Diversity Statistics: Indigenous People

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The United Nations designates August 9 as the International Day of World's Indigenous People.

This honorary day was first proclaimed by the General Assembly in December 1994, prompting celebration every year during the first International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (1995 – 2004).

At the end of 2004, the Assembly announced a Second International Decade (2005 – 2014) with the theme of "A Decade for Action and Dignity."

The 2014 focus is "Bridging the gap: implementing the rights of indigenous peoples," aiming to highlight the importance their rights through policies and programs as both the national and international level.

Location

Approximately **370 million** Indigenous people inhabit the world, belonging to

5,000 different groups, in

90 countries worldwide

They live in every region –

From the groups in the Brazilian Amazon

To the tribal peoples of India

Out to the Inuit of the Arctic

Down south to the Aborigines in Australia –

but about 70% of them are in Asia.

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Identification

Common Names:

Tribal Peoples

First Peoples

Native Peoples

Indigenous Peoples …Constitute about 5% of the world's population, yet account for about 15% of the world's poor.

Defining the Concept of "Indigenous Peoples"

Instead of having one definition for universal reference, multiple criteria serve to globally identify indigenous peoples and categorize the different groups. One of the most widespread approaches are proposed in the International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention no.169.

The ILO Convention no. 169 states that a people are considered indigenous either:

-because they are descendants of those who lived in the area before colonization; or

-because they have maintained their own social, economic, cultural, political institutions since colonization and the establishment of new states.

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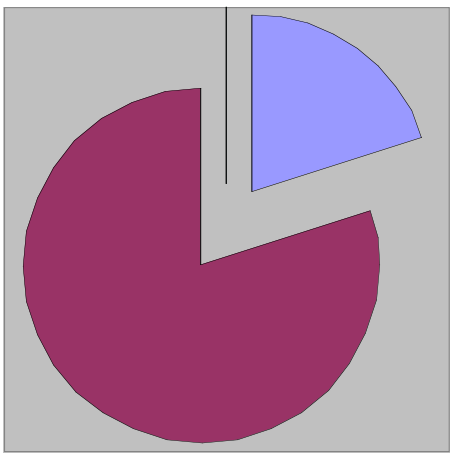
Environmental Connection



INDIGENOUS PEOPLES HOLD **20%** OF THE EARTH'S LAND MASS,

WHICH HARBORS **80%** OF THE WORLD'S REMAINING BIODIVERSITY

The Indigenous Peoples are known somewhat as the primary stewards of the planet's biological resources, as their ways of life contributed to the protection of the natural environment they are dependent on.

Of the top 200 areas named by the World Wildlife Fund with the highest and most threatened biodiversity, 95% are within Indigenous territories.

Unfortunately, Indigenous communities and their environments are being targeted by mining, oil, dam building, logging, and agro-industrial projects.

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