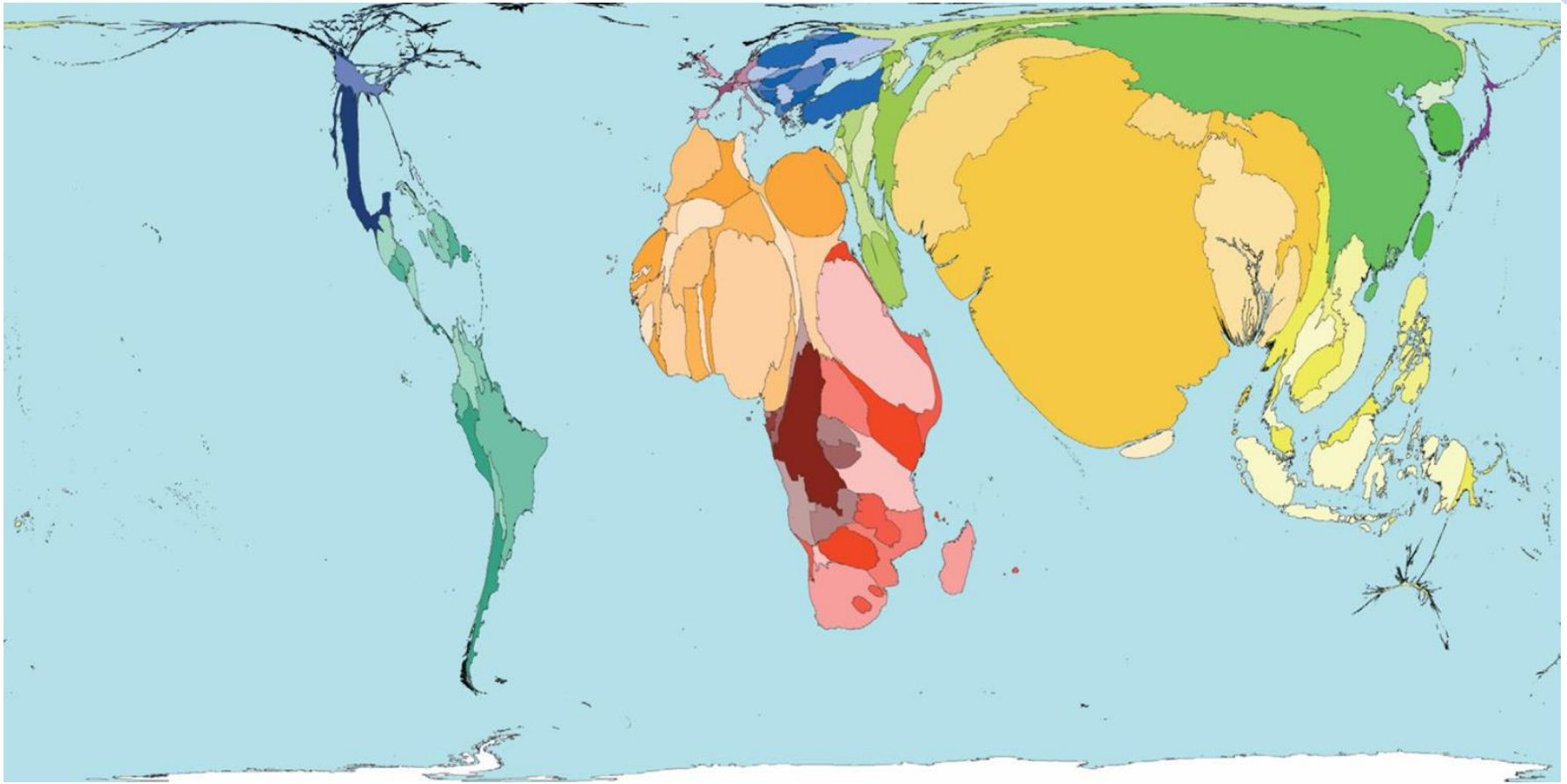
A researcher's inside experiences from global fora: IPBES assessments and CBD negotiations and technical expert groups

Zsolt Molnár (botanist, ethno-ecologist)
Centre for Ecological Research

Capacity Building Workshop for Hungarian, Romanian and Polish experts and negotiators / 15-16 January 2024 / Budapest, Hungary

