Just Nature-Based Solutions for Adaptation: when nature is a matter of survival

**METHOD**

Nature-dependent people directly use natural sources for human basic needs:

- **HOUSING MATERIAL**
  - wood, bamboo, or palm, dung, earth or mud
- **ENERGY FOR COOKING**
  - wood, charcoal, straw/grass, shrubs, dung
- **OCCUPATION**
  - agriculture, forestry, fishery workers (skilled and unskilled)
- **DRINKING WATER**
  - rivers, lakes, rainwater, natural springs, wells

Our analysis included more than 5,000,000 household interviews conducted by international organizations or national statistic offices in 85 tropical countries (in 2010-18).

**FINDINGS**

- **2.7 BILLION**
  - people in the tropics or 70% of people in those areas depend on nature for at least one basic need.
  - Around 1.2 billion people in the tropics or 30% of people in those areas highly depend on nature for at least three basic needs.

- **86%**
  - The largest proportion of nature-dependent people live in Tropical Africa (86% of the total population in that region or 850 M people), followed by Asia-Pacific (68% or 1.5 B people) and the Americas (67% or 350 M people).

- **28 COUNTRIES**
  - have most of their population highly dependent upon nature.

**NATURE-DEPENDENT PEOPLE AND THEIR DEEP CONNECTIONS WITH NATURE CANNOT BE OVERLOOKED ANY LONGER.**

Our findings underscore the importance of well-designed nature-based solutions that support sustained livelihoods and provide safety nets for nature-dependent people impacted by climate change, poverty and other societal challenges.

**GLOBAL LEADERS SHOULD PRIORITIZE NATURE-DEPENDENT PEOPLE IN PLANS, STRATEGIES AND FUNDING.**

Implementing nature-based solutions that protect and restore local ecosystems and resilient, sustainable development can and should also support the lives and livelihoods of those who need nature the most.

**THE PERSPECTIVES OF NATURE-DEPENDENT COMMUNITIES MUST BE INCLUDED IN ANY POLICY OR PROJECT THAT WILL ALTER THEIR ACCESS.**

Despite the fact that these populations are very sensitive to changes in nature, they are often marginalized. Nature-based solutions must consider the interests of nature-dependent people to be just and effective.

Giacomo Fedele, PhD
gfedele@conservation.org