

INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES AND BIODIVERSITY

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Indigenous Languages

INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES IN THE WORLD

7
thousand
total languages
spoken
worldwide

5
thousand
different
indigenous
cultures

90
countries
with
indigenous
communities

370
million
Indigenous
people
in the world

2680
Languages
in danger

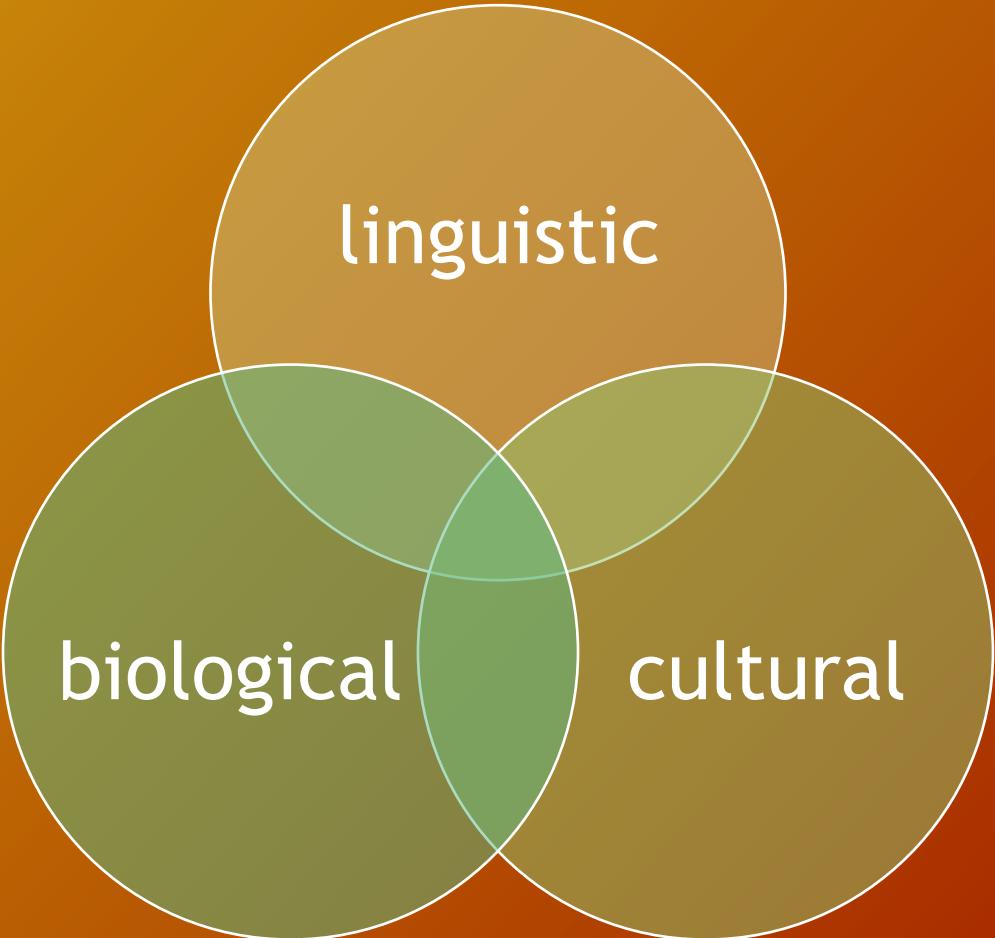
IP represent 5%
of the world's
total population

IP occupy 20% of
the planet's
surface

Indigenous
Peoples
Relationship
Population -
Territory

INTERACTION BETWEEN LINGUISTIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL PRESERVATION - INDIGENOUS CULTURES

Rights to land and territories



Traditional knowledge

Oral languages

Languages: “ADN of the cultures”

the more
languages

the more
knowledge
transmission

more
possibilities for
development
and adaptation

- “The larger the <library> of humanity's knowledge to which all humans can have access, the greater the likelihood that, where some approaches fail, others may provide vital insights. And access to the <library> is only gained through the world's languages”

(SHARING A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE - the earth's linguistic, cultural, and biological diversity, Tove Skutnabb-Kangas, Luisa Maffi, David Harmon, 2001)

