

INDIGENOUS VALUES FOR FUTURE RESILIENCE
A RESILIENCE FRONTIERS DIALOGUE

A Concept Note for the Asia Pacific Climate Week
UNFCCC

Date: Tuesday, 3 September 2019

Length (in hours or am/pm): 09:00 - 12:30

Expected number of attendees: 50

'By invitation only' or open event: Open

Organizing partner(s): UNFCCC

Focal Point within partner(s)' organization and contact: (ctudenggongbu@unfccc.int)

Background

The Resilience Frontiers Initiative is a [Nairobi work programme](#) joint-action pledge under the UNFCCC, and an interagency effort coordinated by the UNFCCC secretariat in collaboration with Canada's International Development Research Centre, EIT-Climate-KIC, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Global Water Partnership, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Environment Programme, and the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs.

At the Resilience Frontiers¹ inaugural event, held on the margins of NAP Expo (Songdo, April 2019), participants with diverse backgrounds collectively identified indigenous peoples' values, knowledge, and practices as some of the most important factors for long-term resilience premised on sustainable and regenerative practices.

Indigenous peoples utilise the amassed knowledge and wisdom of their ancestors, embodying insights and experience distilled over millennia of close and direct contact with nature. Although they constitute less than five percent of the world's population, indigenous peoples safeguard 80% of the world's biodiversity.

Whether it is indigenous communities' sacred sites as the origin of conservation areas known to mankind today, Kwakwaka'wakw's "clam gardens" as antecedent of modern mariculture or farmers forecasting El Niño hundreds of years before western science even attempted to,² these examples demonstrate how modern societies can learn from and catch up with indigenous communities, their practices and knowledge, and, more importantly, their underlying values.

In the era of global climate change, where the rising tides and intensifying climate events wreak havoc on communities and livelihoods across the world, people are calling for collective actions to reconnect with and listen to Mother Earth, respect the laws of nature, and live in harmony with nature. Indigenous communities have been doing so since time immemorial. Generations of intimate interaction with the natural world renders indigenous peoples a holistic approach to and symbiotic relationship with nature – an asset that is essential to humanity's long-term resilience.

The scientific community is also increasingly recognizing the important role of indigenous communities in building long-term climate resilience for all. Recent reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) stress the urgent need for a transformative change, especially towards rectifying the human-nature interface, and highlight the importance of indigenous peoples' values, knowledge and practices. In August 2019, the IPCC Special Report on Climate Change

¹ See: <http://www.resiliencefrontiers.org/>

² See: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/pr/00/01/pleiades.html>

and Land³ pointed out with high confidence “agricultural practices that include indigenous and local knowledge can contribute to overcoming the combined challenges of climate change, food security, biodiversity conservation, and combating desertification and land degradation”.

The values, and the associated knowledge and practices, of indigenous peoples can help guide societies through such profound change, recognizing that any transformation must be viewed against the backdrop of other sociocultural, environmental, technological and economic changes taking place in the coming decade, which will undoubtedly affect the much-needed transformational trajectory.

Objectives

The event aims to identify entry points for current socio-economic development to benefit from indigenous values, including within the context of urbanization in the Asia Pacific region.

Experts on this topic, including from the Resilience Frontiers group of participants, will share insights and proposals on why and how the pursuit of long-term resilience can learn from indigenous communities in the forthcoming transformational trajectory.

Draft Agenda

9:00 – 9:05	Short video <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Indigenous peoples’ close contact with nature
9:05 – 9:15	Opening <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Welcome remarks and introduction
9:15 – 9:45	Setting the scene: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Resilience Frontiers Initiative▪ Indigenous values▪ Asia Pacific realities and contexts
9:45 – 10:30	Key indigenous knowledge, practices and values in the region <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sharing of case stories on indigenous peoples’ approaches and challenges
10:30 – 10:40	Coffee break
10:40 – 11:30	Small group discussions <p>Learning from indigenous peoples’ holistic approach to the environment in efforts to secure long-term urban resilience in the future</p>
11:30 – 12:15	Outputs <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Reporting back from the breakout groups on the key takeaways
12:15 – 12:30	Next steps and closing
12:30 – 13:30	Networking lunch

Logistical requirements:

Room	1
Capacity	50 people
Preferred set-up	Square, if possible; if not, then class room setting
Catering needs	Coffee break
Interpretation	No

³ See: https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2019/08/4.-SPM_Approved_Microsite_FINAL.pdf

Audio/visual	Yes
Other	PPT projector, flipcharts, markers, post-it notes

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