

# The Future of Tropical Rain Forests IDS 2935

## Rain Forests Peoples (Part 2)

1

### Indigenous people dependent on tropical forests

#### Africa

The Aka (Central African Republic and northern Congo), Baka or BaAka (southern Cameroon), and Twa (central Congo river basin). *Approx 130,000-170,000, low pop. density*

#### Asia

Mostly in remote parts of Malay peninsula, Borneo, the Andaman islands, the Philippines (Palawan island), and New Guinea.

#### Americas

An estimated 7-10 million Amerindians (the term for American Indigenous peoples) lived in American rainforests



2

# Important:

not all forest-dependent peoples  
are necessarily indigenous peoples

3

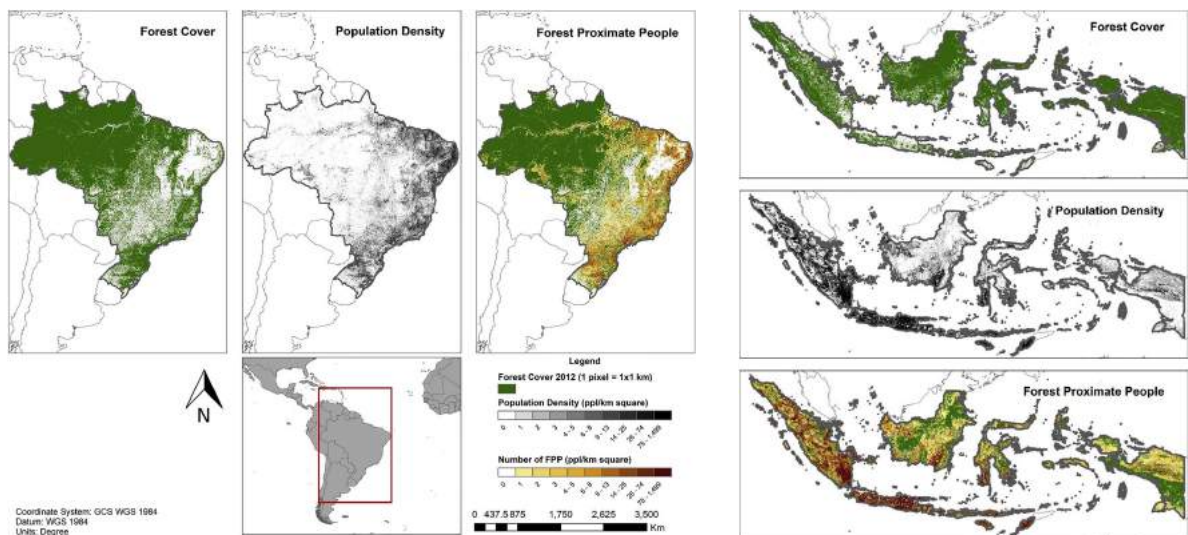


4

The degree to which forests support human livelihoods  
*and*  
 the degree to which humans affect forests  
*depends in part on*  
 how close people are to forests

5

Globally: 1.6 billion rural people live within 5 km of a forest.  
 64.5% (just over 1 bi) are in tropical countries



Move beyond "Forest-dependent People" to "Forest-proximate people"

