

Locals spend more on forest conservation

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GENEVA, Switzerland, July 22 (UPI) -- GENEVA, Switzerland, July 22 (UPI) -- Indigenous people who live near tropical rain forests outspend foreign donors in efforts to preserve those forests, a forestry group reported.

People in local communities who survive on less than \$1 per day are just as effective as their national governments in conserving tropical rain forests, but they are completely left out of financial incentive arrangements for preservation, according to Forest Trends, based in Washington, D.C.

The organization estimated local communities are managing at least 370 million hectares of forest where biodiversity is protected and indigenous people outspend outside donors by 2-1.

"Our report shows for the first time that worldwide efforts to enlist these community residents in the work of conservation would be a cost-effective and long-term solution to the problem of conservation," Arvin Chare, senior policy analyst for Forest Trends, said in a statement.

The report was released as delegates from 59 nations gathered in Geneva to debate renewal of the International Tropical Timber Agreement.