

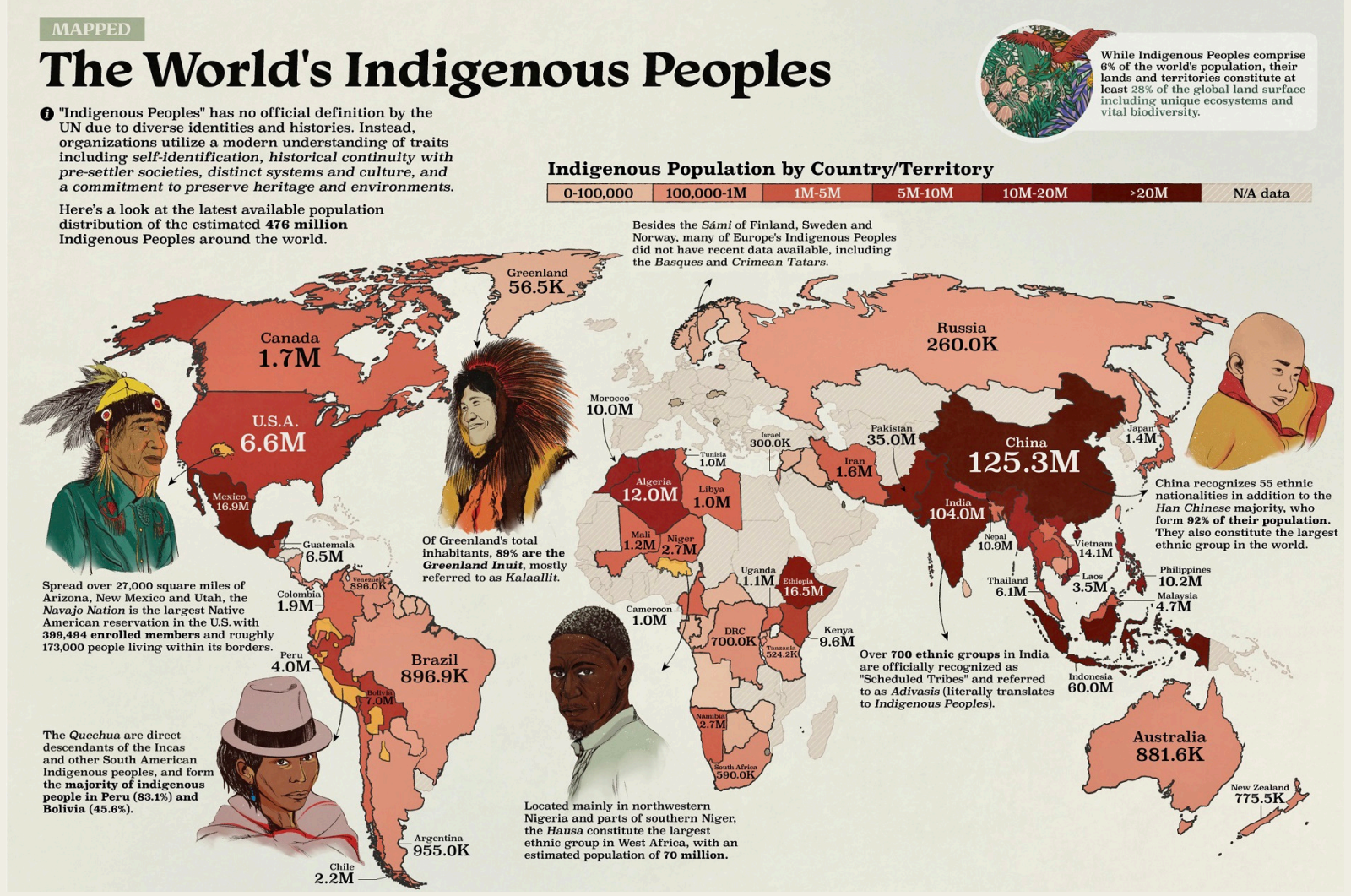


# INDIGENOUS



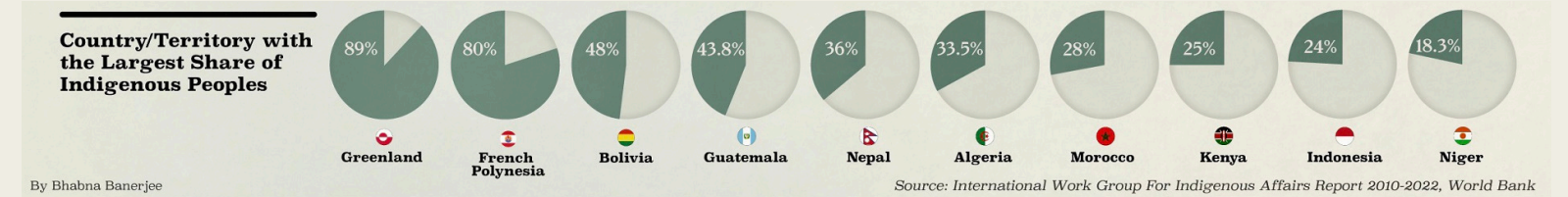
# PEOPLES





Indigenous Peoples, numbering about 476 million across more than 90 countries and speaking over 4,000 languages, play a crucial role in global development and conservation. They manage or have rights to about a quarter of the world's land, much of its biodiversity, and many of its protected areas and forests.

Despite this, Indigenous Peoples face significant challenges. They also endure widespread discrimination, human rights violations, forced evictions from ancestral lands, and violence against their defenders. Although they make up only 6.2% of the global population, they represent 18.2% of those living in extreme poverty.





**22%**  
of global land area  
is owned, occupied or used  
by indigenous peoples



**370-500**  
million indigenous  
peoples  
represent the greater part  
of the world's cultural  
diversity



**7,000**  
languages  
are spoken by indigenous  
peoples



**70**  
countries  
are home to indigenous  
peoples

## How are Indigenous Peoples' human rights violated?

### Encroaching on their right to self-determination

Many Indigenous Peoples are denied the right to self-determination, despite having governed themselves for thousands of years before colonization. Self-determination, protected by international law and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, allows peoples to freely choose their political status and pursue their development.

### Trespassing on their right to cultural lands

Indigenous Peoples' land rights are widely violated, with their lands often taken or exploited without their consent, despite international protections. This leads to displacement, loss of vital resources and traditions, and exposes Indigenous land defenders to violence. As a result, many Indigenous communities face increased marginalization, poverty, and threats to their survival.