Funded by the European Union




Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO
Image Landsat / Copernicus
Image IBCAO
Image U.S. Geological Survey
Képek dátuma: 12/14/2015 44°42'31.90" É 20°40'17.50" K

My participation in global fora

- Indigenous and Local Knowledge Task Force of IPBES (2014-2023)
- Lead author in the Europe and Central-Asia Assessment, head of the ILK liason group
- Coordinating lead author in the Global Assessment (Nature subchapter) (2016-2018)
- IPBES expert at CBD COP14, Egypt
- Independent expert in the AHTEG on indicators of the KMGBF (2023-2024)
- Independent expert in the AHTEG on 8j and related provisions (traditional knowledge)
- Expert member of the Hungarian delegation at various IPBES and CBD meetings

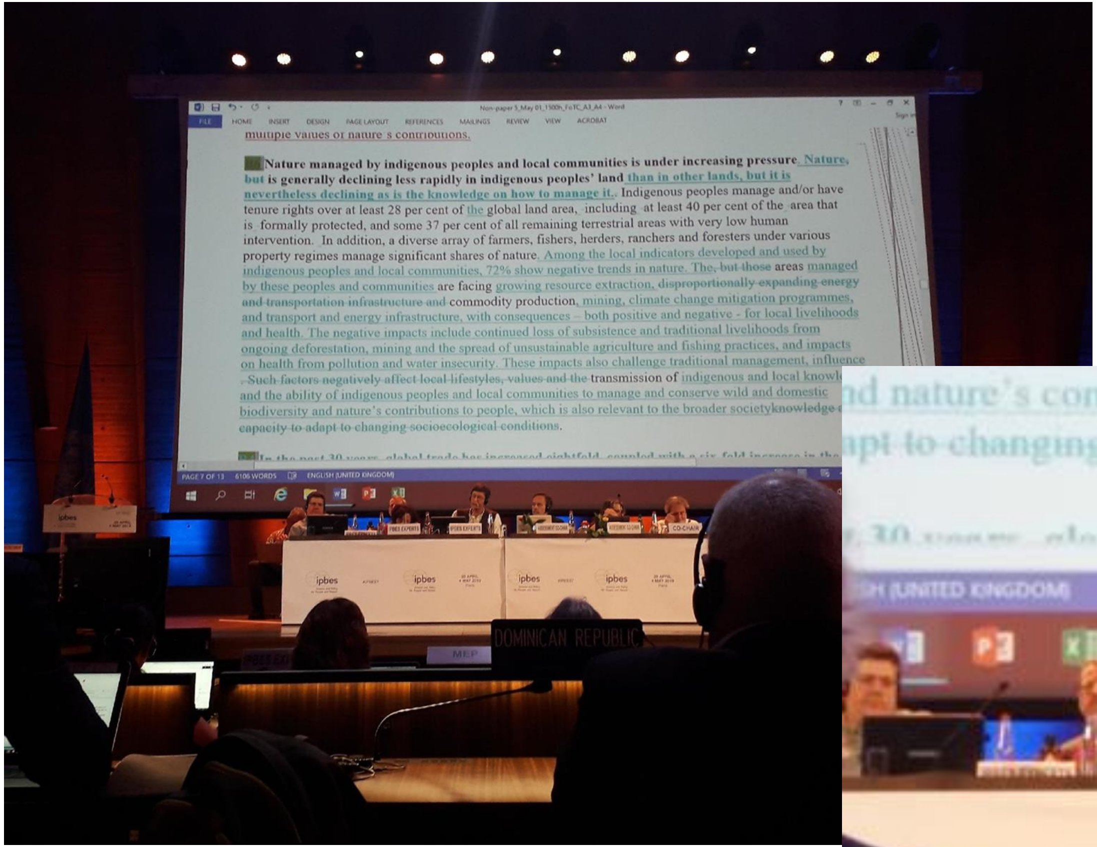
The plenaries

The plenaries

The plenaries

The plenaries

At 1:30am in Paris (Plenary discussion of the SPM of IPBES GA)

