

Monitoring

biodiversity loss

Indigenous peoples are often well positioned to observe and understand local ecosystems. Many live in areas that have high biodiversity values. Their ways of life and knowledge systems depend on close interactions with nature, and observations of the animals and plants on which they rely. As knowledge is garnered throughout a lifetime, and enhanced by oral history passed down through generations, indigenous peoples often also have knowledge of changes in biodiversity over many decades or even centuries.

As many indigenous peoples live in remote areas, they are often better placed than scientists to provide detailed information on local biodiversity. By working with many communities over a wide area, a picture of biodiversity trends over whole regions can be achieved. The Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) recognises the importance of including indigenous and local knowledge in its assessments of biodiversity.



THE ARCTIC CLIMATE Impact Assessment (2005) integrated indigenous knowledge about plants.

THE IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTIONS that indigenous knowledge can make to biodiversity assessments have been recognised by IPBES.

IN FIJI a local knowledge assessment determined the status of almost 900 marine species.



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