

## Declaration of Belem

Leading anthropologists, biologists, chemists, sociologists and representatives of several indigenous populations met in to discuss common concerns at the First International Congress of Ethnobiology and to found International Society of ethnobiology. Major concerns outlined by conference contributors were the study of the ways that indigenous and rural populations uniquely perceive, utilize, and manage their natural resources and the development of programs that will guarantee the preservation of vital biological and cultural diversity. This declaration was articulated.

As ethnobiologists, we are alarmed that:

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

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- That economic, agricultural and health conditions of people are dependent on these resources;
- That native people have been stewards of 95% 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 ACTIONS AS FOLLOWS:

- Henceforth, a substantial proportion of development aid must be covered to efforts aimed at ethnobiological inventory, conservation, and management programs;
- Mechanisms be established by which indigenous specialists are recognized as proper Authorities and are consulted in all programs affecting them, their resources, and their environments;
- All other inalienable human rights be recognized and guaranteed, including cultural and linguistic identity;
- Procedures must be developed to compensate native peoples for the utilization of their knowledge and their biological resources;
- Educational programs must be implemented to alert the global community to the value of ethnobiological knowledge for human well-being;
- 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;
- Ethnobiologists make available the results of their research to the native peoples with whom they have worked, especially including dissemination in the native language;
- Exchange of information should be promoted among indigenous and rural peoples regarding conservation, management, and sustainable utilization of resources.

----Belem, Brazil, July 1988----