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Indigenous People and Sustainable Development: How Has UNEP Contributed?

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ABSTRACT Of the estimated 6,000 cultures in the world, between 4,000 and 5,000 are indigenous. This means that indigenous peoples make up between 70 and 80 per cent of the world's cultural diversity. Looking at the global distribution of indigenous peoples, there is a clear correlation between areas of biological mega-diversity and areas of cultural diversity, which is particularly relevant for the rainforest areas in Latin America, Africa, and South East Asia. The indigenous peoples' experiences, including production and consumption patterns, are directly related to their natural environment.