

## REPORTS AND SHORT NOTICES

### MEDIA RELEASE

On 3 April 2002, Her Royal Highness, Princess Basma Bint Talal, 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 for the citizens of its country. The conference was hosted by the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature and organised by Refugee Studies Centre, Queen Elizabeth House, University of Oxford, in collaboration with the Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology, the International Union of the Conservation of Nature, the World Commission of Protected Areas and Oxfam.

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 possible follow-up workshop, and a report on conference proceedings. The conference proceedings and information pertaining to the conference can be found on the Refugee Studies Centre web-site: [www.qeh.ox.ac.uk/rsc](http://www.qeh.ox.ac.uk/rsc)

# 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 peoples<sup>1</sup> and conservation. At the end of this meeting, they agreed on 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.

## **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, trans-boundary cooperation 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' world-views, 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:

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

4.2 allow for diversification of livelihoods, and ensure provision of a variety of benefits at all levels, including mobile services;

4.3 recognise the diversity of systems of tenure and access to resources, including the customary sharing of resources;

4.4 recognise and support the contributions made by mobile peoples to conserving and enhancing the genetic diversity of domesticated animals and plants;

4.5 learn from the flexible management practices of mobile peoples to enrich conservation;

4.6 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 recognise 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 World Summit on Sustainable Development and the World Parks Congress.

Note

- 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.

ROYAUME DU MAROC  
MINISTÈRE DE L'AGRICULTURE, DU DÉVELOPPEMENT RURAL ET DES  
EAUX ET FORÊTS  
ORMVAO  
PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR LE DÉVELOPPEMENT  
UNITÉ DU PROJET

**PROJET DE CONSERVATION DE LA  
BIODIVERSITÉ PAR LA TRANSHUMANCE DANS  
LE VERSANT SUD DU HAUT ATLAS  
(MOR/99/G33/A/ 1G/99)**

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## **PROBLEMATIQUE**

Le versant sud du Haut Atlas Central est l'une des régions les plus importantes du Maroc: il renferme des richesses naturelles qui lui confèrent une réputation nationale et internationale; il constitue un des rares écosystèmes méditerranéens les moins touchés par les problèmes de détérioration. Grâce à l'étagement altitudinal et climatique, il offre une hétérogénéité des habitats; d'où le haut degré d'endémisme de ses espèces et de sa diversité génétique.

Cette diversité est actuellement menacée par plusieurs facteurs:

- Les implantations chaotiques des agriculteurs et éleveurs sur les meilleurs pâturages et pratiques de vastes opérations de défrichements;
- le surpâturage de quelques sites et le sous-pâturage d'autres sites de parcours;
- la surexploitation et la destruction de la faune sauvage par la pratique de la chasse incontrôlée et des défrichements.

## **MONTAGE DU PROJET**

Face à cette situation de dégradation du milieu et des ressources naturelles, et dans le cadre de la coopération entre le gouvernement du Maroc, le PNUD et le FEM,

le projet CBTHA, préparé à la suite d'un long processus de participation et de partenariat, a été signé le 7/11/2000.

## **OBJECTIFS**

### ***Objectifs de développement:***

Le projet vise la conservation de la biodiversité des écosystèmes par la relance de la transhumance et le développement participatif local.

### ***Objectifs immédiats:***

- Conception de plans intégrés de conservation de la biodiversité et de gestion durable;
- Mise en œuvre des plans intégrés de conservation de la biodiversité et de la transhumance;
- Incitation pour la conservation de la biodiversité et de la transhumance;
- Intégration des questions de biodiversité dans le débat politique aux niveaux provinciaux et nationaux.

## **ZONE D'INTERVENTION**

La zone du projet, d'une superficie approximative de 700.000 ha, est subdivisée en quatre grandes zones agro-écologiques: la haute montagne (plus de 3000 m d'altitude), la moyenne montagne (plus de 2500 m) et la chaîne du Saghro (2000–2600 m).

- Nombre de communes: 16 - rurales (13) et urbaines (3).
- Population totale: 200.000 habitants dont 1000 à 1200 foyers transhumants.
- Groupes humains: Imeghrane, Mgoun, Ait Sedrate.
- Cheptel: ovins 45.000 têtes; caprins 67.700 têtes; camelins 800 têtes.

## **PARTENAIRES CIBLES**

- Eleveurs et leurs familles, agro-pasteurs, chefs coutumiers et femmes utilisant les ressources naturelles relevant des trois tribus de la zone du projet.

- Population d'autres groupements ethniques en relation avec les bénéficiaires directs du projet.
- Personnel technique des administrations partenaires du projet (formation et renforcement des capacités).
- Secteur privé du tourisme (formation, charte d'écotourisme).

## **STRUCTURES DE MISE EN ŒUVRE**

L'agence d'exécution du projet est le Ministère de l'Agriculture, du Développement Rural et des Eaux et Forêts (Direction de l'Élevage).

Les institutions associées dans la planification, la mise en œuvre et le suivi des activités du projet sont:

- les institutions locales;
- l'Unité du projet, basée à Ouarzazate;
- Le Comité Provincial de Coordination;
- le Comité de Coordination Nationale;
- quatre projets associés.

## **ORIGINALITÉ DU PROJET**

- Préparation et montage participatifs et partenariaux.
- Réponse parfaite aux priorités nationales et internationales en matière de biodiversité et désertification.
- Cadre approprié pour la planification décentralisée, la participation communautaire et la promotion de la société civile.
- Attribution d'une place de choix à:
  - ⌘ l'éducation et la santé des bénéficiaires;
  - ⌘ la femme utilisant les ressources naturelles.
- Adoption de l'approche de «plans intégrés» qui vise à promouvoir le développement local pour mieux gérer l'espace et les ressources naturelles.

## **SITUATION PREVUE A LA FIN DU PROJET**

- Zonage adéquat de l'espace qui permettrait une rationalisation des implantations agricoles et une relance de la transhumance.
- Atténuation des conflits liés à l'utilisation des espaces communaux.
- Réduction des surpâturages et sous-pâturage.
- Renforcement de la durabilité et de la biodiversité du système global.
- Contribution à l'amélioration des conditions de vie des éleveurs transhumants, agro-pasteurs et autres partenaires.
- Renforcement des capacités des institutions locales et nationales.
- Intégration des questions relatives à la biodiversité, la gestion intégrée et participative des terroirs dans les politiques de développement agricole.