

8th International Conference on **Environmental Chemistry and Engineering**
&
7th Edition of International Conference on
Green Energy, Green Engineering and Technology

September 20-22, 2018 Berlin, Germany

The importance of traditional ecological knowledge and indigenous knowledge for sustainability and green practices

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Statement of the Problem: Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK), Indigenous Knowledge (IK) is vital aspect often sorely overlooked worldwide. IKs have vast depth informational systems that provide aspects which often transcend western science methodology. Sustainability for Indigenous groups is vital, and means survival not only for the short term, but additionally continued presence in the area for the long term. These Indigenous groups are often the first to notice changes and make alterations to the mannerisms and applications for lifestyles and practices. Indigenous groups have been increasingly tapped for their knowledge about environmental adaptation measures, because of their excellence in sustainability and green practices. These efforts have been the same green practices behaviors which have been assisting and facilitating maintenance and reciprocal relationships with the earth and natural resources so that continuation can continue in the least restrictive and damaging aspects for the Peoples, as well as the earth.

Methodology & Theoretical Orientation: Using social science methodologies that have included participant in-depth interviews led to new, unique findings.

Findings: Indigenous systems contain a wealth and depth of information, particularly cueing in on climate change effects and adaptation measures faster than non-Indigenous communities because of the exceptionally close connection to the land. Identifications of issues, as well as responses have been shown to be more reliable than the applied western scientific methods.

Conclusion & Significance: Holistic systems that are commonly traditional contain information that can benefit and assist communities worldwide, as well as those who rely on commonly utilized western-scientific methodologies. Recommendations are made for incorporating further IK and TEK methodologies for a better utilization addressing issues for improved and ongoing greening efforts.

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