

EXTRA EXTRA!

READ ALL ABOUT IT

How indigenous groups are protecting the USA

This is an edited version of a story from
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In 2023, the Trust for Public Land, a conservation group in the US state of Maine, announced that it would return a 31,000-acre tract of forested land to tribal ownership. The land will be given to the Penobscot Nation.

This indigenous group has a record of caring for nature while still using it. The Penobscot hunt moose and duck while keeping their populations steady, and selectively harvest timber to preserve forests. The land is close to Mount Katahdin, which is sacred in Penobscot tradition.

This is a significant change. For most of the past two centuries, western conservationists have largely ignored indigenous people's knowledge of landscapes and wildlife, along with tribes' historic claims to the land. But that is no longer tenable. Worldwide, Indigenous-managed lands host 80% of the world's biodiversity. Collaboration with tribal nation leaders is therefore critical to save the planet.

Modern environmentalism has been deprived of Indigenous knowledge,

in part, because it has seen nature as something apart from humans. The US government used to remove tribal members from their land and ignored their centuries-old practices.

These practices have often proved the most sustainable way to manage natural resources. For example, they have often prevented destructive wildfires and created the conditions for more biodiversity.

Penobscot leaders have varying visions about how they might develop the land that is now being returned to them. Some imagine building housing or growing food; others envision ecotourism lodges.

In the near term, tribal leaders aim to make it accessible to hikers and hunters with permits.

Environmental movements might have better protected nature if they had sought to conserve cultures and communities along with land. Earning the trust now of people who have inherited wisdom for living in balance with nature will give conservation a fighting chance on a warming planet.

TRUE OR FALSE?

Not all news is based on truth. Do you think this story is based on true or false news?

Indigenous Americans share a single culture.



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For any feedback or help please contact buildthechange@theday.co.uk. Thank you.

Answer to Find the truth. False! Every indigenous group has its own history, culture and traditions. [Learn more here.](#)



CHECK YOUR FACTS

1

WHAT
have tribal
practices
prevented?

ANSWER:
Wildfires

WHO
removed indigenous
groups from their
land in the 1800s?

ANSWER:
The US
Government

WHERE
is the
Penobscot
Nation found?

ANSWER:
Maine

WHEN
was the land
donation
made?

ANSWER:
2023

WHY
is there a
movement to return
land to tribal groups?

ANSWER:
They have special
knowledge about
biodiversity

HOW
much of the world's
biodiversity is in
indigenous lands?

ANSWER:
80%



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