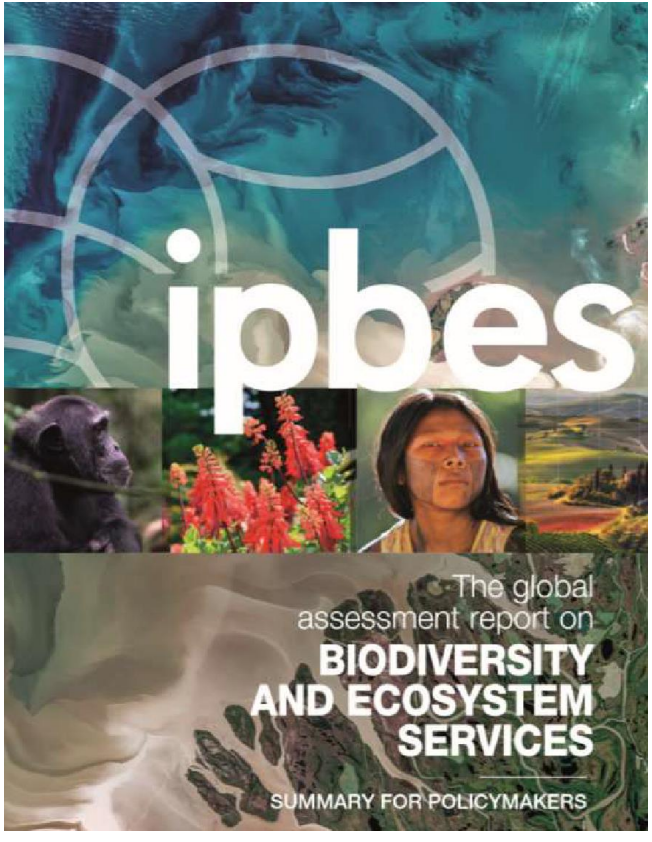


Great friendships, great colleagues

Andy Purvis

David Obura

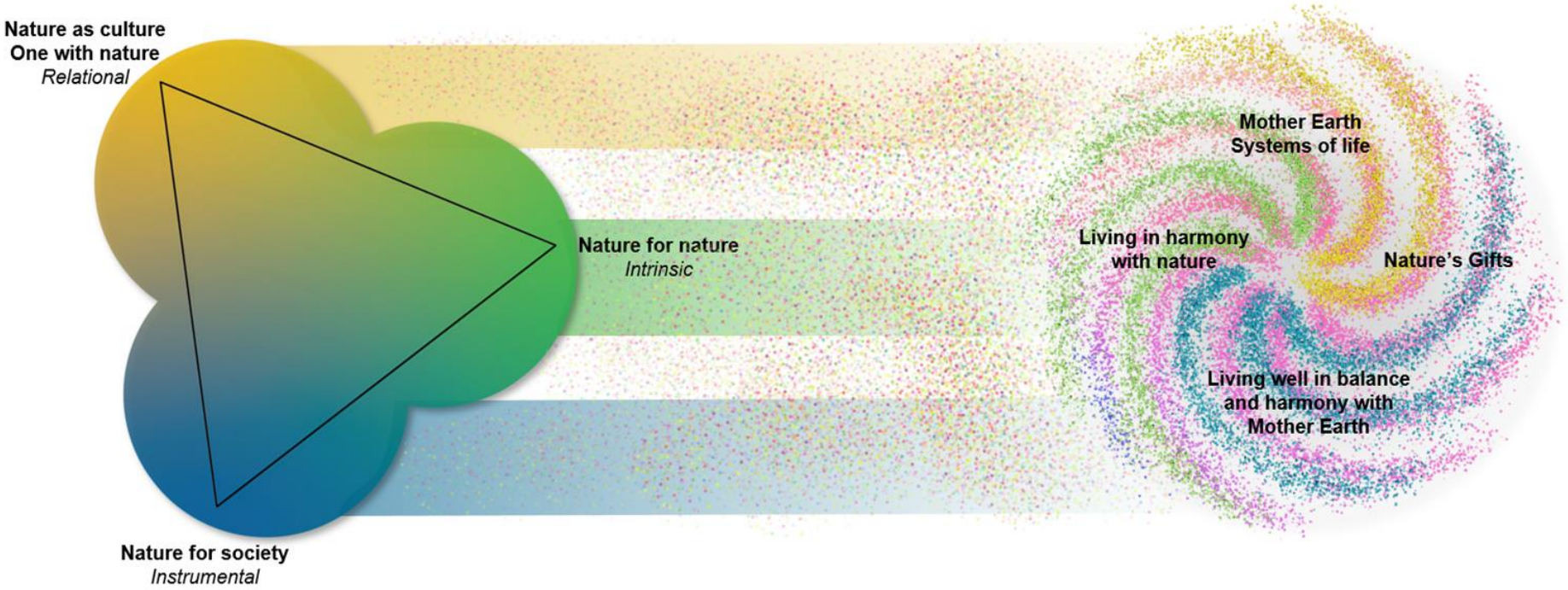

CHAIR


ipbes
The global assessment report on
BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEM SERVICES
SUMMARY FOR POLICYMAKERS

