

## Reading

### Why Indigenous Peoples Must Be Involved in Forest Protection

Forests are essential ecosystems that support both planetary and human well-being. They absorb carbon dioxide, regulate local and global climates, protect biodiversity, and sustain the livelihoods of more than 1.6 billion people worldwide. Despite these critical roles, deforestation continues rapidly, contributing to climate change and biodiversity loss.

One of the most effective yet often overlooked strategies for forest conservation is empowering indigenous people. Indigenous communities have lived in and cared for forests for generations. They possess detailed ecological knowledge that is passed down orally and through daily practices. Their approaches to land stewardship, such as selective harvesting and controlled burns, have helped maintain ecosystem balance for centuries.

Numerous studies confirm the environmental benefits of indigenous land management. A 2021 report by the FAO and FILAC found that Indigenous territories in Latin America store approximately 30% of the region's forest carbon and exhibit the lowest deforestation rates. Similarly, a 2022 World Resources Institute study revealed that deforestation was 50% lower in titled Indigenous lands in the Amazon than in other forest areas.

In the United States, California tribes like the Yurok and Karuk have successfully practiced fire stewardship. Their use of traditional controlled burns helps prevent catastrophic wildfires and promotes healthy forest regeneration.

However, Indigenous communities often face threats from illegal logging, land grabbing, and exclusion from policy-making. Many forest programs, designed by external actors, fail because they ignore local knowledge and needs. This can lead to ineffective outcomes and community resistance.

Protecting forests means protecting the people who have long protected them. Securing land rights, investing in Indigenous leadership, and ensuring meaningful participation in forest governance are critical. Their connection to the land is not just cultural, it is vital to climate resilience and sustainable development.

To conserve the world's forests effectively, governments and organizations must recognize Indigenous Peoples as essential partners in environmental stewardship.

1. Suppose you agree with the writer's arguments. Which statement(s) can you use to support the writer's arguments?

Click **Yes** or **No** for every statement!

Statement	Yes	No
The government needs to help communities combat the threat of illegal logging and land grabbing in order to preserve nature.		
The government needs to develop cutting-edge technology to help conserve the world's forests effectively by learning from other countries.		
The data and evidence presented by the author encourage indigenous peoples to consider adopting other traditional ways of conserving nature.		

2. What does the phrase 'fire stewardship' in paragraph 4 most likely mean in the context of the text?
- A. Avoiding fire to protect wildlife and vegetation in the forest
  - B. Creating fireproof forest boundaries by planting fireproof trees
  - C. Using fire for traditional events and household needs only
  - D. Managing fire in the forest using traditional ecological methods
  - E. Preventing the expansion of wildfire by removing vegetation

3. Based on the text, why are indigenous peoples considered more capable of maintaining the ecosystem in which they live?

There is more than one correct answer. Click on every correct answer!

- ☐ Indigenous peoples have the authority to manage, use, and develop the whole area for community needs.
- ☐ Indigenous peoples understand traditions better because they have lived and guarded their homes for generations.
- ☐ Indigenous peoples have a better understanding of selective logging and effective land burning systems.
- ☐ Indigenous peoples are considered to have a better understanding of the geographical and ecological conditions of the area.
- ☐ Indigenous peoples have developed many advanced technologies to maintain environmental sustainability in the areas where they live.

4. Here are three statements about the writer's purpose in writing the text.  
Click **True** or **False** for every statement!

Statement	True	False
The writer suggests a more efficient modern conservative approach to forest conservation efforts.		
The writer emphasizes that protecting forests means protecting the people who help protect them.		
The writer invites readers to understand the important role of indigenous peoples in forest conservation.		