6



Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia



7

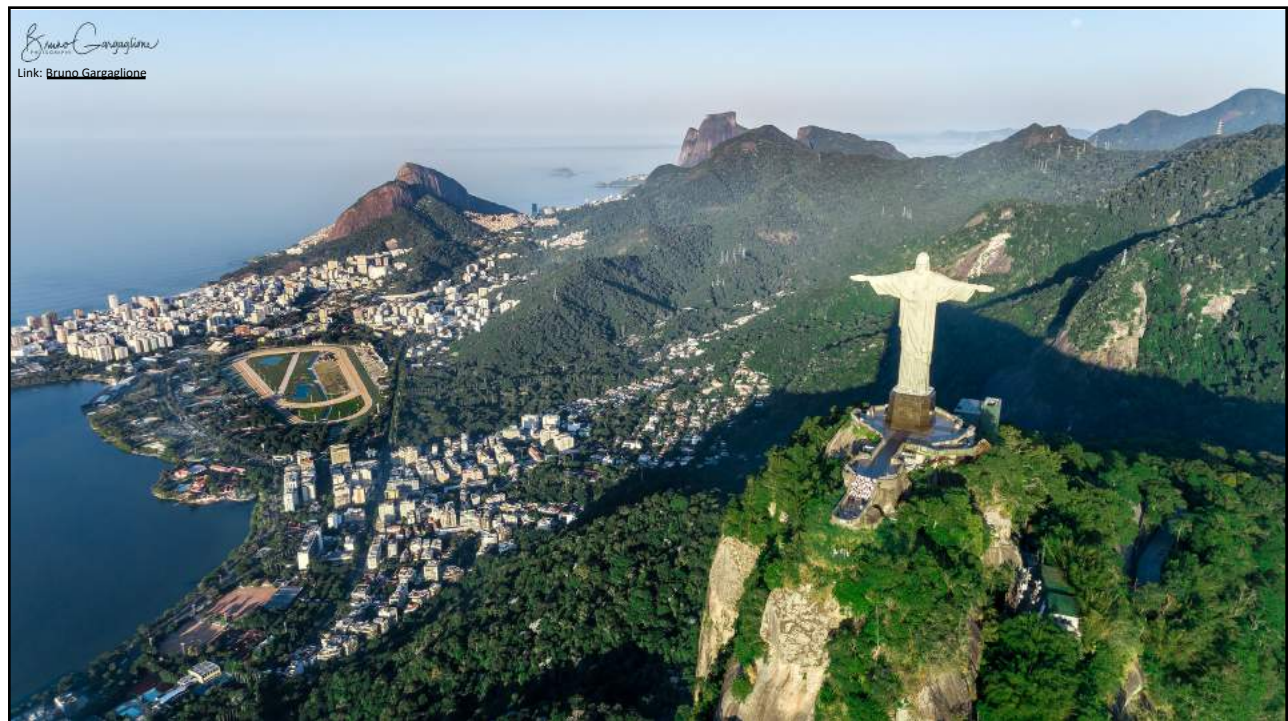
Photo: [Anthony Surace](#) (CC BY-NC-ND 2.0)

