



Yanomami

Brazil and Venezuela,

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yanomami>

In the mid-1970s, *garimpeiros* (small independent gold-diggers) started to enter the Yanomami country. Where these *garimpeiros* settled, they killed members of the Yanomami tribe in conflict over land. In addition, mining techniques by the *garimpeiros* led to environmental degradation. Despite the existence of FUNAI, the federal agency representing the rights and interests of indigenous populations, the Yanomami have received little protection from the government against these intrusive forces. In some cases the government can be cited as supporting the infiltration of mining companies into Yanomami lands. In 1978, the militarized government, under pressure from anthropologists and the international community, enacted a plan that demarcated land for the Yanomami. These reserves, however, were small "island" tracts of land lacking consideration for Yanomami lifestyle, trading networks, and trails, with

boundaries that were determined solely by the concentration of mineral deposits.^[30] In 1990, more than 40,000 *garimpeiros* had entered the Yanomami land.^[31] In 1992, the government of Brazil led by [Fernando Collor de Mello](#) demarcated an indigenous Yanomami area on the recommendations of Brazilian anthropologists and [Survival International](#), a campaign that started in the early 1970s. Non-Yanomami people continue to enter the land. The Brazilian and Venezuelan governments do not have adequate enforcement programs to prevent the entry of outsiders into this land.[32]

Check out :CAFOD and the Indigenous Council of Roraima

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uzvU5Xufgp0>

You may also like to look at the reflection on the CAFOD site by Fr Edwin Gariguez

<http://cafod.org.uk/News/UK-news/Prepare-for-encyclical>

Not sure what his original thesis was called but he is exploring how indigenous spirituality can be used as a model for sustainable development and well-being.

Fr Edwin Gariguez, Exec Sec Caritas Philippines.

“The indigenous peoples, as a community, have a very strong connectedness with the earth.”