Contact groups

Contact group, working groups

Nature Futures Framework

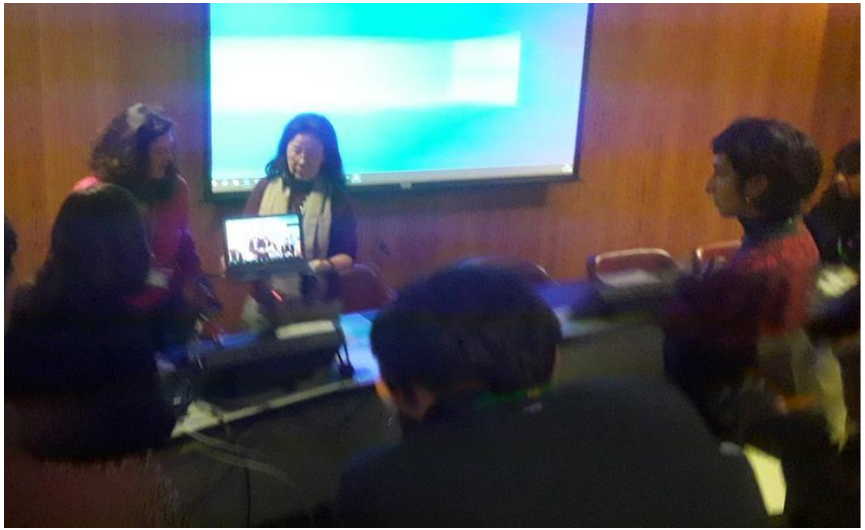


Contact groups

Contact groups

Expert groups (AHTEGs)

Side events




Talking: Parque de la Papa
Parque de la Papa
Mute
Stop Video
Participants
Chat
Share Screen
Summary
AI Companion
Reactions
Apps
Whiteboards
Notes
More
Leave

Side events

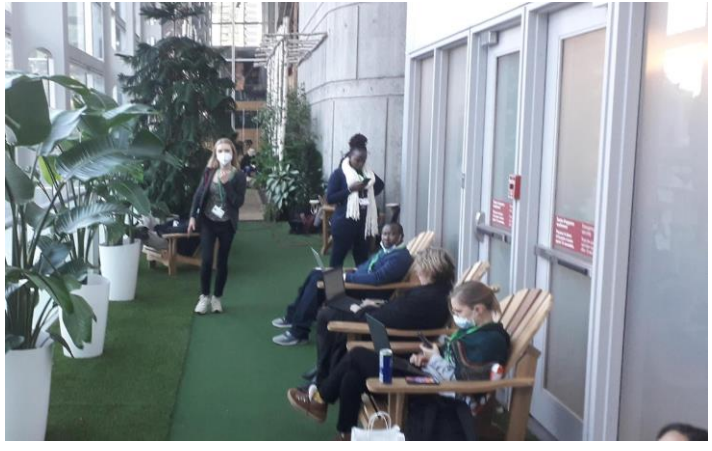

#IPBES6
The sixth Plenary session
of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform
on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES),
Medellín, Colombia, 17-24 March 2018
ipbes

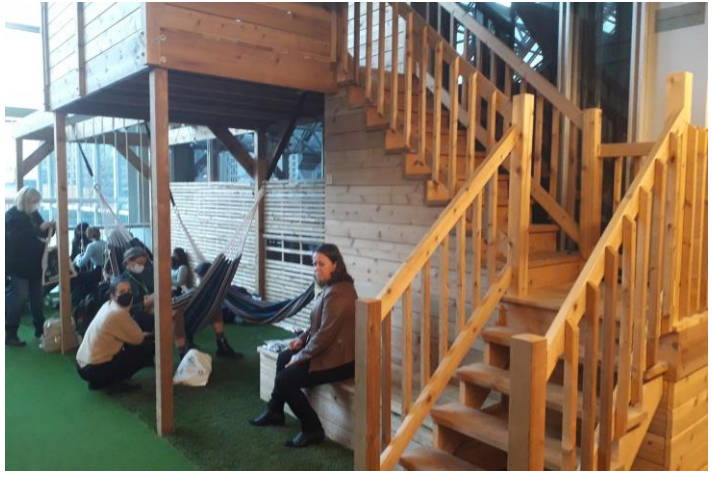

Zsolt Molnar

Dialogue workshop (Europe and Central Asia Assessment, Paris, 11-13. January 2016)

