



Ricky Ashby (in Nike shirt) and Theresa Devlin (far right) pose with fellow traveler and Yanomami children outside village perimeter.

*Photo by Kathy Wilson*

**Declaration  
World Conference of Indigenous Peoples on  
Territory, Environment and Development  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil  
May, 1992**

*We, the indigenous peoples, walk to the future in the footprints of our ancestors.*

*From the smallest to the largest living being,  
From the four directions,  
from the air, the land, and the mountains,  
the Creator has placed us, the indigenous peoples  
upon our Mother the Earth.*

*The footprints of our ancestors are permanently etched upon  
the lands of our peoples.*

*We, the indigenous peoples, maintain our inherent rights to  
self-determination. We have always had the right to decide our own forms of  
government, to use our own laws, to raise and educate our children, to our own  
cultural identity without  
interference.*

*We continue to maintain our rights as peoples despite centuries  
of deprivation, assimilation and genocide.*

*We maintain our inalienable rights to our lands and territories,  
to all our resources—above and below—and to our waters. We  
assert our ongoing responsibility to pass these on to the future  
generations.*

*We cannot be removed from our lands. We the indigenous peoples,  
are connected by the circle of life to our lands and environments.*

*We walk into the future in the footprints of our ancestors.*



Yanomami boys on trail near their village.

*Photos by  
Theresa Devlin*