8





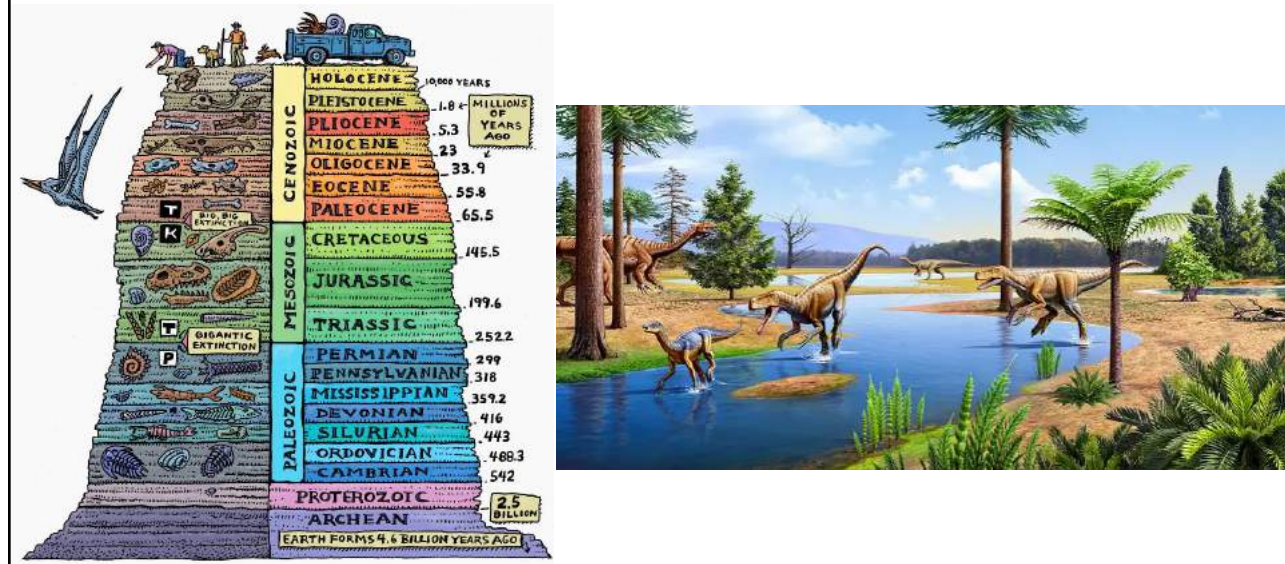
9



10



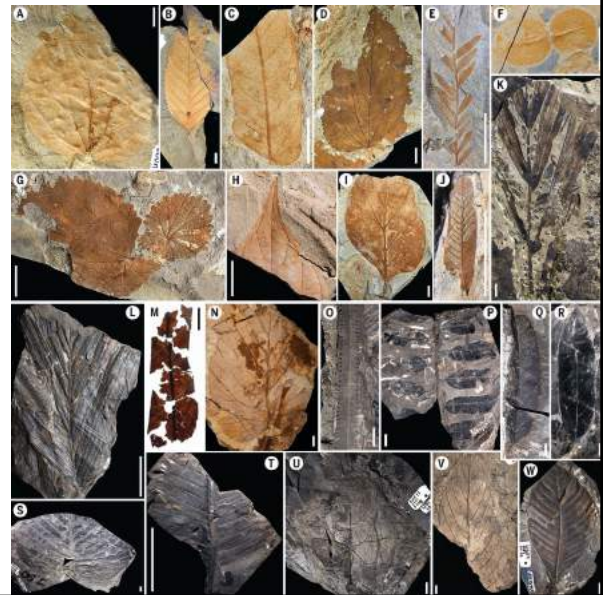
When did humans start living in rain forests?



11

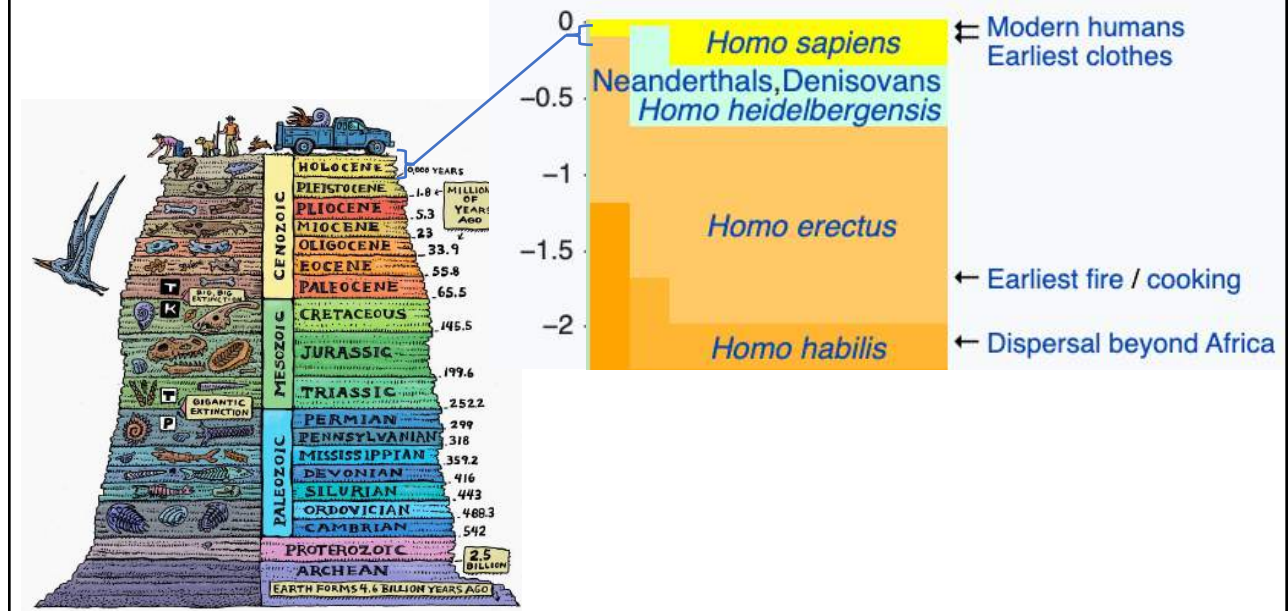
Monica Carvalho, STRI Paleobotanist

6,000 fossil leaves >50,000 grains of fossilized pollen.

