



**W.M.P.A.**  
**WORLD MOUNTAIN PEOPLE ASSOCIATION**

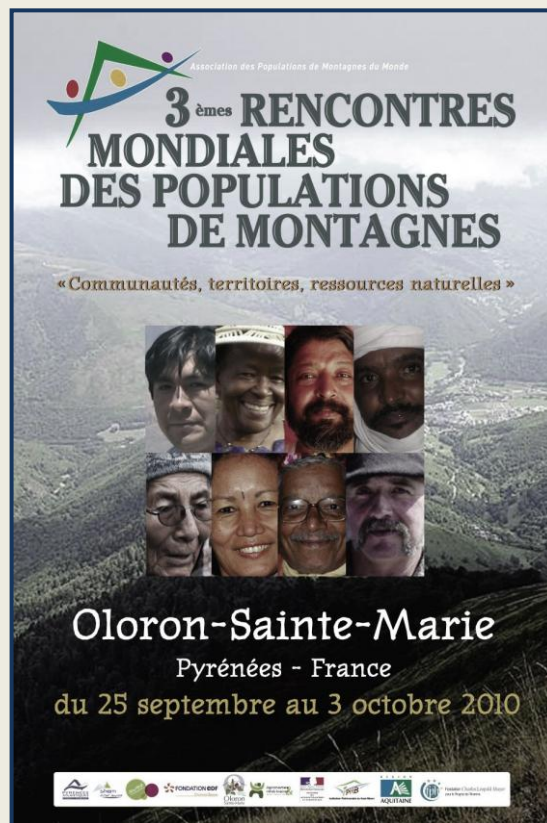


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LIVING MOUNTAINS FOR A MORE HARMONIOUS WORLD

**OLORON MANIFESTO**

1<sup>st</sup> October 2010



*Countries gathered in Oloron: AFRICA: South Africa, Algeria, Cameroon, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Mali, Morocco, Niger, Rwanda, Tanzania, Tunisia, Zambia - AMERICA: Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, United States, Ecuador, Guatemala, Peru - ASIA: Bhutan, China, India, Nepal, Pakistan - EUROPE: Andorra, Spain, France, Italy, Russia, Switzerland*

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ONG BENEFICIAINT DU STATUT CONSULTATIF AUPRES DE L'UNESCO

*LIVING MOUNTAINS FOR A MORE HARMONIOUS WORLD*  
**OLORON MANIFESTO**

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*We, the representatives of the World Mountain Populations, gathered in Oloron-Sainte-Marie (Pyrenees, France) from 25th September to 3rd October 2010, declare to the international community, to our national governments and the local authorities, to our sisters and brothers of the cities, plains, countryside and coastal areas, that our mountains are alive, open and united in their diversity.*

**THE TIME OF MOUNTAIN PEOPLES HAS COME!**

More than ever, the world needs the mountain people: our pride, our freedom and independent-mindedness, our identities, our respect of the Earth, our spiritual beliefs, our dignity when confronted by hardship, our know-how, our mutual aid and support of one another and our shared values. We want our social skills to serve an improved way of living together. The global crisis (financial, food, climate, military conflicts, repression of indigenous peoples) to which we are currently subjected is a monster that has emerged from neo-liberal and speculative policies that sacrifice territories to financial powers and that destroy the environment. This crisis opens a new space of possibilities, a new space for proposals to rethink the organization of our societies and to give a new more human meaning to globalization.

