

Priority 5 Summary

Highlights:

A History of Exploitation:

-Displacement, attempts to force assimilation, and countless other colonial offenses have had great implications on indigenous wellbeing (Muller, 2018)

-Exploitation and overharvesting through capitalist markets has increased the degradation of vital resources and species (Muller, 2018)

-e.g., salmon, seaweed, salal berries (Muller, 2018)

-Lack of trust due to historical wrongs & history of misuse of knowledge by colonizers (Muller, 2018)

-No federal protection/recognition of indigenous ownership of TEK and governance of traditional resources by Canadian government (Muller, 2018)

-Converting TEK to written form goes against the traditions of orally sharing through generations (Muller, 2018)

Current Collaborations and Governance Structure:

-The inclusion of TEK in policy can aid in indigenous sovereignty and conservation of historical resources (Muller, 2018)

-This Knowledge in the wrong hands or without the proper safeguards could lead to loss of access or illegalization of harvest of traditional resources (Muller, 2018)

-The Portage Bay Partnership- partnership between the Lhaq'temish People of the Lummi Nation and local farmers to reconcile for pollution of traditional shellfish beds (Norman, 2019)

-The Friends of Nemaiah Valley (FONV) – collaboration between the Xenigwet' First Nation and a non-profit society (Von der Porten and de Loë, 2013)

-Indigenous rights are constitutionally protected in Canada but not defined, leaving room for interpretation (Hanson, 2008)

-Decision-making is still regulated by the Crown, undermining indigenous sovereignty (Hanson, 2008)

-The Coast Salish Aboriginal Council (est. 2005) includes over 70 tribes and bands who have coordinated efforts to better assert authority in transboundary collaborations (Norman, 2012)

-collaborations with the United States Geological Survey (USGS), Environment Canada, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA; Norman, 2012)

Respectful Incorporation of TEK:

-TEK is utilized within a western framework to solve western-identified problems (Casimirri, 2003)

-Contrasting worldviews – commodification versus stewardship (Norman, 2019)

-The terms “stakeholders,” “minorities,” and “interest groups” fails to recognize sovereignty of indigenous Nations and their historical relationship with the land (Von der Porten and de Loë, 2013)

-TEK knowledge holders and indigenous Nations should be involved throughout the entire process of decision-making, not only as an afterthought or to meet stipulations (Von der Porten and de Loë, 2013)

-Appropriate venues/meeting places are vital for meaningful collaboration (Von der Porten and de Loë, 2013)

-Individual Nations should each be addressed to acknowledge differing values and goals (Von der Porten and de Loë, 2013)

Encompassing Themes:

-Colonial frameworks create challenges in meaningful inclusion of TEK in ecosystem recovery efforts

-Historical wrongs contribute to a lack of trust

-In many situations TEK is not protected or recognized as indigenous property, and thus is at risk of misuse and exploitation

Implications for Policy/Management:

-TEK must be safeguarded from exploitation, misuse and criminalization prior to collaboration (Muller, 2018)

-Indigenous Nations need to be recognized as sovereign Nations, not stakeholders, with jurisdiction and rights to their own forms of management (Von der Porten and de Loë, 2013)

-Acknowledgement of traditional territories (Von der Porten and de Loë, 2013)

- TEK holders, versus solely TEK, should be represented in collaborative efforts (Casimirri, 2003)
- TEK should be represented in, not merged with, western management (Casimirri, 2003)
- Indigenous Nations should be recognized as collaborators and partners in management efforts

Suggested Future Research:

- How do colonial frameworks and governance systems influence collaborative efforts? (Norman, 2012)
- How can indigenous sovereignty and historical stewardship be recognized in local collaborative efforts?
- Would educating decision-makers and stakeholders of the histories of local Nations and tribes aid in collaborative efforts?
- How can TEK be represented in policy while being protected from exploitation and misuse?