Knowledge co-production

Corridors, coffee breaks, markets





Evenings (if not spent in the contact group)

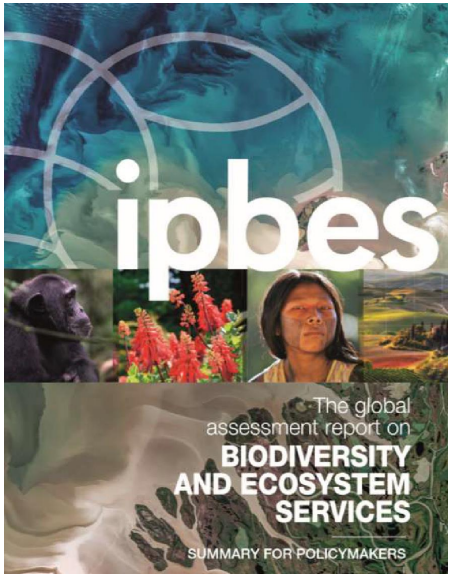
Evenings (if not spent in the contact group)

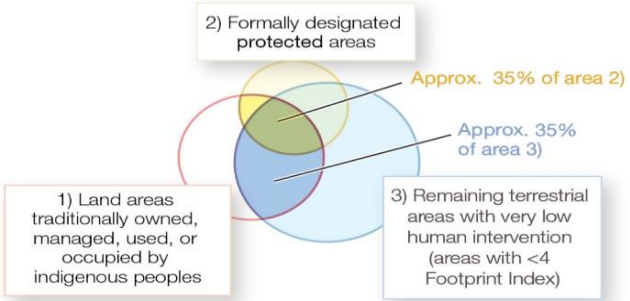
What we, scientists can contribute, what we can learn?

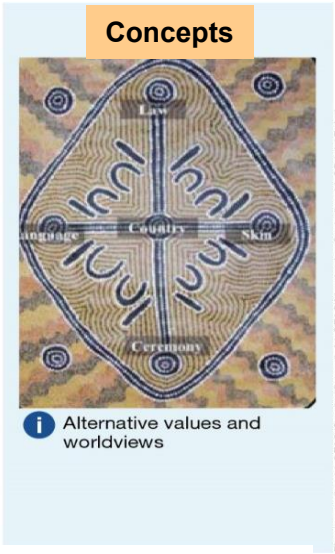
Science – Policy

Policy – Science

Contributions of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities: knowledge, innovations, practices, and institutions







IPBES (2019): Summary for policymakers of the global assessment report on biodiversity and ecosystem services of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services. (Díaz et al. (eds.). IPBES secretariat, Bonn, Germany. 56 pages.

Programme of work on Article 8(j) and other provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity related to indigenous peoples and local communities to 2030

