

The Importance of Language

How TKs and Climate Sciences (CSs) are defined conveys assumptions about how indigenous peoples and indigenous individuals are respected as partners of governmental and non-governmental organizations that are engaging in research.

Supplemental Definitions

TKs are important for climate science because they offer observations and interpretations at a much finer spatial scale and with better temporal depth.

One Sided Definitions

TKs can benefit CSs in a number of ways, from providing knowledge of local conditions that climate scientists may not have, at a finer spatial scale, and deep history. TKs can also support the development of research hypotheses, and adaptation and monitoring strategies.

Global Commons Definitions

Combining IKs and CSs can make it possible for the global community to better understand the nature of ecological change.

Comparative Definitions 1: Culture

The ultimate value and purpose of TKs are embedded within the culture that developed TKs. Accuracy depends on the uses to which TKs are put, and not primarily external third party evaluation or academic peer review.

Comparative Definitions 2: Scale

CSs involve regional or broader scale research and research instruments (such as aerial photography and weather stations); TKs are local in scale.

Comparative Definitions 3:

Governance

TKs or IKs is a generic term that broadly refers to indigenous communities' ways of knowing that both guide and result from their community members' close relationships with and responsibilities towards the landscapes, waterscapes, plants, and animals that are vital to the flourishing of indigenous cultures. These ways of knowing and living have been accrued over thousands of years of experience, relationships, and upheld responsibilities towards other living beings and places. English language phrases like "traditional ecological knowledge" are coined in non-indigenous academic and policy circles, and often do not fully reflect the ways in which indigenous communities refer to, or think of, their knowledge and lifeways.

Comparative Definitions 3:

Governance

From Wikipedia (5-28-2014):

Atmospheric sciences is an [umbrella term](#) for the study of the [atmosphere](#), its processes, the effects other systems have on the atmosphere, and the effects of the atmosphere on these other systems.

Comparative Definitions 3:

Governance

CSs is a generic term for a way of studying atmospheric and landscape scale processes that represents certain dimensions or faces of dynamic knowledge systems and lifeways that are as diverse as the many nations and communities who use it. In the U.S., climate science refers to one way of knowing that both guide and result from the U.S. citizen's' conceptions of their relationships with and responsibilities towards the landscapes, waterscapes, plants, and animals that are vital to their cultural flourishing. These ways of knowing and living have been accrued or disrupted over thousands of years of experience, relationships, and upheld responsibilities towards other living beings and places. English language phrases like climate science are coined in academic and policy circles, and often do not fully reflect the ways in which non-scientists refer to, or think of, their knowledge and lifeways.

Defining the Terms of Agreement

“Climate adaptation projects often extoll benefits without addressing the potential risks of knowledge sharing” (Williams and Hardison 2013).

Things to consider

1. Supplemental definitions
2. One sided definitions
3. Global commons definitions
4. Comparative defining: culture, scale & governance
5. Defining terms of agreement
6. Early involvement