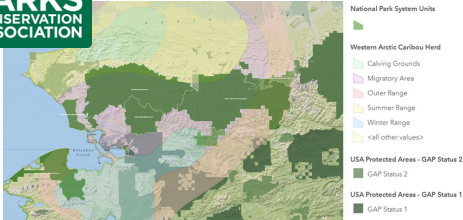


Newsletter

Week 2, 2024



Alongside the National Parks Conservation Association, the Park Institute is proud to launch their inaugural **Conservation Data & Communications Fellowship**. This Summer '24 professional development opportunity will support NPCA's Conservation Science team and their priority 30x30 landscapes. Learn more [here](#).

FEATURED PARK



Photos and facts of your favorite parks, one issue at a time

El Yunque National Forest Puerto Rico



FACT 1: El Yunque is the **only** tropical rainforest in the National Forest System. It features exceptional biodiversity, including over 240 tree species and the critically-endangered Puerto Rican parrot.

FACT 2: Translated in Spanish as *anvil*, the name El Yunque may be derived from the indigenous Taino word *Yuké*, meaning *white land* in reference to the mountains' dense cloud cover. El Yunque contains many petroglyphs, or rock carvings, created by the Taino. Found near waterways, these artworks provide insight into Taino beliefs and the area's spiritual significance.

Nominate *your* favorite local, state, or national park [here](#) so our subscribers can learn about it.

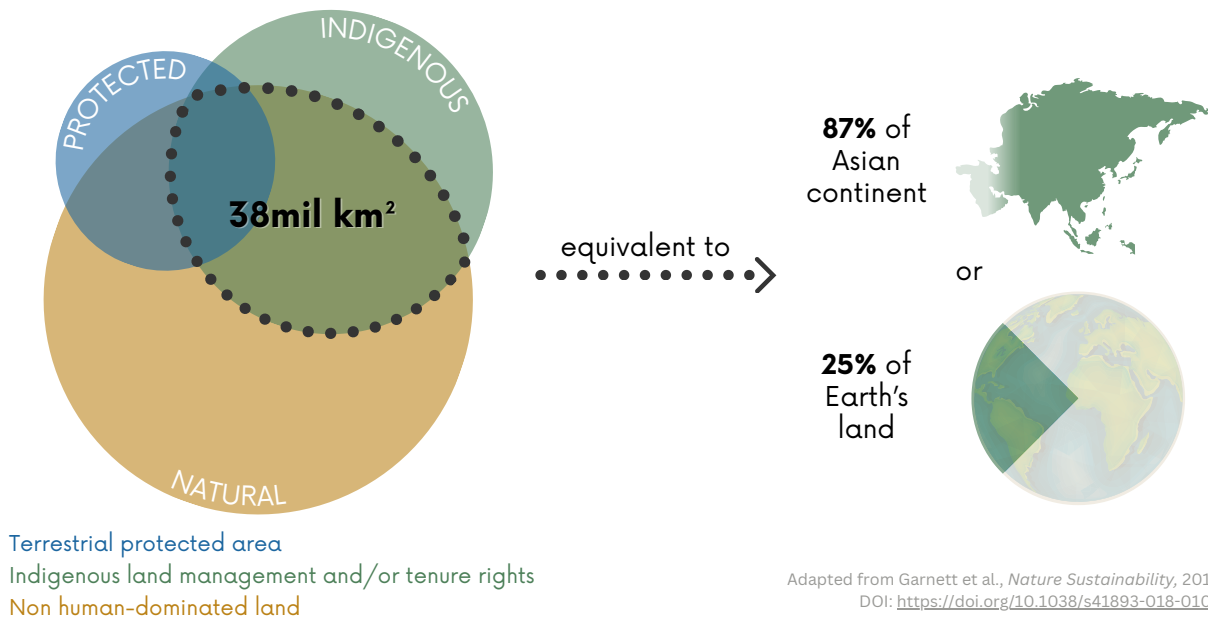
PARK PERKS



Visualizing key research to show why parks matter

Despite having inhabited and shaped diverse ecosystems for millenia, indigenous peoples have been marginalized in traditional conservation planning, leading in many cases to conflict and expulsion. A 2018 *Nature Sustainability* [article](#) explores the importance of indigenous groups in global conservation. Using publicly-available GIS datasets, the authors assessed the global extent of indigenous peoples' lands and their overlap with protected and natural areas. They found that indigenous lands cover ~38 million km² - roughly 25% of the Earth's dry surface - and overlap with a **disproportionate amount** of protected areas and pristine ecosystems: about 40% in total.

Global Indigenous Land Stewardship (as of 2018)



The article suggests that by inhabiting and managing such a large portion of global natural areas, indigenous peoples have an especially important role to play in conservation efforts. As a result, respect for the rights of indigenous peoples is *not only a moral imperative*, it is also **crucial** to the future of conservation. The authors argue that conservation planners should pursue deeper collaboration with indigenous communities, helping to ensure the long-term environmental integrity of the lands they manage.

PLAY GROUND

When can maple trees advertise their syrup?

after being tapped for promotion