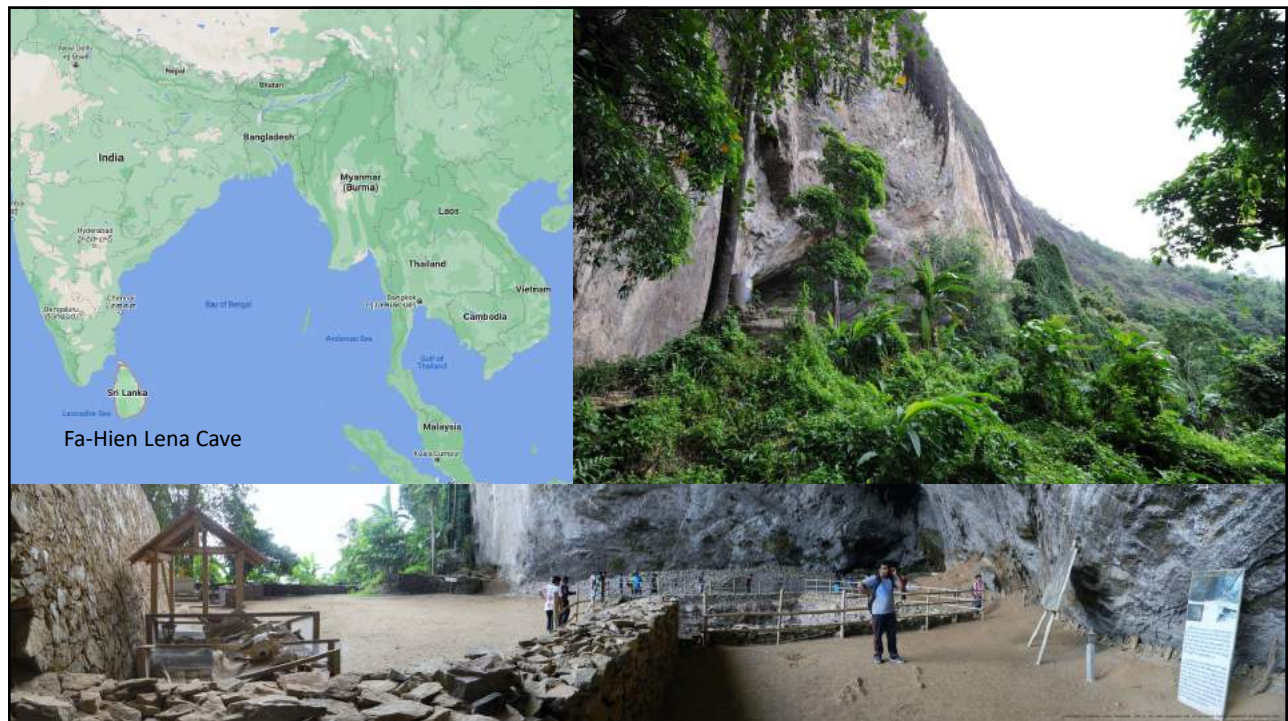


12

Currently in the Holocene, which began ~11,650 years bp

