

1. RESOLUTIONS

AS ADOPTED BY THE SHAKAWE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' CONSULTATION

Introduction

The following resolutions were adopted by the consultation, as being important principles for self-development amongst San communities in Southern Africa.

"The significant thing about the conference was that we met people who used to suffer like ourselves (ie. people from overseas) and exchanged ideas of how to upgrade our lives in a way that won't provoke anybody."

(Nicodemus Barkard, Botswana)

1.

There should be no perpetuation of dependency.

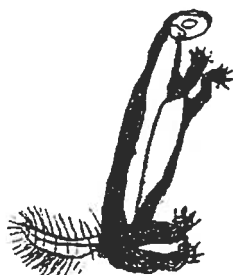
- many development programmes for indigenous peoples lead to further dependency on the dominant society
- development projects should have no hand-outs and there should be a clear relationship between income and work



2.

There should be balance between the development of private and social capital as well as an increase in assets.

- income-generating projects should improve both private household incomes and social or common capital
- such incomes should also be used to develop assets through savings programmes and investments in community projects



3.

Dependency and self-respect are intimately connected and lack of self-respect is often caused by years of "internalised oppression".

- education, youth projects and spiritually affirmed cultural work will build self-respect
- role models, especially among community leaders, are important
- San organisations should be developed
- identification with common causes will build solidarity



4.

The documentation of oral histories, traditional knowledge, spiritual values and land use systems must be undertaken by all San communities.

- this will make knowledge available to the youth and to outsiders
- this will help to strengthen our identities
- this will be useful in land claims



5.

An increase in solidarity is needed as we find ourselves in a changing environment. Therefore we should:

- involve the old and the young in open discussions, programmes and projects
- guard our traditional knowledge and pass it on to the next generation
- send our young people for education in the formal schooling system without losing them
- promote bi-lingual education in primary schools
- support our own San organizations



6.

Our communities must address the present inequality between men and women in society.

- inequality does not honour our traditions and culture
- strategies to rectify gender inequality must be developed by each community



7.

Our youth is our future and should be made proud to be San.

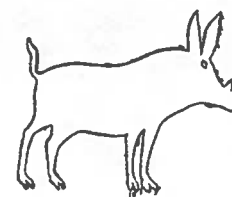
- parents that are proud of their culture are more likely to have children that are proud to be San
- communities must cater for cultural and spare-time needs of their children
- each community must develop strategies to involve their children in activities together with the parents



8.

Respecting the significance of our traditional territories is vital for our survival as a people.

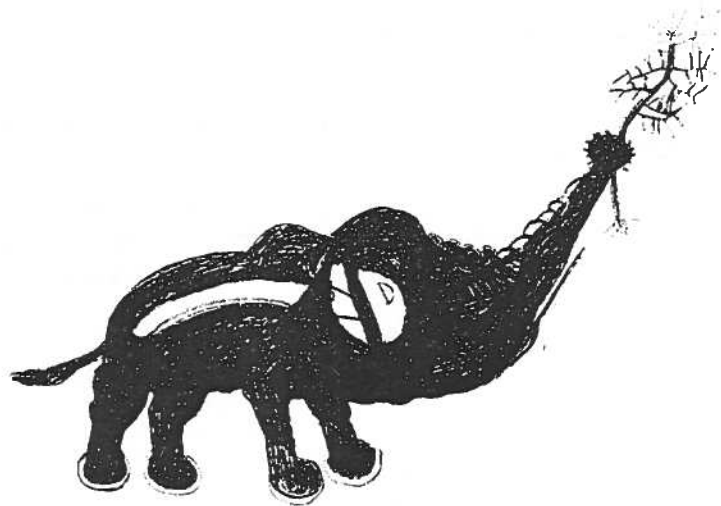
- our land is part of our origins and thereby of our identity, as the land is the owner of its people
- our land is the link to our ancestors, and sacred places bear witness to this
- our land is alive and requires our protection; through its soil and vegetation we are connected to its animals and these are the resources necessary for our spiritual and physical life



9.

All avenues should be explored to increase access to and ownership of our traditional territories.

- we need to know and understand all the laws that apply to our land
- communities should be informed and educated and our young people should be sent for formal legal education
- we should lobby for:
 - a review of the land tenure system,
 - the establishment of a land restitution act, and
 - the possibility of registering community land uses.
- we should actively participate in the political systems and seek participation in the traditional leadership structures of our countries



10.

As keepers of our traditional knowledge and spiritual values, our leadership must be reinstated and empowered.

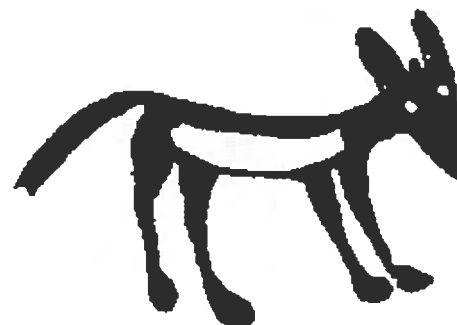
- we will advocate for their recognition by our communities and governments
- we will advocate for the formation of San leadership platforms
- our leaders should receive training on a regional level



11.

A strategy to deal with alcohol-related problems should be made by every San community.

- this problem must be dealt with rather than ignored



12.

Education must include our own histories, languages and cultures.

- we must be involved in developing our own curricula
- elders and parents must be involved in the schools to oversee the education of our children
- we should lobby to have the history and culture of the San included in Government schools
- it is our duty to create awareness and request informed support from the non-San society

13.

Our spiritual values and rites should be applied to present day life. It could be used to:

- bring reconciliation between these parties
- respect natural resources
- maintain rituals like puberty
- manage and evaluate projects
- keep kinship and community ties



The San dance group from Gumare perform at the closing night (2)

