



THE DANA DECLARATION

INFORMATION BOOKLET

A conference hosted by the Refugee Studies Centre, Queen Elizabeth House, University of Oxford, in collaboration with: the Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology, University of Kent at Canterbury; the World Commission on Protected Areas (IUCN); and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).



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Invitation to support the Dana Declaration on Mobile Peoples and Conservation

Dear Friends,

We would like to bring to your attention the Dana Declaration on Mobile Peoples and Conservation. The Dana Declaration is being widely disseminated to indigenous people's organisations, NGOs, academics, professional bodies and practitioners. The Declaration calls for a new approach to conservation: one which recognises the rights and interests of 'mobile' peoples. The term mobile peoples covers indigenous and traditional peoples whose livelihoods depend on extensive common property use of natural resources and who use mobility as a management strategy.

The Declaration is the outcome of an international meeting of social and natural scientists and NGOs that took place in Wadi Dana Nature Reserve in Jordan in early April. The Declaration is an attempt to forge a new partnership between conservationists and mobile peoples in order to ensure that future conservation policies and programmes help maintain the earth's ecosystems, species and genetic diversity while respecting the rights of indigenous and traditional communities which have been disregarded in the past.

The Declaration recognises that the world is facing unprecedented threats to biodiversity, conservation and sustainable use of natural resources which jeopardise the traditional livelihoods and distinctive cultures of mobile peoples. Conservationists and mobile peoples need to work together, pooling their knowledge and skills to confront these threats. The Declaration sets out five principles for promoting this new approach to conservation based on respect for human rights, partnership and collaborative management.

The Wadi Dana conference participants recognise that this is only the first step. The principles need to be considered and developed further in dialogue with mobile peoples and other interested groups and organisations. We would like to encourage you to send us any comments or questions that you may have about the declaration. These will be posted on the website www.danadeclaration.org. Endorsements are also welcomed.

It is our intention to ensure that these issues, which are of vital importance to us all, are brought to the urgent consideration of governments and international decision-making bodies. We hope you will actively support our efforts to promote a constructive debate about the future of conservation and mobile peoples at the forthcoming World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in August 2002 and at the World Parks Congress in 2003.

Standing Committee for the Dana Declaration:

Dawn Chatty, Faghi Farvar, Patricia Feeney, Helen Newing, Gonzalo Oveido, Adrian Phillips, Josie Weninger

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Mobile Peoples and Conservation: MEDIA RELEASE

On April 3, 2002, Her Royal Highness, Princess Basma Bint Talal of Jordan, opened a conference at Wadi Dana Nature Reserve titled "Mobile Peoples and Conservation: Crossing the Disciplinary Divide". The Royal Family of Jordan is an active supporter of initiatives that focus on social change and environmental protection for the citizens of its country.

The conference was hosted by the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature in Jordan and organized by the Refugee Studies Centre, Queen Elizabeth House, University of Oxford, in collaboration with the Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology, University of Kent at Canterbury; the World Commission on Protected Areas (IUCN); and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).

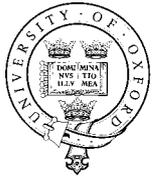
Out of this conference comes the "Dana Declaration" – Nomadic peoples and conservation agents have much to offer each other. Mobile peoples and biological resources of the world are facing dire pressure. A group of concerned professionals in the social and natural sciences from many countries call for a new approach to mobile peoples and conservation. This approach should be based upon a partnership between the two groups who are unrecognised allies.

Other outcomes will include brochures, a film series for television which focuses on mobile peoples and conservation, a follow-up workshop, and a report on conference proceedings. The conference proceedings and information pertaining to the conference can be found on the Dana Declaration website: www.danadeclaration.org.

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The Conference Organisers would like to thank the following for their generous financial support: Rural Livelihoods Department - Department for International Development , UK; Environment Policy Department – Foreign and Commonwealth Office; Institute of International Education - The Ford Foundation; UNESCO; The Wenner-Gren Foundation, The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) –US.