**THE OLORON MANIFESTO IS OUR COLLECTIVE RESPONSE.  
WE SHALL PROMOTE IN ALL OUR REFLECTIONS AND DECISIONS MAKING INSTANCES.**

**R E S P O N S A B I L I T Y**

We, the Mountain People of the World, claim responsibility for the preservation and management of our territories, their biodiversity, and natural resources. Because we are accustomed to the difficulties of high altitude, the steep slopes, the climate, the fragile soils, we know how hard it is to work for the survival of our families and our communities. We, more than anyone else, know how best to manage our land, landscapes and heritage as common goods; we have inherited them from our ancestors and owe it to future generations to preserve them. We have proven, over many centuries that we are able to organize ourselves, to work together, and to exchange with lowlands people, to transform the environment without destroying it. We claim our right to be free to choose our development models and to refuse the ones that are imposed upon us from outside. Mountain people have always been at the forefront of fair and sustainable development processes. We neither need nor want to receive any lessons in governance from those who have destroyed nature.

**S O L I D A R I T Y**

We, mountain people of the World, express our solidarity with all those amongst us who are not respected, who are victims of racist repression, of civil wars, violence against women and children, of economic, cultural and political marginalisation, and with those whose resources have been misappropriated. We denounce the criminal victimisation of indigenous peoples, and in particular of Touaregs, Amarzigh people, Mapuches, and Himalayan indigenous tribes. We want to see an end to the repression that excludes the cultures and languages of these populations and deprives them of their rights and common goods. We demand that the Charter of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, adopted by the UN Assembly in 2007 be implemented in these countries. Mountain people, with their independence, their identity and the territories are an asset to the whole world; their destruction is a crime against Humanity. The historical heritage, their languages, their cultures should be recognised, protected and taught. We demand that the international community protect these peoples, who are amongst the most threatened in the world.

**C I V I L I S A T I O N**

We, Mountain People of the World, propose an alternative project for a new civilization to the collapsing old world order. It is rooted in the interaction between Humankind and nature, the history of our peoples, our cultures and our difference. It is grounded in our living territories. We refuse to allow them to be divided and reduced to mere means of production and consumption. Air, water, forests, minerals, soils are finite and limited resources. We claim our right to control the natural resources of our territories, and commit to ensuring an egalitarian dialogue between people of the mountains and the plains. We aim to build a global territorial project, based on sustainable fair development and the re-appropriation and sharing of common goods.

## A G E N D A

We, the Mountain Peoples of the World, will implement this project including the following actions and initiatives:

### **NOURISHING MOUNTAIN AND MOUNTAIN PRODUCTS**

The quality and showcasing of our agricultural produce and crafts are at the heart of our challenge. The mountain must first feed her sons and daughters for them to be able to continue living with dignity in their own territories, as well as contributing to feeding the rest of the world. We need to organize ourselves to preserve the traditional know-how of each mountain, of each range, and keep on adapting so we can transmit our heritage to future generations. Our priorities are to educate our youth, to propose high quality products and services that showcase our identities and practice, and to develop fair chains for selling our produce. In the three coming years we plan to jointly build Regional Centres for cooperation and exchange of mountain know-how, in the main mountain ranges of the world. We plan to share our experience, projects and funding to this end.

### **BIODIVERSITY AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY**

We are opposed to any attempts to impose the commodification and privatisation of natural resources and biodiversity the name of « environmental services ». Our territories are not for sale. They are priceless. The flora and fauna of our mountains are a source of life, not of profits. We are aware that the international community is currently trying to instrumentalize the conservation of biodiversity to profit financial products and the interests of large firms. We denounce the Nagoya Conference (October 2010) that aims to void the United Nations Convention on Biodiversity of its substance. We are opposed to the total protection of the environment that uses National parks and protected areas when they involve excluding peoples from their territories in the name of the preservation of biodiversity. We are opposed to the global movement that is trying to impose GMOs, as they are a threat to biodiversity and to our traditional seeds, and aim to make us slaves of the agro-chemical multi-national corporations. The alternative we propose is our historical model of management of common goods. For us, the Mountain Peoples of the World, biodiversity is akin to the human diversity of our territories, as expressed through our languages, our cultures, our songs, our architecture and the names of our mountains...