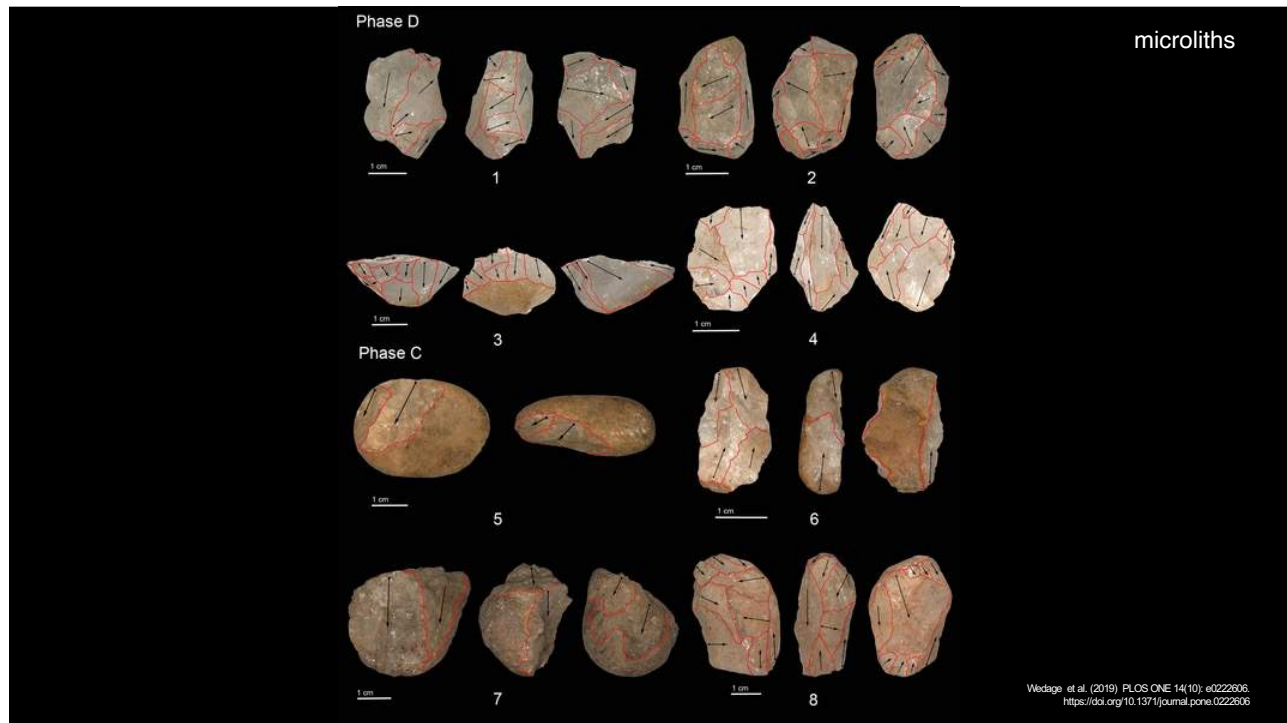


13

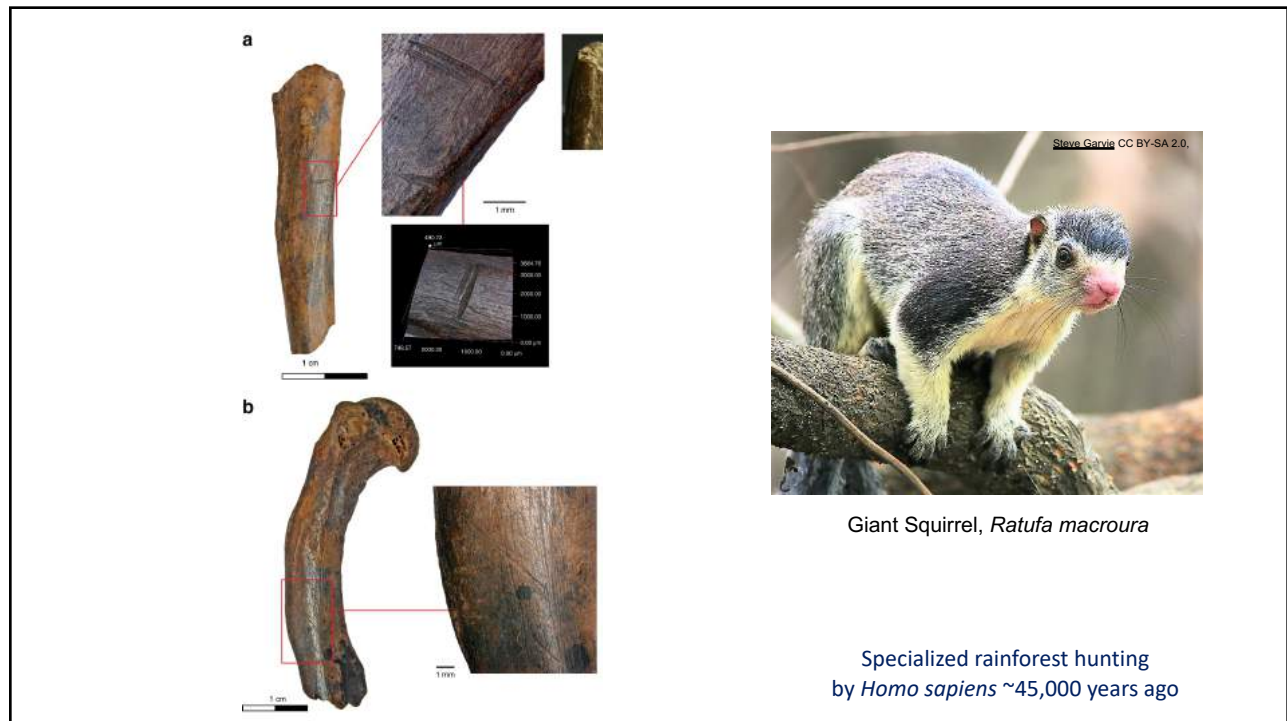


14





15



