

Paris, October 28, 2011

**THE WMPA'S CONTRIBUTION  
TO THE RIO 2012 CONFERENCE  
(Synthesis)**

**EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT: A PREREQUISITE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

Despite differences in culture and background, mountain populations the world over share a common identity, united by their know-how, adaptability, and the specific practices that allow them to live in territories that are as rich spiritually as they are materially. They are proud to have created cultures and civilizations that are a valuable asset to our world, even though they are all too often unknown or treated with contempt. They are proud of having diversified their surroundings, thereby increasing the very biodiversity they are too often wrongly accused of endangering.

**MOUNTAIN TERRITORIES:  
BEYOND THE GREEN ECONOMY, A POLITICAL PROJECT FOR AN  
ECOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL TRANSITION OF THE TERRITORIES**

With Rio coming up, the Green Economy's goal is to try out new approaches with communities on their territories, as long as compensation mechanisms meet the following conditions:

They must finance the integrated development of mountain territories in an equitable fashion and on all levels.

In accordance with the terms laid out with/by the communities concerned.

They must not be the only financial instruments used, since they are by no means sufficient to replace the need for integrated development policies for these territories.

**GOVERNANCE OF MOUNTAIN TERRITORIES.**

**INSTEAD OF THE NOTION OF "ECOLOGICAL SERVICES" THE WMPA PREFERS TO SPEAK OF "COMMON RESOURCES" AND "HERITAGE"**

We would like to see the type of governance proposed in Rio, particularly the establishment of a World Environmental Organization, to be organized with the participation of mountain communities. These communities would contribute, in a decentralized way, to define global shared resources. This governance should also support all further initiatives that, through a decentralized approach, are based on communities of users collectively reappropriating common resources. These communities of users, although autonomous, would thus be closely linked to global society.

To this effect, we propose favouring integrated mountain policies, accompanied by the institutions necessary to successfully manage common resources at all territorial levels. We must also continue to pursue our goal of re-establishing equity in economic and social development, which is a condition of sustainability. Attaining our Millenium Development Goals must remain a priority as long as we do it through specific policies that centre around the life of territories and communities as well as the territorial management skills these communities have acquired and organized.

In the event of the establishment of a World Environment Organization (WEO), the environmental dimension must be transversally addressed to human activities: for this reason, it must be built with the participation and representation in the institution of communities and territories.

## **TOOLS AND ACTION PLANS FOR MOUNTAIN REGIONS**

**From Rio 1992 to Rio 2012: The WMPA proposes to update Chapter 13 of Agenda 21 which constituted a fundamental step towards the RECOGNITION OF MOUNTAIN TERRITORIES by the international organizations.**

### **IT ESPECIALLY SUPPORTS:**

**The implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Numerous such indigenous peoples live in mountain regions. This declaration is founded on the principles of human rights, collective rights, and the rights of communities.**

**The constitutional recognition of the uniqueness of mountain territories by the States and regions concerned. Also, the adoption, in conjunction with the local population, of "mountain laws" that are adapted to the various needs of mountain ranges.**

**Social and economic rights and regulations for these territories, shared on a national and global level. The goal is to proactively change the unequal treatment of these territories while taking into account their natural characteristics.**

**Cultural and legal recognition of the forms of governance, inherited or chosen, with which these territories are administered.**

**The rights that come from this full acknowledgment that culture drives governance.**

**Mountain communities, often plundered, are demanding the right to be consulted on the use of natural resources. They are also calling for policies to determine how profits are to be split up between the different territorial levels. Indeed, one of the most critical current issues is the relationship between mountain populations and the global actors who are interested in exploiting the natural resources largely concentrated in mountain territories and who make up the territorial richness of communities (mining, large hydroelectric projects, etc.).**

## **PROPOSAL OF MOUNTAIN POPULATIONS ON THE ADAPTATION OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS TO RESPOND TO MOUNTAIN REALITY**

**The participation of mountain organizations in the Intergovernmental Conference on Climate Change is indispensable given the strong impact of climate change on mountain regions.**

**Recognition of the specific nature of mountain economies and products by the World Trade Organization. The WTO should also recognize the specific national and regional policies already enacted and those still needing to be put into place to protect these economies and products.**

**The creation of a "Mountain" department within the FAO. This department, together with regional centres, researchers, NGOs, and international observers, would be responsible for coordinating international action for the benefit of mountain populations.**

**The acknowledgment that the growing of crops declared to be illicit for drug use is an issue pertaining to mountain regions. The populations of these primarily mountainous territories are often criminalized without consideration for the root of the problem (poverty, disparities in regional development, lack of governance).**

**To this effect, the WMPA will continue working with organizations created by producers of these crops. Along with other partners, these organizations held the First Global Forum of Producers of Crops Declared to be Illicit, and then went on to attend the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on drugs (UNGASS 2009).**

**The WMPA supports the demand to decriminalize the cultivation of hemp and coca leaves for their traditional (chewing), artisanal, cultural, and pharmaceutical uses, as well as any potential industrial uses. We also back the efforts to fight the trafficking of drugs made from these crops, the decriminalization of producers, and the redefinition of the UNODC's so-called alternative policies.**