

The Kashka Suu Statement on Global Biodiversity Conservation

December 2, 2022

We are a group of conservation leaders from 22 countries across all continents with a cumulative experience of more than 40 decades in conservation practice.

We have come together to form an international alliance with the mission of improving how biodiversity conservation is practiced worldwide.

We are keenly aware of the history of top-down and coercive conservation efforts that have led to extreme injustices and marginalization of local and indigenous communities throughout the world.

We are highly concerned that despite ongoing efforts, the loss of biodiversity and the impacts of climate change continue to intensify at alarming rates.

We envision a world where ethical, inclusive and just conservation efforts are supported and led by local and indigenous communities.

We recognize that community-led conservation can be one of the most effective approaches for meeting humanity's global biodiversity and development targets.

Our goal is to enhance the capacity of conservationists around the world in strengthening conservation leadership among local and indigenous communities.

We aim to enable conservation practitioners to build respectful, ethical, and resilient conservation partnerships with local and indigenous communities, through the joint development of toolkits and resources.

We appeal to governments, conservationists, the private sector, funding agencies and the public around the world to strengthen their support for community-led conservation following the principles of Presence, Aptness, Respect, Transparency, Negotiation, Empathy, Responsiveness and Strategic Support.

We believe it is our responsibility to take such collective action for future generations and express our sincere gratitude to the Whitley Fund for Nature, the International Snow Leopard Trust, and the Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Program for supporting this initiative and the first PARTNERS Conservation Alliance workshop in the Kashka Suu village, Kyrgyz Republic.

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