

Mobile Peoples and Conservation Workshop

Chairs:

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- Taghi Farvar: Chairman, IUCN Commission on Environmental, Economic, and Social Policy (CEESP); Chairman, Center for Sustainable Development, Iran.
- Dawn Chatty: Refugee Studies Center, University of Oxford

Organizers:

- Maryam Niamir-Fuller: Chair, UNDP Drylands Programme, Africa
- Grazia Borrini-Feyerabend: WPC Governance Stream Co-Lead; Chair, Co-Management Working Group, IUCN-CEESP
- Maryam Rahmanian: Executive Director, Center for Sustainable Development, Iran
- James Everett: Natural Resource Management Specialist, IUCN-CEESP

Rapporteurs:

- James Everett
- Sabine Schmidt: IPECON/NZNI, Initiative for People-Centered Conservation, Mongolia
- Marco Bassi: Associate Professor of Anthropology, Bologna University

Overview:

This workshop brought together Mobile Peoples, primarily nomadic pastoralists, to discuss issues of common concern to them.

Who are we?

- Mobile peoples (i.e. nomads, pastoralists, shifting agriculturalists and hunting-gatherers) are a subset of traditional and Indigenous Peoples whose livelihoods depend on extensive common property use of natural resources and whose mobility is both a management strategy for sustainable land use and conservation and a distinctive source of cultural identity.
- The participants came from South America, Africa and Asia with support people from Europe and North America

When did we meet?

- Preparatory workshop: September 6 & 7
- Workshop on Linkages in the Landscape: September 11
- Workshop on Mobile Peoples and Conservation: September 12
 - Community Conserved Areas
 - Co-managed protected areas
 - Action Plan for Mobile Peoples

The workshop's preparatory brainstorming and discussions between Mobile Peoples and concerned conservation professionals included Mobile Peoples from 9 countries on four continents, and numbered around 45 official participants. The countries of origin of presenters in WPC official sessions were Ethiopia, Mali/Burkina Faso, Kenya, Namibia, Morocco, South Africa, Senegal, Jordan, Iran, Pakistan, Mongolia, Ecuador, Norway, Ireland, England, Germany, and the United States. During the WPC, the group was joined by mobile people from other countries, such as Uganda and Sudan, who were not officially registered as such at the Congress. Among other things the group worked to develop consensus around endorsing the Dana Declaration, preparing an Action Plan for Mobile Peoples, and officially declaring important needs and concerns of Mobile Peoples as a sub-set of Indigenous Peoples. As this was the first time the group had been officially convened together or had represented itself at a WPC, much time was spent on sharing experiences and developing trust, and on cataloguing different approaches to governance and natural resource management, their strengths and weaknesses, and the threats and opportunities Mobile Peoples face. Emphasis was placed on the relationship of Mobile Peoples to Protected Areas and conservation professionals.

Outputs, Findings, Recommendations and Follow-up Action:

Outputs:

The workshop addressed 4 common misconceptions about mobile peoples held by governments,

conservation organizations, and others:

- 1) "Mobile land is an old fashioned form of land use whose time has passed"
 - Mobility is an appropriate way to use land resources
 - Land use is based on local and specialised knowledge
 - There is no real alternative to mobility for survival
 - Experience has shown that change of land use is not sustainable in arid and semi-arid zones
- 2) "Mobile land use has very low productivity – sedentary land use more productive"
 - Sedentary land use is only productive in the short-term and with high external inputs
 - Mobile land use produces better plant composition and diversity
 - Productivity means many things – not just sacks of grain per hectare! But also wildlife, water quality, scenic values, cultural life
- 3) "Mobile peoples contribute little to national economic development"
 - Mobile peoples are self-sufficient
 - They are major producers of livestock commodities and sustain secondary industries
 - Many "hidden" contributions to the economy
- 4) "Mobile peoples need to be settled so that they can benefit from services"
 - It is possible to develop the capacities of MPs to provide mobile services for themselves
 - The statement is a defence mechanism by government to justify marginalisation of MPs
 - Mobility is crucial – it cannot be compromised!