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Dana Declaration on Mobile Peoples and Conservation

A group of concerned professionals including social and natural scientists from all regions of the world met in Wadi Dana Nature Reserve, Jordan, 3-7 April 2002, to consider a comprehensive approach to mobile peoples¹ and conservation. At the end of this meeting, they agreed the following declaration:

The world faces unprecedented threats to the conservation and sustainable use of its biodiversity. At the same time, its cultural and linguistic diversity, which includes an immeasurable and irreplaceable range of knowledge and skills, is being lost at an alarming rate.

The linked pressures of human population dynamics, unsustainable consumption patterns, climate change and global and national economic forces threaten both the conservation of biological resources and the livelihoods of many indigenous and traditional peoples. In particular, mobile peoples now find themselves constrained by forces beyond their control, which put them at a special disadvantage.

Mobile peoples are discriminated against. Their rights, including rights of access to natural resources, are often denied and conventional conservation practices insufficiently address their concerns. These factors, together with the pace of global change, undermine their lifestyles, reduce their ability to live in balance with nature and threaten their very existence as distinct peoples.

Nonetheless, through their traditional resource use practices and culture-based respect for nature, many mobile peoples are still making a significant contribution to the maintenance of the earth's ecosystems, species and genetic diversity – even though this often goes unrecognised. Thus the interests of mobile peoples and conservation converge, especially as they face a number of common challenges. There is therefore an urgent need to create a mutually reinforcing partnership between mobile peoples and those involved with conservation.

In the light of this understanding, we commit ourselves to promoting conservation practices based on the following principles:

¹ By mobile peoples, we mean a subset of indigenous and traditional peoples whose livelihoods depend on extensive common property use of natural resources over an area, who use mobility as a management strategy for dealing with sustainable use and conservation, and who possess a distinctive cultural identity and natural resource management system.

PRINCIPLE 1. RIGHTS AND EMPOWERMENT

Conservation approaches with potential impact on mobile peoples and their natural resources must recognise mobile peoples' rights, management responsibilities and capacities, and should lead to effective empowerment. These rights include:

- 1.1 Human rights: civil, political, social, economic and cultural;
- 1.2 Land and resource rights, including those under customary law;
- 1.3 Cultural and intellectual property rights;
- 1.4 The right to full participation in decision-making and relevant negotiation processes at different levels;
- 1.5 The right to derive equitable benefits from any consumptive or non-consumptive use of local natural resources.

To this end, appropriate legislative reforms should be promoted as needed, at national and international levels. In addition, because mobile peoples often move through different territories, transboundary co-operation between national authorities may be required.

Recognition of mobile peoples' rights should lead to effective empowerment, and include consideration of gender and age.

PRINCIPLE 2. 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. To this end partnerships should:

- 2.1 Be equitable;
- 2.2 Fully respect and acknowledge mobile peoples' institutions;
- 2.3 Balance the exercise of rights by all parties with the fulfilment of responsibilities;
- 2.4 Recognise and incorporate relevant customary law;
- 2.5 Promote the accountability of all parties in relation to the fulfilment of conservation objectives and the needs of mobile peoples.

PRINCIPLE 3. 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. In particular:

- 3.1 Traditional and mainstream sciences and management practices should enter into dialogue on a basis of equal footing and involve two-way learning;
- 3.2 Traditional and mainstream sciences should be appropriately valued and their dynamic nature acknowledged.

PRINCIPLE 4. 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.

More particularly, such adaptive management approaches should:

Build on areas of common interest between the chosen lifestyles of mobile peoples and the conservation objective of sustainable resource management;

- 4.1 Allow for diversification of livelihoods, and ensure provision of a variety of benefits at all levels, including mobile services;
- 4.2 Recognise the diversity of systems of tenure and access to resources, including the customary sharing of resources;
- 4.3 Recognize and support the contributions made by mobile peoples to conserving and enhancing the genetic diversity of domesticated animals and plants;
- 4.4 Learn from the flexible management practices of mobile peoples to enrich conservation;
- 4.5 Develop conservation planning at a larger landscape scale, using the notion of mobility as a central concept, and incorporating both ecological and cultural perspectives.

