

Adaptive knowledge

for variability and change

The knowledge of indigenous peoples is not a static body of 'traditional' information. Indigenous peoples have always been confronted with environmental variability, unpredictability and change. Their knowledge is thus a dynamic system that is collectively and continuously re-visited, re-shaped and shared across a web of social actors. It maintains its adaptive capacity and vitality.

In this sense, indigenous knowledge bears a resemblance to science. Science defines itself by the scientific method and not as a fixed body of data, as this would inevitably become outdated. While acknowledging the wisdom of their elders, indigenous knowledge holders emphasise the central role of their own learnings and experiences. In this manner, successive generations adapt and transform their understandings in the face of environmental variability and change.



THAILAND'S MOKEN knew how to read the signs of the impending tsunami in 2004.



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ACROSS THE ARCTIC storytelling helps Inuit to maintain ties to the land while adapting to climate change.



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CANADIAN FIRST NATIONS observe impacts of industry, such as wolves hunting moose along pipeline routes.



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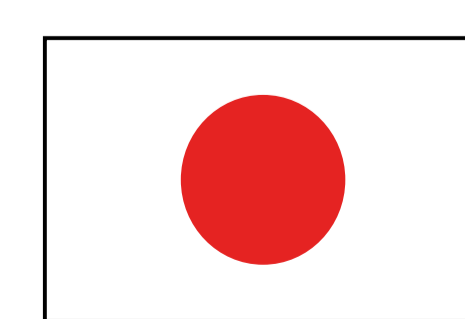
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