### **CROPS DECLARED ILLICIT**

The criminalisation of those mountain people that grow crops that are classified as illicit must stop. As the World Forum of declared illicit crops Producers held in Barcelona (2009) stated, we shall pursue our struggle for the decriminalization of growing Coca leaf and consider the social and geographical conditions for small-scale farmers of cannabis and poppy. We support the creation of an Observatory of illicit crops to share and voice our opinions, analyses and research to the international bodies that are responsible for decision-making on these crops.

### **CHARTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

We will act at all levels to regain control of our resources and our own destiny. We believe that the management of territories must be linked to a holistic vision of the world that is political as well as cultural and spiritual. Based on the principles of the Quito Charter of World Mountain People (2002), we have decided to commit to drafting the Global Charter of « Communities, Natural Resources and Territories ». We plan to adopt it in 2011, using a participatory process. This charter will propose a new generation of rights and responsibilities, centred on the relationship between humans and territories. It will be situated at the crossroads between Human Rights and the Rights of Mother Earth.

### **CLIMATE CHANGE**

we want to stop being victims of the climate injustice that is inflicting all the consequences of climate change on us (melting glaciers, floods, droughts). The responsibility for this lies with the industrialised countries of the North, polluting industries and intensive systems of agriculture. As a follow-up to the Conference of Peoples on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth in Tiquipaya, Bolivia, in May 2010, we shall raise the voice of Mountain People on this issue in all national and international fora, and the Conference of the United Nations on Climate Change by participating in the Alliance of Mountain Lands. Mountain People's should not be forced to compensate and pay for the excess of climate change; this duty lies with those societies and economic models that are responsible for the crisis in the first place.

## MINING PROJECTS, LAND-GRABBING AND MASS TOURISM

In Latin America, Africa, Asia and Europe, local communities are involved in deep struggles fight against projects that are plundering local populations and that are a threat to human and environmental health in the race to grab natural resources and "develop" our territories. We refuse to accept mass tourism that turns our cultural identity into mere folklore, rather than promoting the genuine meeting with people that we wish to promote. We wish to express our concern about the global phenomenon of land-grabbing by certain elites and multinationals that are trying to promote carbon-offsets, develop monoculture export crops, grow agri-fuel or develop new private hunting grounds. On the contrary, we favour investments that are useful to our people and communities; the building of hospitals, schools, and basic social services. We are developing a 2010-2012 action plan on these subjects, building alliances with other organisations and networks in order to increase visibility of conflicts through presentations, mobilising public opinions at national and international level, legally fighting to defend our rights and making alternative proposals.

## EQUITABLE SHARING OF NATIONAL WEALTH

National governments should not shirk their permanent duties. They should guarantee access to essential public services for all their people – education, health, means of communication, an equitable justice system... This objective can only be met by sharing national resources, which is the sole means of compensating for the de facto disabilities that Mountain people are the first and often the only ones to shoulder.

## RIO + 20

Since the International Year of Mountains in 2002, the international community has lost sight of the commitment to improve the living conditions of mountain peoples'. We believe that the FAO mountain policy has not had sufficient means to provide a concrete and effective response to mountain peoples. The institutional framework for the sustainable development of mountain territories needs to be reconsidered and reformulated. We will attend the next Summit of the Earth in Rio in 2012, in order to make our voices and proposals heard. With regard to Agenda 21, the main challenge for mountain people is to rewrite Chapter 13 on the management of fragile ecosystems in relation with our Charter « communities, territories and natural resources”

## COMMITMENT

The Third World Meeting of Mountain People is the first action undertaken by the WMPA in this collective commitment. We intend to submit this text to the permanent delegations of the Member States at UNESCO on Monday 4th October 2010. We are determined, united and supportive, we have all mobilised in our own territories, through our NGOs, to confront both our local and national governments, the international institutions and the international community to make it possible to achieve the proposals included in this document.

Adopted in Oloron-Sainte-Marie (Pyrenees, France), le 1st October 2010

President of WMPA,  
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Deputy of the Atlantic Pyrenees

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