



RESOLUTION #12

TITLE:



Building a Global Alliance to assert 'No-Go Areas' for Mining and other Extractive Industries and destructive activities threatening World Heritage Sites, and Protected Areas, including Indigenous Peoples' and Local Communities Conserved Areas and Territories (ICCAs) and Sacred Natural Sites and Territories

WHEREAS

RECOGNISING that Earth and her ecosystems provide the life-support systems for all species including humans; that humans depend on the ecosystems in which they have evolved for their identity, culture, livelihoods, well-being and survival; that we have placed the planet in jeopardy through our excessive consumption patterns and uncontrolled industrial activity; and that we need to take urgent and effective action to protect and regenerate biodiversity, ecosystems, landscapes and seascapes, and practice good governance of our natural and cultural heritage which embodies our inter-generational and inter-species responsibilities;

APPRECIATING that conservation and wilderness protection happens at different scales, with a diverse range of custodians and duty bearers;

ACKNOWLEDGING the need for greater solidarity and cooperation across human networks and societies to unite all of those sharing the principles of conservation of wilderness and sustainability, including effective custodianship of territories, lands and seas;

NOTING that World Heritage Sites are the iconic conservation flagships of our global commitment to natural and cultural heritage;

FURTHER NOTING that Protected Areas are by definition areas of land and sea specifically identified for conservation purposes and that many Protected Areas are recognized under international treaty obligations, norms and standards as well as national laws and policies;

RESPECTING that Indigenous Peoples are historic custodians, guardians and rights-holders over their traditional territories, lands and seas, as affirmed by the 2007 UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;

UNDERSTANDING that Sacred Natural Sites are holy places where spiritual practices and rituals take place by the custodian communities who assist in upholding human commitment to conserving the health and integrity of these territories as a sacred duty in relation with the Earth, the Creator, dharma, ancestors, future generations and other species;

CONSIDERING the concerted commitment of communities, organisations and governments in establishing a range of designations of other Protected Areas, such as World Heritage Sites, Indigenous Peoples' and Local Communities' Conserved territories and Areas (ICCAs), International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) defined Protected Areas, landscapes and seascapes, and wilderness areas in order to defend our ecosystems and our biological and cultural heritage from growing threats;

AFFIRMING the rights of peoples to self-determination which is recognised in legal instruments including the International Labour Organization Convention 169 (ILO) (1989), United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) (2007) and African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (1982); and that the right to prevent mining, extractive industries and other destructive activities and their impacts, is an expression of the right to self-determination;

ALARMED by the increased threats to World Heritage Sites, Protected Areas, ICCAs and Sacred Natural Sites and Territories, from the legal and illegal encroachment by various mining and extractive industries, into these areas.

THEREFORE

We, delegates at the 10th WILD conference, express deep concern that mining, other extractive industries and destructive activities are penetrating into World Heritage Sites, all categories of Protected Areas, ICCAs and Sacred Natural Sites and Territories, and are eroding and destroying the social and ecological integrity and resilience of Earth. We affirm the global treaty system which asserts human duty to conserve the Earth for future generations, in accord with Natural Law or Earth Law;

WE CALL FOR a united front to assert and implement the principle of 'No Go Area' policies to protect and defend World Heritage Sites, Protected Areas, ICCAs and Sacred Natural Sites and Territories;

WE RE-AFFIRM recognition of these areas as 'No-Go Areas' including the: IUCN Recommendation 2.82 *Protection and conservation of biological diversity of protected areas from the negative impacts of mining and exploration* (Amman, 2000) stating that mining should not take place in IUCN category I–IV Protected Areas; IUCN Recommendation 4.136 *Biodiversity, protected areas, indigenous people and mining activities* (Barcelona, 2008); IUCN report recommending that mining should not take place in World Heritage Sites (June 2012); IUCN's Recommendation 147 *Sacred Natural Sites – support for custodian protocols and customary laws in the face of global threats and challenges* (Jeju, 2012).

RESOLVED

- URGE governments to adopt, implement and enforce appropriate laws, policies and programmes - with the full and effective participation of communities and organizations concerned for the protection of World Heritage Sites, Protected Areas, including ICCAs and Sacred Natural Sites and Territories, as 'No-Go Areas' for any kind of destructive industrial activity, especially mining and other extractive and destructive industries;

- CALL UPON governments and regional and international bodies to recognise the customary governance systems of Sacred Natural Sites and Indigenous Territories on the communities own terms, including the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities to self-determination, to participate in decision-making, to Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) including to say no to mining or other ‘development’ activities, and to practice their culture, religion and customary laws;
- SUPPORT a global alliance of conservationists, Protected Area managers, indigenous peoples, local communities and custodians of Sacred Natural Sites and Territories in asserting international norms, standards, treaty obligations and Natural/Earth Law in the defence of Protected Areas against mining, other extractive industries and destructive activities;
- CALL UPON civil society to strengthen its efforts to build solidarity and cooperation at local, national and international levels to protect and defend World Heritage Sites, Protected Areas, our ecosystems and our biological and cultural heritage against mining and other destructive extractive industries;
- CALL UPON transnational and national companies involved in the mining, extractive and energy industries, agriculture, forestry, infrastructure, tourism and other developments sectors to carry out the following:
 - ✓ To commit to upholding international law and Natural/Earth law in achieving conservation targets, including the right of peoples to self-determination, free prior and informed consent, and the right to reject mining, other extractive industries and destructive activities in their community governed and protected areas;
 - ✓ To ensure that any proposal for any type of development follows the requirement for an independent and rigorous Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and is in accordance with the UN Convention on Biological Diversity’s *Akwé: Kon Voluntary guidelines for the conduct of cultural, environmental and social impact assessments regarding developments proposed to take place on, or which are likely to impact on, sacred sites and on lands and waters traditionally occupied or used by indigenous and local communities* (2004);
- CALL FOR independent, transparent and accountable systems to ensure compliance of governments and industries with their environmental and social responsibilities, including through monitoring systems by citizens and international and regional institutions;
- ENCOURAGE the growing international movement of individuals, communities and organisations who are calling for ways of living and livelihoods which support and regenerate rather than destroy precious ecosystems, landscapes and seascapes, for the sake of present and future generations of all species;
- RECOMMEND the recognition of World Heritage Sites, Protected Areas, ICCAs and Sacred Natural Sites and Territories as ‘No-Go Areas’, and to uphold norms and standards of conservation targets at forthcoming fora, particularly the Asia Parks Congress in Japan (November 2013); 9th Pacific

Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in Fiji (December 2013); and the IUCN's VIth World Parks Congress in Australia, November 2014.

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