PRINCIPLE 5: 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. This requires that the relevant parties:

- 5.1 Develop processes and means that foster cross-cultural dialogue directed towards consensual decision-making;
- 5.2 Incorporate culturally appropriate conflict-management mechanisms and institutions;
- 5.3 Recognize the time-scale appropriate to cultural processes and the time required to build intercultural partnerships for adaptive management;
- 5.4 Foster locally agreed solutions to conservation problems;
- 5.5 Encourage diverse and pluralistic approaches to conservation planning and implementation;
- 5.6 Develop their capacities to enter into mutually beneficial partnerships.

This declaration is our contribution to narrowing the disciplinary divide. The ideas in it need to be tested, refined and further developed in dialogue with mobile peoples themselves and others. But these issues need to be considered urgently at national and international levels – and in particular at the forthcoming World Summit on Sustainable Development and the World Parks Congress.

PARTIES TO THE DECLARATION:

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Ilse Köhler-Rollefson	League for Pastoral Peoples, India
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Jeff McNeely	IUCN - The World Conservation Union
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Gonzalo Oviedo	International Consultant on People and Conservation
Garth Owen-Smith	Integrated Rural Development and Nature Conservation, Namibia
Adrian Phillips	Former Chair of the World Commission on Protected Areas of IUCN
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MOBILE PEOPLES AND CONSERVATION: CROSSING THE DISCIPLINARY DIVIDE

Wadi Dana, Jordan, 3-7 April 2002

An invited conference hosted by the Refugee Studies Centre, Queen Elizabeth House, University of Oxford, in collaboration with: the Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology, University of Kent at Canterbury; the World Commission on Protected Areas (IUCN); and the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF).

Conference Summary

In 1999 the Refugee Studies Centre held an open conference, *Displacement, Forced Settlement and Conservation* which identified a need to bridge disciplinary divides between social and natural scientists. Settled communities have been the focus of most debate concerning conservation and sustainable development. Mobile communities have not been widely explored in these discussions. With Rio Plus 10 and the IUCN-WCPA World Parks Congress both on the horizon, it is urgent that concerns about mobile communities enter into the on-going conservation debates and discussion.

The aim of this follow-up conference is to stimulate an open and frank discourse relating to the current impact of wildlife conservation on the lives and livelihoods of mobile peoples, who generally inhabit remote and marginal areas¹. Our goal is to define areas of common interest, tease out the differences in priorities and true areas of conflict, and begin a constructive dialogue on sustainable, biodiversity-rich land use by mobile peoples. The conference will critically examine current popular concepts of community management and the current conservation-preservation debate, as well as areas of conflicting theory and practice as related to mobile communities.

Background and Justification

The 1999 conference, *Displacement, Forced Settlement and Conservation* brought together a wide range of specialists concerned with the indigenous human populations affected by conservation projects. The conference helped raise a number of important issues which needed further discussion. Among these were two major philosophical threads: preservationism, which, in spite of much debate and international policy shifts towards sustainable development in recent years, is still the predominant philosophy behind many conservation projects; and the historical, and still contemporary, sentiment that mobile people

¹. Mobile peoples are taken to include pastoralists, swidden agriculturalists, hunters and gatherers as well as groups whose lifestyles include significant movement.

constitute a threat to settled communities and national governments. Here wildlife conservation has often been used as a justification for forcing people into permanent settlements. A third, more positive factor that also emerged from this conference, was the recognition of the progress that had been made over the last decade in bringing indigenous people into the management of conservation areas. The conference participants, though benefiting from the opportunity to present their research to each other, recognised that, for there to be progress, disciplinary divides needed to be bridged, social and natural scientists needed to engage with each other over the issues and controversies in conservation and biodiversity.

