Indigenous Knowledge and Climate Risk Management

A Participatory Webinar

November 23th 2020, 14:00 - 16:00 (GMT+2)

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United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
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LiNKS

Local and Indigenous
Knowledge Systems

Background and Relevance

Southern Africa is one of the most vulnerable regions to climate change in the world, particularly because of widespread poverty, recurrent droughts, inequitable land distribution, dependence on rain-fed agriculture and adaptive capacity that is being challenged by climate change. In the face of global climate change and its emerging challenges and unknowns, it is essential that decision makers formulate policies based on the best available knowledge.

In recent years, the knowledge of local communities and indigenous peoples, often referred to as indigenous and local knowledge (ILK) has been increasingly recognised as an important source of climate knowledge and adaptation strategies. ILK refers to the understandings, skills and philosophies developed by societies with long histories of interaction with their natural surroundings. The communities, particularly those in hazard-prone areas, have developed a good understanding and knowledge of disaster prevention and mitigation, early warning, preparedness and response, and post disaster recovery. This knowledge is based on facts that are known or learnt from experience or acquired through observation and practice, and is handed down from generation to generation. Indigenous and local knowledge can thus make an important contribution to climate change policy and Sustainable Development Goal 13 on climate action; by observing changing climates, evolving methods to convert observation and knowledge into relevant data, adapting to impacts and contributing to global mitigation efforts.

UNESCO's Local and Indigenous Knowledge Systems programme (LINKS) promotes local and indigenous knowledge and its inclusion in global climate science and policy processes. Working at local, national and global levels, LINKS strives to strengthen indigenous peoples and local communities, foster transdisciplinary engagements with scientists, policy-makers, and pilot novel methodologies to further understandings of climate change impacts, adaptation and mitigation. It is essential that policy makers, scientists and development practitioners endeavour to understand ILK and the practices of the communities in which they are working. Also, UNESCO CliMWaR project (Enhancing Climate Services for Improved Water Management) is integrating ILK with scientific knowledge through engagement with local communities via a participatory approach and citizen science to monitor floods and droughts. It could be one of the best ways to the more effective and sustainable implementation of climate change adaptation strategies among targeted indigenous communities. A good understanding of ILK and practices of communities will enable policy planners, climate specialists, and ILK holders to create collaboration initiatives between ILK with scientific knowledge.

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LiNKS Local and Indigenous Knowledge Systems

CliMWaR

Government of Flanders

Objective

The main objective of this webinar is to introduce the LINKS program and UNESCO partners' work on Indigenous Knowledge to Southern Africa. The webinar will also present some studies demonstrating the synergies between ILK systems and climate services and adaptation. In addition, the webinar will provide a platform to explore potential activities to strengthen indigenous knowledge systems for co-creation of climate services, especially to improve water resources management and disaster risk reduction.

Programme

Time	Topic
13:50-14:00	Registration of participants
Session Moderator: **Dr. Koen Verbist**, Program Specialist; UNESCO Regional Office for Southern Africa (UNESCO ROSA)	
14:00-14:10	**Opening Remarks** by **Dr. Nigel Crawhall**, Head of the Section for Small Islands and Indigenous Knowledge, UNESCO Headquarters **Opening Remarks** by **Dr. Anil Mishra**, Chief of Section, a.i., Hydrological System and Water Scarcity Section, UNESCO Headquarters
14:10-14:30	An Introductory Presentation of UNESCO Local and Indigenous Knowledge Systems Programme; **Dr. Veronica Gonzalez-Gonzalez**, Associated Program Specialist, UNESCO LINKS
14:30-14:50	Pastoralist indigenous knowledge on dry conditions. A case study from the Karamoja region, Uganda; **Mr. Paul Lokol**, UNESCO LINKS partner
14:50-15:00	An Overview of Indigenous Knowledge in Waternet, **Dr. Jean-Marie Kileshye Onema**, WaterNet Executive Manager, Associate Professor, University of Lubumbashi
15:00-15:15	The Application of Indigenous Knowledge in Drought Forecasting- Limpopo River Basin; **Mr. Bright Chisadza**, Lecturer, Lupane State University
15:15-15:35	Indigenous Knowledge Systems, Community Based Climate Observation Practices and Synergies with Climate Services and Adaptation In Zimbabwe, **Prof Joseph Z.Z. Matowanyika**, Chinhoyi University of Technology
15:35-15:55	**Open Discussion**
15:55-16:00	**Wrap up and the Way Forward**

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