



The Declaration of Belém

As ethnobiologists, we are alarmed that:

Since

- Tropical forests and other fragile ecosystems are disappearing;
- Many species, both plant and animal, are threatened with extinction; and
- Indigenous cultures around the world are being disrupted and destroyed;

And given

- That economic, agricultural, and health conditions of people are dependent on these resources;
- That native peoples have been stewards of 99 percent of the world's genetic resources; and
- That there is an inextricable link between cultural and biological diversity;

We, members of the International Society of Ethnobiology, strongly urge action as follows:

1. Henceforth, a substantial proportion of development aid be devoted to efforts aimed at ethnobiological inventory, conservation, and management programs.
2. Mechanisms be established by which indigenous specialists are recognized as proper authorities and are consulted in all programs affecting them, their resources, and their environment.
3. All other inalienable human rights be recognized and guaranteed, including cultural and linguistic identity.
4. Procedures be developed to compensate native peoples for the utilization of their knowledge and their biological resources.
5. Educational programs be implemented to alert the global community to the value of ethnobiological knowledge for human well-being.
6. All medical programs include the recognition of and respect for traditional healers and the incorporation of traditional health practices that enhance the health status of these populations.
7. Ethnobiologists make available the results of their research to the native peoples with whom they have worked, especially including dissemination in the native language.
8. Exchange of information be promoted among indigenous and peasant peoples regarding conservation, management, and sustained utilization of resources.