Aims and objectives

The aim of this follow-up workshop is to set into motion a productive dialogue between social and natural scientists to examine the impact that wildlife conservation and other environmental protection projects have on the lives of the mobile and marginal people who inhabit the same areas. It is hoped that such a dialogue will promote a multi-faceted approach to people, plants and animals in conservation and biodiversity protection issues. A further objective is the promotion of conservation research and practice which is multi-disciplinary and participative.

Issues which will be tabled and discussed at this workshop are:

- the need to establish a common understanding of key terms like the meaning of biodiversity, conservation and protected area on the one hand and sustainable development on the other.
- the importance of promoting a multi-disciplinary approach in conservation which ensures that conservation biologists are fully aware of the needs of indigenous peoples, and which recognizes that the State is often unable to take on the role of 'honest broker'.
- the recognition that the conservation and biodiversity discourses are not transparent, but rather are ways of looking at the world with various purposes and objectives.
- the colonial heritage of conservation and development and the way in which colonial histories have tended to obscure indigenous histories and usufruct resulting in distrust between such populations and national authorities.
- that women and women's roles in conservation tend not to be studied although they are, as a social group, often leaders in modernization and community mobilization.
- the recognition that conservation and sustainable development are often addressed through a paradigm of economic growth and capital investment.
- the recognition that representation, participation and empowerment are issues which need to be considered in all future policy making, programming, and project development in the area of conservation.
- the rapid transformation of livelihoods among many indigenous peoples and its significance for determining sustainable biodiversity conservation.
- the need to promote sound empirical studies in order to either justify displacing people for conservation or integrating them into the planning and management for sustainable livelihoods and conservation.

Workshop Process

The conference organisers have invited twenty-five representatives to spend a period of five days discussing empirical research presentations as well as theoretical papers. Selected participants come from both social science (anthropologists and sociologists) and natural science (ecologists and biologists) backgrounds. A third group of institutional policy makers have also been invited to attend. The conference organization is being managed by a four-person steering group with representatives from each of these areas. A pilot film of about twenty-five minutes length is being prepared looking at conservation and mobile peoples in Jordan and addressing a number of the issues raised above. The film will form part the conference introduction and will set the stage for constructive dialogue, by giving a face and a voice to mobile peoples at the sharp end of conservation and development issues. During the conference there will be both plenary presentations and discussion as well as smaller issue-orientated working groups. Sessions will also be organized on a geographical basis with the following regions being represented: Australia, East and Southern Africa, Europe/ Mediterranean, Latin America, Middle East, South and East Asia.

Dissemination

The workshop will have the following outputs:

- A workshop report outlining the proceedings and debates will be made available to all donors and participants of this conference.
- A film series for television which focuses on mobile people and conservation and disseminates the multi- disciplinary understandings generated by this conference to a popular audience. The pilot film produced as an introductory video for the conference will be an important step in the process of further fundraising and securing a broadcast commission.
- A web-site/email forum for on-going discussions and information exchange will be established to discuss mobile peoples, conservation and sustainable development.
- Special editions of the journals *Nomadic Peoples* and *Biodiversity and Conservation* will contain full versions of the conference presentations.
- Numerous articles for peer reviewed journals will be stimulated by the conference.
- A further workshop around these themes will be investigated, to be part of the next World Parks Congress, South Africa, 2003.

Further Information

Please contact

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Mobile Peoples and Conservation: Crossing the Disciplinary Divide
April 3rd – 7th 2002, Wadi Dana, Jordan.

Programme

Day 0 Tue 2nd

Arrivals in Amman

Day 1 Wed 3rd

Transportation, Introductions and Field Visit

8.00 – 12.00 am

Transportation from Amman to Wadi Dana

12.00 – 12.30 am

Welcome and Introductions

Welcome to all participants with opening presentations by Dawn Chatty RSC
Khaled Irani RSCN and HRH Princess Basma bint Talal,

12.30 - 12.45 pm

Coffee / Tea

12.45 – 1.00 pm

Conference background and administration

1.00 – 2.30 pm

Lunch

2.30 – 4.30 pm

Introduction to Wadi Dana Integrated Conservation Project

Participant Introductions

8.00 pm

Dinner

Day 2 Thurs 4th

Natural Science Perspectives - Building the Case for Conservation.

