

Press Release

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Mobile Indigenous Peoples representatives prepare statement for the Rio +20 Earth Summit at the RSCN's Eco-lodge in Wadi Dana, Jordan

Wadi Dana Jordan

100s of millions of mobile indigenous peoples face dispossession, eviction and restrictions to their lifestyles and livelihoods. Without concerted global action, these peoples will become especially vulnerable and economically burdensome to the states they inhabit. However, with a few critical interventions by state and international actors, these peoples can help guide the world to transitions towards a more sustainable future.

Ten years after the Dana Declaration on Mobile Peoples and Conservation was agreed in Wadi Dana Jordan in 2002 (www.danadeclaration.org) a follow up workshop was held at the RSCN's Dana eco-lodge to reflect on the achievements of the past decade and to consider future actions to promote the special needs and vulnerabilities of mobile indigenous peoples. A number of representatives of the World Alliance of Mobile Indigenous Peoples (WAMIP) attended the workshop along with policy makers, researchers, and practitioners from around the world concerned about the continuing marginalization of many mobile indigenous peoples. A significant outcome of the workshop was a statement for the Rio+20 'Earth Summit' meetings to be held in Brazil in June 2012. This statement promotes the human rights of mobile indigenous peoples in the context of biodiversity conservation and the largely unrecognized contributions which mobile peoples make to local and regional economies. The statement also underscores the importance of supporting democratic environmental governance in the face of continuing expansion of protected areas, land grabbing and further dispossession of local and traditional communities.

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