Community-based assessments

of global climate changes

Observation and interpretation of meteorological phenomena have guided the activities of local communities for millennia. Planting and harvesting, transhumance or herd migration, and the timing and locations of hunting, fishing or gathering are dependent on detailed understandings of weather and climate.

Indigenous knowledge contributes to climate science by offering observations and interpretations at a much finer spatial scale and with considerable temporal depth. They also highlight elements of significance to local livelihoods that are not considered by scientists. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in the Summary for Policymakers of its Fifth Assessment Report (2014) concluded that: 'indigenous, local, and traditional knowledge systems and practices, including indigenous peoples' holistic view of community and environment, are a major resource for adapting to climate change'.

MONGOLIAN PASTORALISTS report shifts in rains and damage to pastures, while science shows no such change.

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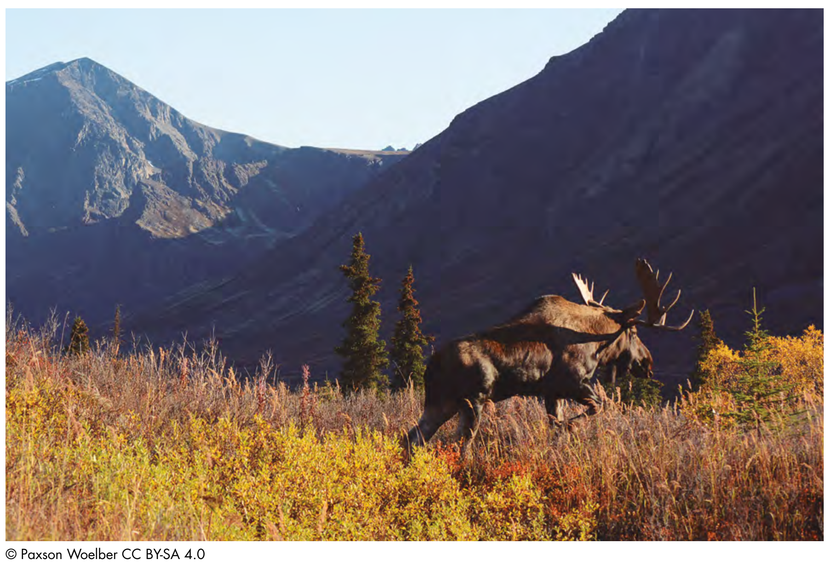
INDIGENOUS HUNTERS in Canada report that ticks are flourishing due to warm winters. Tick infestations weaken moose, increasing vulnerability.



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AFAR PASTORALISTS in Ethiopia share climate observations through a traditional communication network.

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ILLUSTRATION&DESIGN by **DEL HAMBRE**

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