9.00 – 10.00am

Plenary – The nature of biodiversity protection.

Keynote Paper: Jeff McNeely, IUCN – Natural Science

10.00 – 11.00am

Regional Working Groups - Statement of Principles

11.00 – 11.15am

Coffee / Tea

11.15 – 12.30pm

Case Study Presentations:

East Africa (Terrence McCabe)

Australia case study (Graham Griffin)

12.30 – 2.00pm

Lunch

2.00 – 3.45pm

Regional Working Groups – Lessons Learned

3.45 – 4.00pm

Coffee / Tea

4.00 – 5.30pm

Report back - Plenary Session

7.00 pm

Dinner

8.00 pm

Film Presentation: Mobile Peoples and Conservation in Jordan. (Nick Turvey)

Day 3 Fri 5th**Social Science Perspectives – The Importance of Social Protection**

7.00

Early Breakfast

8.00 – 9.00 am

Plenary – Indigenous communities and sustainable conservation

Keynote Paper: Marcus Colchester, World Rainforest Movement – Social Science

9.00 – 10.00am

Disciplinary Working Groups – Statement of Principles

10.00 – 10.15am

Coffee / Tea

10.15 – 12.00pm

Case Study Presentations :

South East Asia (Reed Wadley)

Namibia – WWF (Margaret Jacobsohn and Garth Owen Smith)

12.00 – 1.00pm

Lunch

1.00 – 2.45pm

Disciplinary Working Groups – Lessons Learned

2.45 – 3.00pm

Coffee / Tea

3.00 – 4.00pm

Report back - Plenary Session

4.00 - 7.00 pm

Wadi Dana Field Trip - Meeting with Local Bedouin

7.00 – 8.00 pm

Barbecue

Day 4 Sat 6th**Integrating the Natural and Social Sciences in Conservation**

9.00 – 10.30am

Case Study Presentations:

Madagascar –WWF (Flavian Rebara)

Peru/Ecuador - Helen Newing

10.30 – 10.45am

Coffee / Tea

10.45 – 12.15pm

Mixed Working Groups – Lessons Learned

12.30 – 1.45 pm

Lunch

1.45 – 3.00 pm

Mixed Working Groups – Strategy for Delivery – Where do YOU go from here?

3.00 – 3.15 pm

Coffee / Tea

3.15 – 4.45 pm

Report back - Plenary Session – Towards a Strategy for Delivery

4.45 – 5.00 pm

Coffee / Tea

5.00 – 6.00 pm

Plenary – Dana Declaration - Comments on the First Draft

Day 5 Sun 7th**Finalising a Statement of Principles**

9.00 – 10.30 am

Agreeing and Assigning tasks for the Strategy for Delivery.

10.30 – 1.30 pm

Agreeing Principles and the final wording for the Dana Declaration

1.30 – 2.00 pm

Closing and Evaluation



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Mobile Peoples and Conservation: Crossing the Disciplinary Divide

Wadi Dana Nature Reserve, Jordan, 3-7 April 2002

Participants List

Alejandro Argumedo	Asociacion Quechua-Aymara ANDES, Indigenous Peoples' Biodiversity Network (IPBN), Peru
Dominique Attala	Refugee Studies Centre, University of Oxford, United Kingdom
Richard Baker	School of Resources, Environment and Society, Australian National University, Australia
Ahmed Belal	UNESCO ECOTECHNE Chair, South Valley University, Egypt
Jim Bone	Facilitator, Oman
Grazia Borrini-Feyerabend	Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy, IUCN – The World Conservation Union
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Flavien Rebara	Worldwide Fund for Nature – WWF, Madagascar
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Mousa Saifi	Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature, Jordan
Sabine Schmidt	GTZ, Project Nature Conservation and Bufferzone Development, Mongolia
Irina Springuel	UNESCO ECOTECHNE Chair, South Valley University, Egypt
Nick Turvey	Documentary Film-maker, United Kingdom
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