16



How many people?

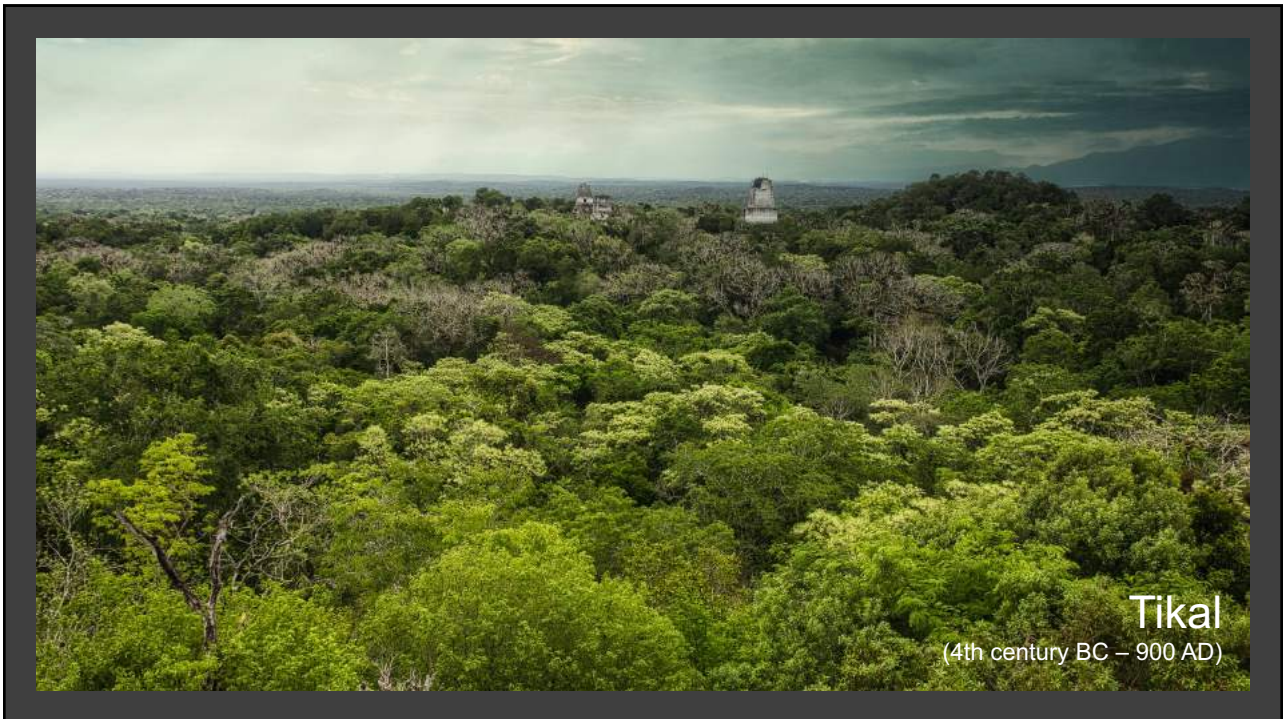


Maya – Chichen Itza  
(AD 600-1200)



