for Mobile Indigenous Peoples
- Land tenure security at national/regional/international levels
- Build capacity for empowerment through information and skills
- Solidarity at national/regional/international levels
- Advocacy and lobbying of governments, the UN, parliament, the EU and other development actors of MIP issues
- Mobilization of resources
- Attention to desertification, environment degradation, sandstorms
- Attention to Government policy which forces MIP to change their lifestyles. e.g. transfer of Chinese peasants to Mongolian grass-lands, and deforestation, which forced Mongolians out of their Homeland and forced them to change their lifestyle.

The Recommendations were prioritised by the participants during the plenary session, which resulted in **Land Issues** being chosen by the group, for the topic of the next planned workshop for 2007. The land issues included: Land use, land rights, access to grazing resources, land tenure and land security

### Recommendations Prioritised

<b>Land issues</b>	Access to grazing resources	Land tenure, land security	Land use, Land rights
<b>Governance</b>	Recognition of traditional leadership patterns	Participatory mechanisms for involving MIP in decision making	
<b>Advocacy</b>	Lobbying the	solidarity	

	government, the UN, EU etc.		
<b>Capacity Building</b>	Mobilisation of resources	empowerment	Drought management
<b>Managing Conflict</b>	Peace building mechanisms		

### Strategy

1. WAMIP members at workshop vote on planning a follow-up workshop next year with UNPFII on Mobility, Land and Natural Resources
2. Organise at the 2007 UNPFII another side even on Mobile Indigenous issues
3. Plan a training session before the UNPFII on how to use the UN system in order to consolidate the MIP strategy for the 2007 UNPFII
4. Concerted Advocacy and Lobbying strategy to start on immediately on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2006:
  - Draft a statement immediately after the workshop, on Mobile Indigenous People's recommendation for the 2007 UNPFII (statement drafting volunteers: Ole, Dawn, Aghaghia and Tarek)
  - Nominate a MIP volunteer to read the WAMIP statement on Wednesday/Thursday at the Permanent Forum
  - For Wednesday May 23<sup>rd</sup>: Lobby 16 UNPFII board members, especially the chairperson, Ida Nicolaison, William Langeveld, and Willie Littlechild
  - Lobby the major powerful UN Caucus:
    - a) Asia (well organised)
    - b) Africa (very supportive, though not that well organised)
    - c) International caucus (very powerful, but more difficult to identify)
    - d) Latin America ( L. American MIP have not engaged with WAMIP)
    - e) North America (not fully aware or supportive of mobility issues)
  - Saudata and Ole nominated to do the lobbying
5. Cultivate "champions" for Mobile Indigenous Peoples, such as Ida Nicolaison, William Langeveld, and Willie Littlechild.

### CONCLUSION:

The Capacity Building workshop for Mobile Indigenous Peoples was successful, and achieved its stated purpose, which was to help develop the capacity of mobile peoples to successfully represent themselves regionally and internationally in the context of human rights and biodiversity conservation.

The workshop facilitated the awareness of the participants of issues they faced in their respective regions in the world, which in turn fostered a sense of

solidarity and strength. This could be seen to be an empowering exercise for the group.

The time the participants spent together, created a platform for them to discuss their issues in detail, and draw out shared recommendations, which allowed them to set priorities and strategies for the future. The workshop also gave the participants the space to come together and consolidate their participation in their Mobile Indigenous Movement.

The most useful aspect of the workshop was that the participants worked hard at hammering out a concrete strategy on how to move forward, which in itself is a very strong capacity building process.

The value of the workshop can be analysed from the perspective of a gaining a broader knowledge of international and regional mobile peoples' issues, and also of building capacity of both individuals, and of the mobile Peoples' movement.

**INTRAC**  
**Workshop Timetable**

**Capacity Building for Mobile Indigenous Peoples**  
23 May New York  
5<sup>th</sup> United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

<b>Session</b>	<b>Content</b>
<b>morning</b> <b>90 minutes</b> <b>I</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome/Introduction</li> <li>• Aims of the workshop</li> </ul>
<b>15 minutes</b>	<b>Break</b>
<b>90 minutes</b> <b>II</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rich pictures</li> <li>• Group work: Peer consultancies in Triads to discuss the issues/unpa</li> </ul>
<b>45 minutes</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
<b>90 minutes</b> <b>III</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brief Presentation of issues/special concerns by individual participants</li> <li>• Plenary – feedback from Triads</li> <li>• Drawing out recommendations in groups</li> <li>• Feedback of recommendations to whole group</li> </ul>
<b>15 minutes</b>	<b>Break</b>
<b>90 minutes</b> <b>IV</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plenary: consolidating recommendations and prioritising issues</li> <li>• How do we want to move forward?</li> <li>• Overview of UN caucuses for lobbying (Ole)</li> <li>• Drawing up immediate strategies for lobbying at the Permanent Forum</li> <li>• Drafting statement from Mobile Indigenous Peoples for the Permanent Forum <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Recommending workshop for 6<sup>th</sup> UN Permanent Forum on M</li> </ul> </li> <li>• CONCLUSION</li> </ul>