



Community-led Research & Climate Resilience: Emerging Lessons from DECODE

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Purpose of the DECODE Project

Co- construction, Decolonisation and Transformation

- Systematize and amplify lessons from community- and Indigenous-led research to drive meaningful climate resilience strategies.
- Advocate for dedicated research funding that supports community- and Indigenous-driven knowledge projects to address context-specific climate challenges.
- Strengthen and expand networks of community research partnerships through CBPR, positioning them as catalysts for climate resilience and transformative action.



Image source: <https://www.decodeknowledge.org/case-studies>



The Case Studies:

1. Polar bears/ Nanuk, Arctic
2. Guardians of the Forest, Colombia
3. Mangroves, Malaysia
4. Women's Cooperative, India
5. Indigenous Medicine, Uganda
6. Indigenous Water Management, Canada
7. Waste Pickers, Tunisia
8. Indigenous Agricultural Management, Bolivia
9. Indigenous Fishing Methods, Ivory Coast
10. Waste Pickers, Brazil

Guardians of the Forest

Putumayo, Columbia

Guardians of the Forest

Overview

The Putumayo region, Colombia

Guardians of the Forest

DECODE Knowledge Project field...

Reconstructing histories throu...

Challenges: Illiteracy, valida...

The Putumayo region, Colombia

The Guardians of the Forest project takes place in Villagarzón, located in the Andean-Amazonian foothills of Colombia in the Putumayo region. This region is characterized by the confluence of the Andes Mountains and the Amazon Basin, stretching from southwestern Colombia to southern Peru and Bolivia. The Putumayo and Caquetá rivers, tributaries of the Amazon River, originate in this area of Colombia.¹



Nanuk Narratives

Inuit Nunangat, Arctic

Nanuk Narratives



Nanuk Narratives

Exploring relationships between
Inuit and Davis Strait polar bears.

Torngat Secretariat & DECODE Project teams

February 12, 2025

[Overview](#)

[Nanuk: A Cultural Keystone Spe...](#)

[Davis Strait Nanuk](#)

[How are the Davis Strait polar...](#)

[Co-Management of Nanuk](#)

[The Torngat Secretariat](#)

[The Nanuk Kn](#)



*This work would not be possible without the knowledge and stewardship of Inuit knowledge
keepers. We recognize their ownership of this knowledge and are grateful for their*

Food From Forest

Kaleshwar, India

जंगल से खाद्य पदार्थ



[संक्षिप्त विवरण](#)

[भारत का चमोली जिला](#)

[पारंपरिक सामुदायिक ज्ञान को ...](#)

[पर्यावरण संरक्षण का इतिहास](#)

[ग्रामीण भारत में महिलाओं की ...](#)

[HARC क्षेत्र में महिला सहकार...](#)

[स्थानीय समुदाय के ज्ञान के उ...](#)



समुदाय द्वारा संचालित सहकारी समिति HARC—अलकनंदा कृषि व्यवसाय बहुदेशीय स्वायत्त सहकारिता (HAKVBSS) महिलाओं के उद्यम का एक उत्कृष्ट उदाहरण है, जिसने भारत के हिमालयी क्षेत्र में स्थित उत्तराखंड के पहाड़ी इलाकों में महिलाओं के लिए सतत आजीविका स्थापित करने में महत्वपूर्ण प्रगति की है।

यह सहकारी समिति तब बनी जब [हिमालयन एक्शन रिसर्च सेंटर \(HARC\)](#) ने समुदाय से संपर्क किया और उन्हें इस बात के लिए प्रेरित किया कि वे उन जंगली उत्पादों को, जिन्हें पहले केवल घरेलू उपयोग के लिए इस्तेमाल किया जाता था, मूल्यवर्धित उत्पादों में बदलें।

यह सहकारी समिति जंगल से प्राप्त जंगली खाद्य पदार्थों को उच्च-मूल्य वाले उत्पादों में बदलने का कार्य करती है, जिसमें पारंपरिक ज्ञान को आधुनिक कृषि और व्यापारिक तकनीकों के साथ जोड़ा जाता है।



Emerging Insights

1. Community/indigenous knowledge is not the enemy of academic knowledge.
2. Community and Indigenous knowledge is more than know-how- it is culture and identity, and is rooted in their rooted in spiritual worldviews
3. Bridging knowledge cultures is facilitated through intermediaries of diverse forms, specific to each context
4. Open and Transparent conversations on ethical issues, data governance and benefit sharing, from early on in the project, are absolutely essential.
5. Community and Indigenous knowledge is vital for fostering solutions that reduce environmental impacts and strengthen climate resilience.



Image source: <https://www.decodeknowledge.org/case-studies>



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6. Recognizing distinctive community knowledge cultures fosters trust and enables authentic research partnerships. Building mutually beneficial partnerships can strengthen both traditional knowledge and modern science.
7. Recognition of women's leadership and knowledge are central to such community-led initiatives.
8. Multiple forms of knowledge dissemination, academic and popular, are imperative to reach diverse stakeholders and truly communicate the ethos of the knowledge produced
9. CBPR methodology, particularly arts-based and culturally grounded methods, ensures the inclusion of community knowledge throughout the research process by creating safe spaces for authentic collaboration.



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Illustrative examples of Climate Resilience from DECODE

- Mitigation of Negative Climate Impacts
- Restoration of Biodiversity
- Revival of food sovereignty
- Strengthening of Community Well-Being and Fostering Better Health Outcomes



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To learn more about the work of the UNESCO Chair in Community-Based Research and Social Responsibility in Higher Education



<https://www.unescochair-cbrsr.org/> ;
<https://www.decodeknowledge.org/>



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Thank You



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