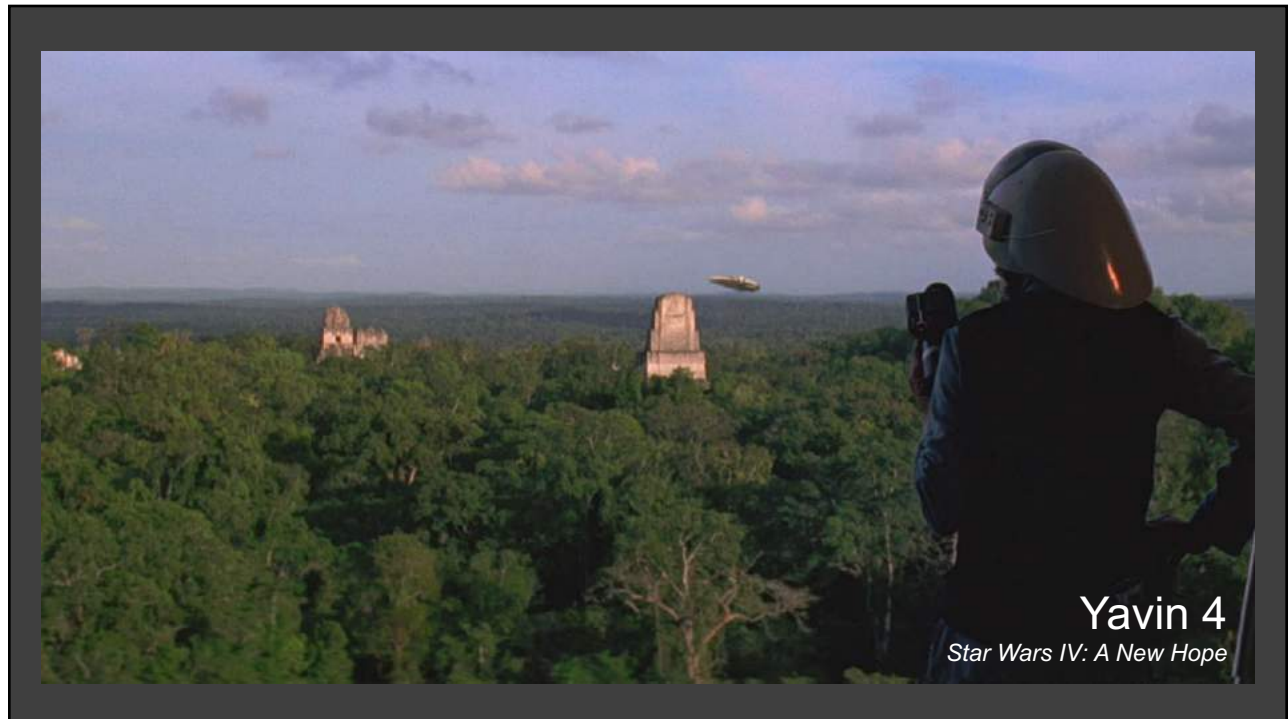
Inca (1200)

17



Tikal  
(4th century BC – 900 AD)

18



19

# 1492

Americas: 60 million people

Europe: 70-88 million

20



## Amazonia: 8-20 million



21

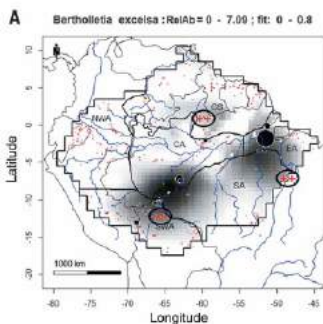
## how did Amerindians shape rain forests?

Plant domestication in Amazonia started >8000 B.P.



Dr. Carolina Levis  
UFSC-Brazil

*Mauritia flexuosa*  
*Euterpe oleracea*  
*E. precatoria*  
*Oenocarpus bataua*  
*Bactris gasipaes*



Dick Culbert CC BY 2.0.



