



Benefits of knowledge diversity in assessments from community to global level

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- ABN partners work at grass roots level in 12 African countries, always informed and led by local knowledge and solutions.
- Ecosystems and Community Resilience
- Pioneer culturally-centred approaches to social and ecological problems in Africa
- Biodiversity related rights, policy and legislation



Overview

- **Presentation of key outcomes from the dialogue between knowledge systems in Guna Yala, Panama April 2012**
- **Ecomapping and ecocalendars as approaches for indigenous community assessments**
- **The case of Venda Community Ecomapping and ecocalendar**



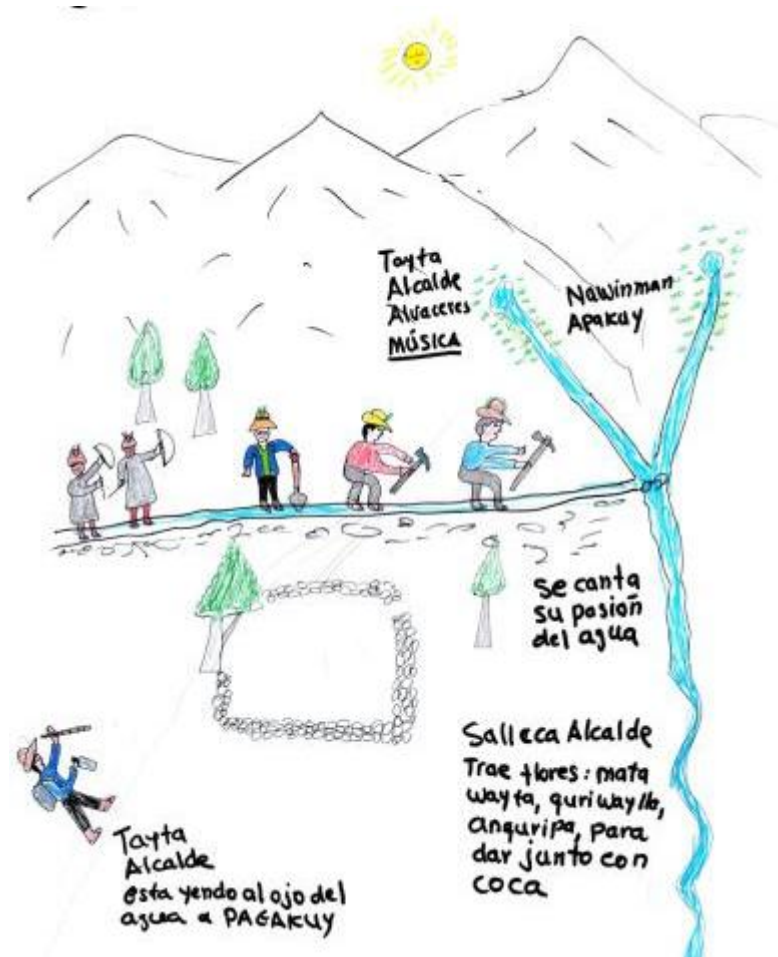
Key factors for successful exchange

- Long term committment
- Respect customary practices
- Communicate on equal terms
- Modesty in relation to ones own knowwledge system
- Ethical code of conducts
- Free Prior Informed Conцент



Key factors for succesful exchange (cont)

- Include the elders and the youth of the community
- Recognize women's knowledge



Key factors for successful exchange (cont)

- Learning and knowledge also relate to spiritual belief systems, including locally based understanding of the relationships between nature, humans and deities



Key conclusions

- *Indigenous, traditional, local and scientific knowledge systems are different manifestations of valid and useful knowledge systems which can contribute to the sustainable management of ecosystems*
- *Significant potential for community-based knowledge to complement and advance current scientific understandings, while contributing to sustaining cultural integrity and fulfilling local needs.*
- *There is a window of opportunity to release that potential now in e.g IPBES.*



Example of community assessment strategies: The Venda Community case

Ecological mapping



Ecological calendars



Ecomapping – community led assessment built on local and indigenous knowledge

Ecosystem assessment (MA)

Ecomapping

Historical changes and impacts

Map of the past

Conditions and trends

Map of the present

Scenarios

Maps of the future

Responses → Initiating actions

Initiating actions







Thank you!

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