



Who are Indigenous people?

According to the United Nations, there are more than 370 million indigenous people living in over 70 countries worldwide.

Indigenous people refers to the descendants of those who inhabited a geographical region or country prior to dominant conquest, occupation, settlement from people of different culture or ethnic origins.

In Latin America, the following countries have the highest indigenous populations:

- Bolivia
- Ecuador
- Guatemala
- Mexico
- Peru



Indigenous community members:

- Self-identify as indigenous and are accepted by the community as their member
- Have histories with pre-colonial and/or pre-settler societies
- Have strong ties to territories and surrounding natural resources
- Resolve to maintain and reproduce their ancestral environments and systems as distinctive peoples and communities

Indigenous communities have distinct:

- Culture
- Language
- Beliefs
- Social systems

References

Hall, G. & Patrinos, H. (2005). Latin America's Indigenous Peoples. Finance & Development, 42(4), 23-25.

United Nations. (2015). State of the World's Indigenous Peoples (2nd Edition). New York City, NY.