

Quito, Ecuador, September 9th 2006

Declaration of Rumiñawi Quitus

The members of the indigenous villages from Chile, Mexico, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, and Colombia present in this conference: *Indigenous Perspectives on Ecotourism and Certification*, wish to thank our brothers and sisters from the Shuar and Kichwa communities for their hospitality and sense of brotherhood in their territory.

Considering that:

For more than 500 years, the indigenous communities, nations and villages have been objects, subordinated to the processes of development imposed from a distant perspective. Once again we restate our qualities as subjects on the path to self-development and the recognition and full exercise of our rights.

It is in our territories where the largest concentration of biological diversity and cultural respect for Mother Earth is located. And it is in those territories where increasingly greater quantities of tourism and capital are drawn, without permitting our communities to be participants in the just and equal distribution of the benefits of this economic activity; on the contrary, we have been submitted to processes of impoverishment and deterioration in our quality of life.

Indigenous peoples predate the Nation States in which we have become immersed; our territories have been appropriated and expropriated, and we have been submitted to their forms of imparting justice and the application of laws. Now five centuries later, some of the fundamental rights for our communities have begun to be recognized in treaties and international agreements and national laws.

In this sense:

- a) We encourage all Nation States to respect and implement the specific rights and fundamentals of the communities, nations, and indigenous communities (pueblos indígenas), acknowledged in the system of the United Nations, Organization of American States, among others;
- b) We demand the fortifying and inclusion of the indigenous communities in the generation and application of public politics.

Taking into account the above we declare:

1. That the high cultural value and richness in biodiversity conserved in our territories should be used for self-development.
2. That Nation States should acknowledge the ancestral territory of our communities, in accord with treaties and international conventions.
3. The process of consultation, free, previous and informed consent, should be a requisite fundamental before the planning and/or execution of plans or projects in

- indigenous territories, for public institutions or private, in accord with the forms of the organization, times and decisions of our communities, and in every moment we reserve the right to say NO.
4. The implementation of tourism in indigenous territories should represent a mechanism for the reinforcement of the **self-determination** of our communities.
 5. The planning or operation of tourist activities in indigenous territories should be principally directed by indigenous men and women, without leaving aside the assistance and cooperation provided by strategic alliances between institutions underneath the principal of reciprocity, fraternity, and never submitting or subordinating, by any of the relevant parties.
 6. The existence, establishment, or declaration of natural protected areas by the States have impacted or will and do impact the integrity and cultural continuity and territory of our communities.
 7. We, the indigenous communities, reserve the right to impugn tourist activities, in all moments, and state that the same development should occur according to our cosmovision, culture, and conception of self-development.
 8. The certification that is applied to the interior of indigenous territories with respect to tourism should be planned and executed by the same actors, throughout the forms of its organization.

The members of the indigenous communities and nations present in the conference have decided the following:

- a) To form, for the first time in history, the **“Network of Indigenous Tourism of the Americas INTIRUNA,”** whose objective is:

To contribute to the strengthening, promotion, and diffusion of self-development and free determination of the indigenous communities of the Americas.

To generate and legitimate a system of certification for tourist activity in the ancestral territories of our communities.

- b) There is named a Follow-up Committee composed of:
 - i. Juan Carlos Jintiach from the Shuar Community of Ecuador;
 - ii. Juan Sánchez Kiménez from the Maya Community Chol from Mexico;
 - iii. Ángel Canales from the Quechua Community of Peru; and
 - iv. Mnuel Muños Millalonco from the Williche Community of Chile.
- c) There is agreement that the location of the next reunion for the continuity of this work shall be the country of Mexico (specific location to be determined).

So sign all of the participants of the conference, this 9th of September, 2006:

Ángel Canales Gutiérrez, Quechua, Peru
Eliseo Pelagio Fernandez Ruelas, Quechua, Peru
José Gualinga, Kichwa from Sarayaku, Ecuador

Christián Garzón, Ecuador
Teresa Jimbicti, Shuar, Ecuador
Juan Carlos Jintiach, Shuar, Ecuador
Miguel Hilario, Shipibo, Peru
Fredy Limaco Navi, Quechua, Bolivia
Marco Antonio Manuyama Arimuya, Cocama, Colombia
Manuel Muñoz Millalonco, Williche from Chiloé, Chile
Johnny Paulino Romero, Asháninka, Peru
Rodolfo Pasha Arimuya, Ese'ejá, Peru
Juan Quispe Huatta, Island of Taquile, Quechua, Peru
Juan Sánchez Jiménez, Maya Chol, Mexico
Cecilio Solis Librado, Nuhua, Mexico
Ángel Tzec, Maya, Belize
Patricia Villafuerte Toledo, Peru