### The impact of climate change

Indigenous Peoples, despite minimal carbon emissions, are among the first to suffer climate change's impacts due to their close ties to the environment. Climate change threatens their habitats, food, water, and cultural identity. They are also disproportionately affected by fossil fuel extraction, often facing rights violations and lack of proper consultation, as seen with India's Adivasi communities impacted by coal mining.

Indigenous Peoples play a vital role in combating climate change through their deep knowledge and sustainable land management, which helps forests and biodiversity thrive and stores vast amounts of carbon. Supporting Indigenous communities and preserving their knowledge is crucial for environmental protection. However, Indigenous and environmental defenders face severe risks, especially in the Americas—the deadliest region for such activists. In 2022, 177 environmental defenders were killed worldwide, with 88% in the Americas and 34% of victims Indigenous. Despite these dangers, Indigenous activists persist in protecting 22% of the Earth's land.



*To build a just and sustainable future, it is essential to recognize and uphold Indigenous Peoples' rights, support their leadership, and integrate their knowledge into global development and conservation efforts.*

*Empowering Indigenous communities not only safeguards their cultures and livelihoods but also advances global goals for environmental resilience, social equity, and human rights.*

References: <https://www.amnesty.org/en/what-we-do/indigenous-peoples/> , <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/indigenouspeoples>