



SATOYAMA
INITIATIVE

Working Group 2: Creating Synergy between Traditional Knowledge and Modern Science

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Nature and Livelihoods



Why is TK important from the viewpoint of achieving/sustaining resilience in SEPLS?

- Can provide time-tested information that can be used directly to support attainment of socio-ecological resilience
- Can be meaningful for informing further scientific investigation and that can be tested since it is based on insights from long-term observation

Some types of traditional knowledge relevant for resilience in SEPLS

- Traditional uses of biodiversity
- Practices related to sound management of natural resources

Key actions needed to promote attainment of synergy bet. TK and MS

- Recording/documenting traditional knowledge
- Proving validity of traditional knowledge through systematic observation/testing
- Developing new innovations by improving understanding of use of traditional knowledge
- Facilitating replication of uses and practices that have demonstrated good outcomes
- Using modern technology (GPS, Internet) by local communities and indigenous people to communicate their practices to the rest of society and to develop their own self-development plans

Key points suggested by WG participants

- Collection of TK should be as participatory as possible and local peoples must be involved from very beginning
- When possible, local and indigenous people should be empowered to conduct collection of TK themselves
- Policy needs to reflect understanding of importance of local and indigenous people's knowledge, that they own it, and they should be able to chose what pieces of knowledge to share in public sphere
- Integrate high-tech and low-tech solutions to collecting TK (e.g. cameras, GIS/GPS, etc.)
- Local peoples should be aware from beginning of how knowledge will be used and be informed of outcomes of collection of TK

Examples of how TK and MS have been complementary

- **Guatemala:** Mayan elders recording traditional knowledge using video cameras, which has then been shared online in multiple languages
- **Japan:** restoration of rice paddies following earthquake and tsunami in early 2011 – local people are using traditional manpower rather than heavy machinery to remove rubble in order to maintain soil fertility. Desalinization techniques used in Spain have been adopted to remove excess salt from seawater
- **Ghana:** Researchers tried to grow plant using certain methods, but ignored traditional knowledge about using fire prior to planting
- **Thailand:** Local communities are seeking support to build capacity for doing GIS surveying of own communities

Preliminary appraisal of Aichi targets related to the topic of working group 2

- Synergy between TK and MS is a very cross-cutting issue that can potentially contribute to almost all of the Aichi Targets
- Target #18 (most specifically)
- Target #s 1, 2, 3, 6, 7, 11, 12, 13, 14, & 19

Final Note

- We didn't have a chance to cover all aspects of technical, financial advocacy support, etc.
- Looking forward to active discussion within the plenary.