



Global and Interdisciplinary Approaches to Indigenous and Local Knowledge in Conservation Ecology

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Deadline for manuscript
submissions:

closed (15 June 2023)

Message from the Guest Editor

There is a large variety of existing indigenous and nonindigenous local communities with considerable knowledge of their local ecologies. Each of these has their own sociocultural context, ontology, epistemology, history and political situation. Ecologists and conservationists have heard more accounts from some such communities than from others about the ways that they understand encounters with ecological science or conservation, and the ways that they would like to encounter them. Inversely, there is relatively little reflection from the perspective of scientific epistemologies and ontologies about how science can best encounter ILK. This lack of methodological standardization poses problems of disciplinary fit, communication, and assessment, but equally allows the freedom to generate creative and innovative methods and outcomes.

We particularly welcome contributions from Asia, Africa, and South America, from indigenous scientists and conservationists, and anthropological, STS, and epistemological perspectives, with the goal of facilitating interdisciplinary dialogues about the diversity of contexts and practices for ILK–ecological science engagements.





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