

Building indigenous knowledge into climate change assessments: a roundtable discussion

15:00 – 18:00, 24 September 2014

Venue: UNDP, 304 45th street, 15th floor, room 1507A

Registered participants are asked to wait on the corner of 45th Street and 2nd Avenue at 2:40pm and a UNESCO staff will escort them to the meeting room.

Evening reception will be served at Davio's on East 45th and Lexington Avenue

Indigenous knowledge and its contributions to the climate change knowledge base are attracting increasing attention world-wide. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, in its Fifth Assessment Report, concluded that these knowledge systems, 'including indigenous peoples' holistic views of community and environment, are a major resource for adapting to climate change'. Local observations and knowledge of weather and climate variability also provide important insights into climate change impacts. However, they 'have not been used consistently in existing adaptation efforts'.¹

The roundtable will bring together experts working on climate change and indigenous knowledge to discuss update on the status of indigenous knowledge as it is reflected within major climate change assessments and research initiatives, provide updates on major indigenous initiatives on climate change, and provide recommendations on

- ◆ How assessments on climate change can take into account indigenous knowledge
- ◆ How adaptation initiatives on the ground can appropriately incorporate indigenous knowledge

¹ IPCC Working Group II Contribution to AR5. Approved Summary for Policymakers

Moderators

- ◆ **Minnie Degawan**, Kankanaey Igorot (Philippines) and Senior Advisor for Social Safeguards, WWF Forest and Climate Initiative
- ◆ **Douglas Nakashima**, Chief, Local and Indigenous Knowledge Systems programme, UNESCO

Presentations and case studies

- ◆ **Patricia Cochran**, Inupiat and Executive Director of the Alaska Native Science Commission
- ◆ **James Ford**, Associate Professor, Department of Geography, McGill University
- ◆ **Margaret Hiza Redsteer**, Research Geologist, US Geological Survey and lead scientist on USGS Navajo Land Use Planning Project
- ◆ **Sui Khar**, Chair, Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact
- ◆ **Sam Johnston**, United Nations University-Traditional Knowledge Initiative
- ◆ **Ben Orlove**, Professor, School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University
- ◆ **Carla Roncoli**, Associate Director, Master's in Development Practice, Emory University
- ◆ **Youba Sokona**, Special Advisor on Sustainable Development South Centre and Co-Chair of IPCC Working Group III on Mitigation

Participation

We welcome participation and you do not need to be accredited to the WCIP meeting. However pre-registration is required due limited space and building security protocols. If you would like to attend, please send your request (along with your name and affiliation) to Donara Sydeeva-Blanc (d.sydeeva-blanc@unesco.org), Jen Rubis (j.rubis@unesco.org) and Ana Persic (a.persic@unesco.org). Deadline for registration is **19 September 2014**.

For more information on speakers, agenda and logistics, please go to www.climatefrontlines.org