Geographic coincidences between biological and linguistic diversity

Countries with mega biodiversity	Countries with linguistic mega diversity	Countries with the highest number of endemic languages / number of languages / in list mega biodiversity
Brazil	Brazil	Papua New Guinea * 847 Yes
Colombia	Mexico	Indonesia * 655 Yes
Ecuador	USA	Nigeria 376 -
Mexico	Cameroon	India * 309 Yes
Peru	Democratic Republic of Congo	Australia * 261 Yes
USA	Nigeria	Mexico * 230 Yes
Venezuela	Indonesia	Cameroon 201 -
Democratic Republic of Congo	India	Brazil * 185 Yes
Madagascar	Papua New Guinea	Dem. Rep. Congo* 158 Yes
South Africa	Australia	Philippines* 153 Yes
Indonesia		USA * 143 Yes
Malasia		Vanuatu 105 -
Philippines		Tanzania 101 -
India		Sudán 97 -
China		Malasia * 92 Yes
Australia		Ethiopia 90 -
Papua New Guinea		China * 77 Yes
		Peru * 75 Yes
		Chad 73 -
		Russia 71 -
		Solomon Islands 69 -
		Nepal 68 -
		Colombia* 55 Yes
		Cote d'Ivoire 51 -
		Canada 47 -

Factors of extinction of indigenous languages


 Oppression/ discrimination

 Globalisation


 Pressure from multinationals / governments

 Displacement / Dispossession

 Low number of speakers

 Oral tradition

 Tendency not to transmit language to following generations

 shame of the own language

with the death and disappearance of a language, an irreplaceable unit in our knowledge and understanding of human thought and world-view is lost forever

Some institutional statements

«People who do not speak in their mother tongue have no access to traditional knowledge and are bound to be excluded from vital information about subsistence, health and sustainable use of natural resources» Klaus Töpfer, former director of UNEP

«We are also beginning to understand that biological diversity and cultural and linguistic diversity are intimately related and mutually supporting (...）」 CBD Executive Secretary Ahmed Djoghlaif, 2008

Protection of indigenous languages in international law

SOME REFERENCES:

ILO CONVENTION 169 (art. 28.2)

IPCPR (ART. 27)

ICRC (ART. 30)

UNDRIP (ART. 2, 3, 8, 9, 13, 14, 16, 18)

Consideration of indigenous languages in international legal instruments for environmental protection

Art. 8j CBD - traditional knowledge
- only indirectly -

STRATEGIC PLAN FOR BIODIVERSITY
2011-2020 INCLUDING AICHI
BIODIVERSITY TARGETS

For the coherent and effective
implementation of the three
objectives of the Convention on
Biological Diversity

VISION

“By 2050, biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people.”

MISSION

“Take effective and urgent action to halt the loss of biodiversity in order to ensure that by 2020 ecosystems are resilient and continue to provide essential services, thereby securing the planet’s variety of life, and contributing to human well-being, and poverty eradication. To ensure this, pressures on biodiversity are reduced, ecosystems are restored, biological resources are sustainably used and benefits arising out of utilization of genetic resources are shared in a fair and equitable manner; adequate financial resources are provided, capacities are enhanced, biodiversity issues and values mainstreamed, appropriate policies are effectively implemented, and decision-making is based on sound science and the precautionary approach.”

5 GOALS

STRATEGIC GOAL A:
Address the underlying
causes of biodiversity loss
by mainstreaming
biodiversity across
government and society

STRATEGIC GOAL B: Reduce
the direct pressures on
biodiversity and promote
sustainable use

STRATEGIC GOAL C: To
improve the status of
biodiversity by safeguarding
ecosystems, species and
genetic diversity

STRATEGIC GOAL D:
Enhance the benefits to all
from biodiversity and
ecosystem

STRATEGIC GOAL E: Enhance
implementation through
participatory planning,
knowledge management
and capacity building

20 TARGETS

TARGET 18 By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels.

POSSIBLE INDICATORS: • Trends in degree to which traditional knowledge and practices are respected through: full integration, participation and safeguards in national implementation of the Strategic Plan
• Trends of linguistic diversity and numbers of speakers of indigenous languages
• Trends in land-use change and land tenure in the traditional territories of indigenous and local communities
* Trends in the practice of traditional occupations

ACTIONS??

THANK YOU

