

# How Traditional Knowledge



UNIVERSITY OF SILESIA  
IN KATOWICE

## can help in the fight against climate change?

## Indigenous Peoples participation in the climate change adaptation

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### Indigenous Peoples

✓ People who identify as Indigenous

✓ living descendants of preinvasion inhabitants of lands now dominated by others, who share some crucial commonalities such as their relation to land and environment, the importance of cultural practices and traditional ways of life

✓ whose social, cultural and economic conditions distinguish them from other sections of the national community, and whose status is regulated wholly or partially by their own customs or traditions or by special laws or regulations



Zai Pits  
Source: <https://www.greenerland/index.php/product/zai-pits>

### Climate Change Adaptation

addresses the consequences of climate change

the process of adjustment to actual or expected climate and its effects

makes use of the multiple services provided by natural ecosystems to improve resilience and adaptation capacity; policy, legal, social, management and financial measures

### Obstacles to successful adaptation

- the former colonization that Indigenous Peoples had been subjugated to, still has impacts on their lives, making adaptation to climate change much more difficult, e.g. far too often Indigenous Peoples were forced to settle in certain areas, usually not chosen by them, which is now limiting their adaptive capabilities (Yup'ik Village of Newtok, Alaska)
- lack of official titles to their lands
- lack of respect for their Traditional Knowledge
- current rate of climate change

Do you want to know more or exchange thoughts?

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### Examples of Indigenous People



Sammi  
(Sweden, Finland, Norway, and Denmark)



First Nations and Métis  
(Canada)



Native Americans  
(United States)



Maasai  
(East Africa)



Kurds  
(Western Asia)



Maori  
(New Zealand)

verywell

Source: Verywell / Jiaqi Zhou

### Traditional Knowledge

knowledge and know-how accumulated across generations, which guide human societies in their interactions with their surrounding environment

#### Example

In Africa, a water harvesting technique originating from the Sahel and known as zai pits or tassa helps restore degraded drylands through climate-smart agriculture, while in Vanuatu, traditional architecture proved to be a key factor in disaster risk reduction, as the communal buildings used as evacuation centers during Cyclone Pam in 2015 were found much safer and stronger when built using local materials and building skills.

**As culture and Traditional Knowledge are central to Indigenous Peoples, they are also central to their adaptive capacities and will guide their adaptation methods**

### Recommendations

- inclusion of Indigenous Peoples into decision-making processes
- implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples into national laws
- respect for the Traditional Knowledge

**"Conservation is typically done for us and around us, not with us."**  
Stockholm+50 Indigenous Peoples Declaration

- cooperation between Indigenous Peoples and scientist
- respect for the traditional ownership of the lands