

Wednesday 12th July 2011

African Caucus- Southern African Regional Statement

6th Session of the UN Permanent Forum

Agenda Item 3: Land Territories and Natural Resources

Presented by: Candice Jansen

The First Indigenous Peoples representatives of Southern Africa are from the #Khomani San in the Southern Kgalahari region, ^{town of} Genadendal, ^{the} Northern and Western Cape regions of South Africa and the country of Botswana.

The Southern African region's First Indigenous Peoples still struggle for their right to land, the ability to manage and control their natural resources using their own indigenous knowledge systems. This struggle is maintained because of these peoples' status still not being recognized in their countries' constitution.

We call for the constitutional recognition of our status as the First Indigenous Peoples of SADC countries. This would allow for the implementation of legislation by our governments that protect and supports our right to land as well as the freedom to self determination in order to govern these territories and natural resources.

We recommend that the Namibian Conservancies be studied as an innovative model of land use management. The IPACC report on Hunter-Gatherers Traditional Knowledge Systems ^{does} contain recommendations on the relationship between protected areas, sustainable land use and indigenous cultures.

We call on the South African government to include the Department of Environmental Affairs in the Interdepartmental Working Group on Khoe-San issues and the National Khoe-San Council.

Finally, we call on the South African government to implement of the recommendations of the report on the Special Rapporteur Dr. Stavenhagen on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms of Indigenous Peoples, in particular the recommendation to scrap the racial classification of the Khoe Khoe people as 'coloured'. This classification denies South African First Indigenous People social, political, economic and political rights, in their own land. This could be effectively realized by holding consultations with the representative bodies of the Khoe Khoe and San people.

~~Thank You~~

On Behalf of the Southern African Region ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~
I thank You