

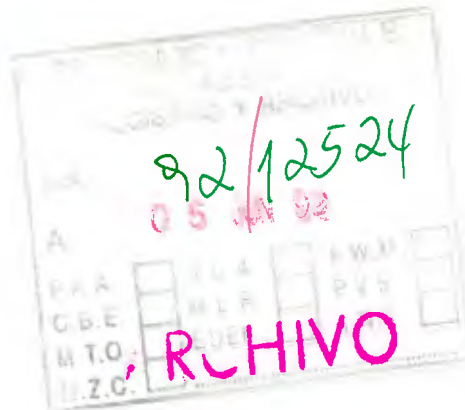
Survival

for tribal peoples



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Survival International is a worldwide movement to support tribal peoples. It stands for their right to decide their own future and helps them protect their lands, environment and way of life.

May 20, 1992

Your Excellency:

The United Nations Conference on the Environment and Development (UNCED) is being hailed as a great opportunity for nations to discuss issues of global importance.

Whilst mention is briefly made of indigenous peoples and their guardianship of the forests and unique contribution to biodiversity there is no mention of their rights to land and self determination.

Survival International's policy and work is founded on the conviction that the key problem faced by most of the world's tribal peoples is that their land rights are regularly and systematically violated by governments and others.

As a general principle, tribal peoples should have full, inalienable ownership - held comunally - over the lands they use and occupy. This is what most are asking for. This right is enshrined in the ILO Convention 107 and its update, Convention 169. It is also encompassed in one form or another in the national laws of many countries concerned.

Any debate on the Declaration on Forests and the Convention on Biodiversity, which will directly affect indigenous peoples, must focus on and recognise indigenous peoples' land and ownership rights as the first and most vital step towards sustaining their livelihoods and environment.

We are very disappointed to see that tribal peoples' ownership rights hardly figure in the agendas so far proposed for discussion at the UNCED. We urge your government to address this fundamental issue whilst attending the conference.

Yours sincerely

Stephen Corry
Director General

Founded 1969
Right Livelihood Award 1989

Robin Hanbury-Tenison *President*
Richard Bourne *Chair*
Stephen Corry *Director General*

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a propósito de la Conferencia
de ~~la Tierra~~ la Tierra,
es la oportunidad de
defender a los pueblos
indígenas. ~~justicia~~