Photo: CIEOB (CC BY-NC-ND 2.0)

22

*Theobroma cacao*: 5000 years



*Coffea* sp (coffee), *Elaeis guineensis* (oil palm), bananas



23

## Amazonian Dark Earths (*Terra Preta do Indio*)



Fig. 1 Typical profiles of "Terra Preta" (a) and Oxisol (b) sites

teau 150–200 m above the Amazon, which is covered by

Glaser et al. 2001

24



# 90%

percentage of the indigenous  
population dead by the early 1600s

(>50 million)

disease  
(smallpox, influenza, malaria)  
slavery

25

Contemporary Population of Indigenous Peoples in the Americas

## ~32 million

Peru (45%)



Bolivia (62%)



26

**The World's Best Forest Guardians: Indigenous Peoples**

Filed under: [Indigenous Peoples](#)  
(last updated October 11, 2019)





A Yanomami settlement is located in the northern Amazon rainforest.  
 PHOTO: COLLART HERVE/SYGMA/GETTY IMAGES

27



28



# Maya

Ethnolinguistic Group

S. Mexico, Guatemala, Belize, El Salvador, Honduras

~ 7 million people

32 languages



Font size = relative size of speaker population.


Yucatec: 900,000      K'iche': 400,000

100,000–500,000 | 10,000–100,000 | <10,000.

29

200,000

30

Carlos Castillo Armas & Richard M. Nixon ([link](#))

More at [PRI](#)

The New York Times

## GUATEMALAN ARMY WAGED 'GENOCIDE,' NEW REPORT FINDS

By Mirya Navarro  
Feb. 26, 1999

See the article in its original context from February 26, 1999, Section A, Page 1. [Buy Reprints](#)

[VIEW ON TIMES MACHINE](#)

TimesMachine is an exclusive benefit for home delivery and digital subscribers.

A truth commission report made public today concluded that the United States gave money and training to a Guatemalan military that committed "acts of genocide" against the Mayans during the most brutal armed conflict in Central America, Guatemala's 36-year civil war.

The report, by the independent Historical Clarification Commission, contradicts years of official denials of the torture, kidnapping and execution of thousands of civilians in a war that the commission estimated killed more than 200,000 people.

Although the outlines of American support for Guatemala's military have been well known, the nine-volume report confirms that the Central Intelligence Agency aided Guatemalan forces. [Excerpts, page A10.]

The commission listed the American training of the officer corps in counterinsurgency techniques as a key factor that "had a significant bearing on human rights violations during the armed confrontation."

31


LATIN AMERICA

## Killings Of Guatemala's Indigenous Activists Raise Specter Of Human Rights Crisis

January 22, 2019 • 6:43 PM ET  
Heard on All Things Considered

MARIA MARTIN

4-Minute Listen [+ PLAYLIST](#) [+](#) [-](#) [x](#)




Mayan indigenous people protest against the government of Guatemalan President Jimmy Morales on the day he gives an address to Congress in Guatemala City, Monday.  
*Jonathan Mayes*

**npr**

## Fleeing death in Guatemala, two Ixil Maya activists hope to continue their defense of indigenous rights from the US — if they can stay

By [Jacqueline Ulloa](#) Staff Writer Updated May 1, 2021, 5:46 p.m.



Francisco Chavez Raymundo (left) and Gaspar Cobo Corio were in El Paso, Texas, on April 15. They waited in Mexico for 17 months to get asylum in El Paso. [CHRIST CHAVEZ FOR THE BOSTON GLOBE](#)

[Leer en español.](#) | [Read in Spanish.](#)

EL PASO — They left their Ixil Maya town deep in the Cuchumatanes mountains of Guatemala just before dawn and without much time to say goodbye.

Francisco Chavez Raymundo, 45, and Gaspar Cobo Corio, 32, had been part of a tight circle of indigenous activists who in the spring of 2013 helped bring a military dictator to trial over the 1982 genocide of the Ixil people, a Mayan ethnic group that became one of the main targets of systematic racism, rape, and forced displacement during the Guatemalan civil war.

**The Boston Globe**

32





Photo: [UN Women](#) (CC BY-NC-ND 2.0)

"55-year-old Candelaria Pec (center, in blue) stands with other women near a communal garden. In addition to growing food for their families, the women use ingredients from their farms and garden to make and market organic shampoo. The women now produce shampoo in bigger batches and in different varieties -- such as aloe, cacao, avocado and honey -- and sell them in local markets.

"I joined this group because I saw the need in my household," says Candelaria Pec. "With the assistance of the project, we have started growing crops, improved our living conditions."

33

# Break

34



35