



# WHO NEEDS NATURE THE MOST?

We all depend on nature for our well-being, but some people use nature to meet their basic needs.

## METHOD

Nature-dependent people directly use natural sources for human basic needs:



### HOUSING MATERIAL

wood, bamboo, or palm, dung, earth or mud



### ENERGY FOR COOKING

wood, charcoal, straws/grass, shrubs, dung



### OCCUPATION

agriculture, forestry, fishery workers (skilled and unskilled)



### DRINKING WATER

rivers, lakes, rainwater, natural springs, wells

Our analysis included more than

**5,000,000**

household interviews conducted by international organizations or national statistic offices in 85 tropical countries (in 2010-18).

## FINDINGS

**2.7 BILLION**

people in the tropics or 70% of people in those areas depend on nature for at least one basic need.

Around 1.2 billion people in the tropics or 30% of people in those areas highly depend on nature for at least three basic need.



### THE LARGEST PROPORTION OF NATURE-DEPENDENT PEOPLE LIVE IN TROPICAL AFRICA

(86% of the total population in that region or 850 M people), followed by Asia-Pacific (68% or 1.5 B people) and the Americas (67% or 350 M people).

### MOST PEOPLE WHO DEPEND ON NATURE IN THE TROPICS DO SO FOR ENERGY SOURCES

followed by occupation, housing materials and water.



By better considering how people use natural resources in their daily lives and how well preserved is the remaining nature, **WE CAN DEVELOP APPROPRIATE STRATEGIES TO MANAGE NATURE THAT ALSO SUPPORTS THE WELL-BEING OF PEOPLE.**

### PEOPLE WHO ARE HIGHLY DEPENDENT ON NATURE ARE AMONG THE POOREST

Even small changes to the environment can have an enormous impact on the lives and livelihoods of nature-dependent people — cutting off access to food and clean water, building materials or their incomes.

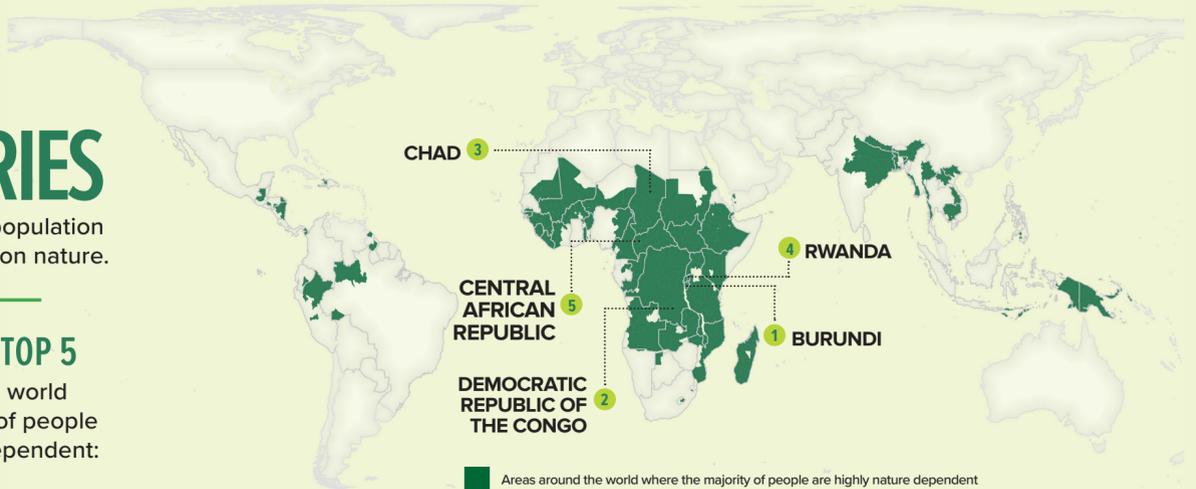


**28 COUNTRIES**

have most of their population highly dependent upon nature.

### HERE ARE THE TOP 5

areas around the world where the majority of people are highly nature dependent:



## IMPLICATIONS

### NATURE-DEPENDENT PEOPLE AND THEIR DEEP CONNECTIONS WITH NATURE CANNOT BE OVERLOOKED ANY LONGER.

Our findings underscore the importance of well-designed nature-based strategies that support sustained livelihoods and provide safety nets for nature-dependent people impacted by climate change, poverty and other societal challenges.

### GLOBAL LEADERS SHOULD PRIORITIZE NATURE-DEPENDENT PEOPLE IN PLANS, STRATEGIES AND FUNDING FOR CLIMATE, BIODIVERSITY OR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT.

Protecting and restoring local ecosystems and implementing resilient, sustainable development can and should also support the lives and livelihoods of those who need nature the most.

### THE PERSPECTIVES OF NATURE-DEPENDENT COMMUNITIES MUST BE INCLUDED IN ANY POLICY OR PROJECT THAT WILL ALTER THEIR ACCESS TO NATURE.

Despite the fact that these populations are very sensitive to changes in nature, they are often marginalized. Nature-based solutions must consider the interests of nature-dependent people to be just and effective.