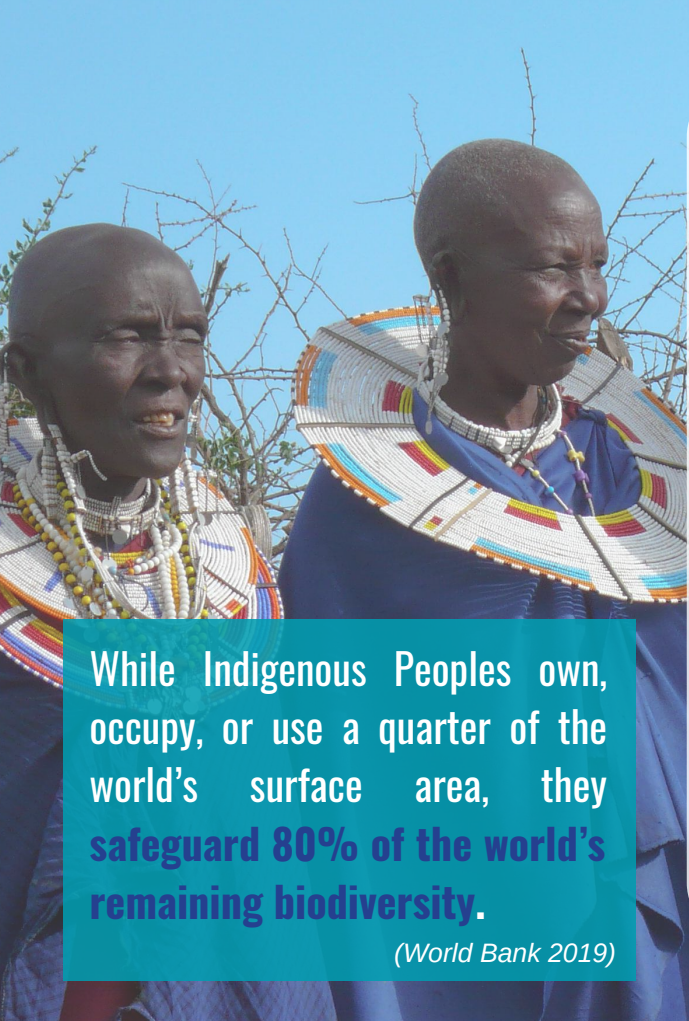




# International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples

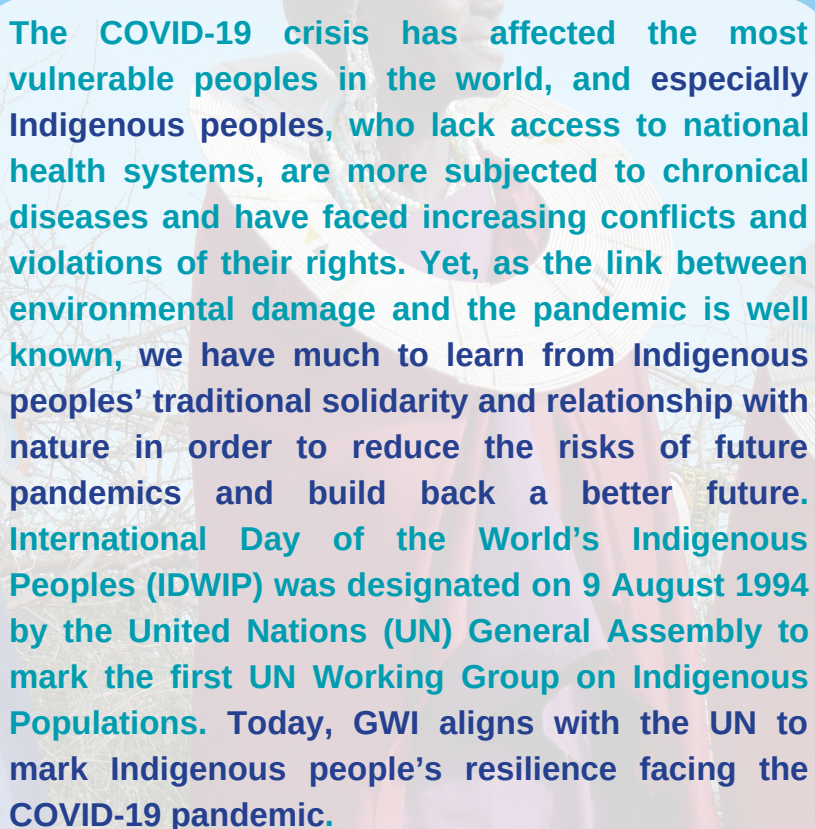
9 August 2020

Join Graduate Women International (GWI) in celebrating Indigenous people's resilience and the teachings of Indigenous women's bond with nature for a better future



While Indigenous Peoples own, occupy, or use a quarter of the world's surface area, they **safeguard 80% of the world's remaining biodiversity.**

(World Bank 2019)



The COVID-19 crisis has affected the most vulnerable peoples in the world, and especially Indigenous peoples, who lack access to national health systems, are more subjected to chronic diseases and have faced increasing conflicts and violations of their rights. Yet, as the link between environmental damage and the pandemic is well known, we have much to learn from Indigenous peoples' traditional solidarity and relationship with nature in order to reduce the risks of future pandemics and build back a better future. International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples (IDWIP) was designated on 9 August 1994 by the United Nations (UN) General Assembly to mark the first UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations. Today, GWI aligns with the UN to mark Indigenous people's resilience facing the COVID-19 pandemic.



Indigenous peoples are culturally distinct societies and communities. Although they make up **6% of the global population**, they account for about **15% of the extreme poor.**

(World Bank 2019)

Indigenous women are **26% more likely to work in the informal sector** than non-Indigenous women.

(ILO 2020)

Globally, **47% of all Indigenous peoples in employment have no education**, compared to 17% of their non-Indigenous counterparts. This gap is **even wider for women.**

(ILO 2020)

**Water scarcity** has impacted Indigenous women in some communities in particular as they tend to bear primary responsibility for household-related activities and are **forced to walk long distances in their search for water.**

(ILO 2020)



Graduate Women International (GWI)  
Empowering women and girls through lifelong education  
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# International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples

9 August 2020



## Call for action

Participation of Indigenous people, and especially Indigenous women, in decision-making processes is indispensable to tend towards inclusive and sustainable development for all. GWI calls on states to consider Indigenous peoples' resilience and collaborate with them, especially when related to environmental matters. Indigenous women are suffering from unequal access to land, natural resources and employment, which are crucial to their survival. Yet, they are at the centre of the care economy within their families and communities. Governments should participate in empowering Indigenous women and girls, through equal access to quality education and life-long skills.

## GWI Resolution

### Education for Indigenous Peoples (2013, No. 9)

"National Federations and Associations (NFAs) should urge national, provincial, state, territorial and Indigenous governments to work together to create a system of accountable, funded and quality education."

[Click HERE to access the full resolution.](#)



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Contribution by GWI intern, Sophie Husser

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