Key findings:

- Policies of sedentarisation disable mobile peoples of cultural identity, capacity to manage land properly and lead to poverty
- Strong links between the lifestyle of MPs and biodiversity
- The problems of mobile peoples are very similar throughout the world
- MPs have their own institutions, leadership, decision-making mechanisms, sanctions and law
- MPs have flexible and adaptive management systems requiring movement across different ecological zones
- The rights of mobile peoples in many countries have been abused, including rights to their culture, to maintain control and access to their resources, and the right to mobility

The workshop produced numerous recommendations in the following categories:

- RIGHTS
- NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL NETWORKING AND PLATFORM FOR MOBILE PEOPLES
- ADVOCACY
- SOCIAL SERVICES
- CULTURE AND CAPACITIES
- GOVERNANCE/CIVIL SOCIETY
- LIVELIHOODS AND CONSERVATION
- MARKETS FOR PRODUCTS FROM MOBILE PEOPLES
- RESEARCH

Recommendations for protected areas:

- Reach effective collaborative management with mobile peoples in existing protected areas to ensure access to traditional resources and to new income opportunities
- Establish mobile peoples' community conserved areas recognising traditional institutions and customary norms as a protected area governance type
- Re-establish connectivity through bio-cultural corridors
- Customary and collective rights of access to natural resources have to be recognised in international and national contexts
- Promote and build on the Dana Declaration for Mobile Peoples and Conservation

Action Item: we need an international network of mobile peoples to carry forward the wealth of ideas and recommendations from these workshops

Presentations made (not all presenters will submit formal papers):

Community Conservation Issues and Linkages in the Landscape:

- PHILLIPS, Adrian. Turning Ideas on Their Heads.
- FARVAR, Taghi. Linkages Between Cultural and Natural Diversity.
- BARROW, Ed. Community-based Conservation From an African Approach.
- ZAMA, Gugu. Collaborative Management of Resources in the Maputaland Marine Reserve.

Mobile Peoples and Linkages in the Landscape:

- TACHE, Boku and Marco BASSI. Borana (Oromo) Protected Landscape and Gadaa Traditional Governance.
- LARA, Rommel. Case Study on Huaorani Nation of the Ecuadorian Amazon.
- SINGH, Hanwat, and Ilse KOHLER-ROLLEFSON. Protected Areas and Mobile Livestock Keepers in Western India: the Case of the Raika and Kumghalgarh Sanctuary.

Community Conserved Areas (focus on territories and resources traditionally conserved by mobile peoples):

- GHARBAOUI, Abdelouahed, and M. Ait. OUHMAD. La Gestion Rationelle des Parcours à travers la Mobilité du Troupeau.
- FARVAR, Taghi and James EVERETT. Presentation on the Kuhi Clan of the Shish Beygi Tribe, Qashqai, Iran; and overview of Non-Equilibrium Ecosystem Management by Mobile Peoples and the Importance of Social Organization to Such Management.
- LY, Adama, and Ousmane Mamadou BA. Ferlo Pastoral Communities in Senegal and Protected Areas Management.
- ALEXANDER, Otgontsetseg, and Sabine SCHMIDT. Presentation on Indigenous People in Mongolia.
- KASAONA, John, and Mutynduika KAPIKA.

Co-Managed Protected Areas (territories and resources conserved by mobile people in partnership with governments):

- ZALABIA, Ses. Bedouin Communities in Jordan.
- Community Conservation by Sami People of Norway and Government Intervention.
- ABOUBACRINE, Saoudata. Le Role de la Femme Pastorale dans la Gestion des Aires Protégées au Burkina Faso.
- VASAMALLI, K. Conservation of Toda Buffalo in the Protected Area.

Synthesis and Brainstorming on Outline of Action Plan:

- CHATTY, Dawn. Dana Declaration
- AKHTAR, Tehmina. Global Pastoral Capacity Building

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