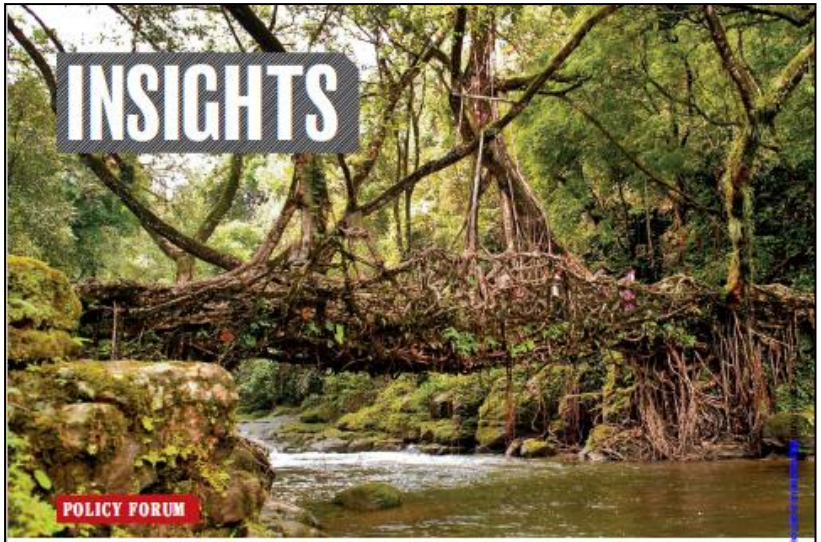
Traditional knowledge is adaptive

So some parts are not yet tested

Knowledge co-production with science can help speed up testing/adaptation

Promote the co-production of knowledge between indigenous peoples and local communities, scientists and other stakeholders towards the **generation of new knowledge** necessary for the **resilient adaptation** and continuation of customary sustainable use practices by indigenous peoples and local communities and the conservation of biodiversity **under rapid environmental change**.

4.7 Promote the co-production of new knowledge by indigenous peoples and loDcal communities, scientists and other stakeholders necessary for the resilience, adaptation and continuation of customary sustainable use and biodiversity conservation practices under rapid environmental change, by indigenous peoples and local communities, particularly the roles and needs of women, girls and youth[, such as climate change, land- and sea-use change, invasive alien species and pollution].



BIODIVERSITY AND ECOSYSTEMS

Assessing nature's contributions to people

Recognizing culture, and diverse sources of knowledge, can improve assessments

By Sandra Díaz, Unai Pascual, Marie Stenseke, Berta Martín-López, Robert T. Watson, Zsolt Molnár, Rosemary Hill, Kai M. A. Chan, Ivar A. Baste, Kate A. Brauman, Stephen Polasky, Andrew Church, Mark Lonsdale, Anne Larigauderie, Paul W. Leadley, Alexander P. E. van Oudenhoven, Felicien van der Plaat, Matthias Schröter, Sandra Lavorel, Yildiz Aumeeruddy-Thomas, Elena Bukvareva, Kirsten Davies, Sebsebe Demissew, Gunay Erpul, Pierre Failler, Carlos A. Guerra, Chad L. Hewitt, Hans Keune, Sarah Lindley, Yoshihisa Shirayama

A major challenge today and into the future is to maintain or enhance beneficial contributions of nature to a good quality of life for all people. This is among the key motivations of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), a joint global effort by governments, academia, and civil society to assess and promote knowledge of Earth's biodiversity and ecosystems and their contribution to human societies in order to inform policy formulation. One of the more recent key elements of the IPBES conceptual framework (*1*) is the notion of nature's contributions to people (NCP), which builds on the ecosystem service concept popularized by the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) (*2*). But as we detail below, NCP as defined and put into practice in IPBES differs from earlier work in several important ways. First, the NCP approach recognizes the central and pervasive role that culture plays in defining all links between people and nature. Second, use of NCP elevates, emphasizes, and operationalizes the role of indigenous and local knowledge in understanding nature's contribution to people.

The broad remit of IPBES requires it to engage a wide range of stakeholders, spanning from natural, social, humanistic, and engineering sciences to indigenous peoples and local communities in whose territories lie much of the world's biodiversity. Being an intergovernmental body, such inclusiveness is essential not only for advancing knowledge but also for the political legitimacy of assessment findings (*3*).

FROM SERVICES TO CONTRIBUTIONS

NCP are all the contributions, both positive and negative, of living nature (diversity of organisms, ecosystems, and their associated ecological and evolutionary processes) to people's quality of life (*4*). Beneficial contributions include, for example, food provision, water purification, and artistic inspiration, whereas detrimental contributions include disease transmission and predation that damage people or their assets. Many NCP may be perceived as benefits or detriments depending on the cultural, socioeconomic,

Published by AAAS

nature sustainability

ANALYSIS

https://doi.org/10.1038/s41893-018-0100-6

A spatial overview of the global importance of Indigenous lands for conservation

Stephen T. Garnett[1*], Neil D. Burgess[2,3], John E. Fa[4,5], Álvaro Fernández-Llamazares[6], Zsolt Molnár[7], Cathy J. Robinson[8,9], James E. M. Watson[10,11], Kerstin K. Zander[8], Beau Austin[1], Eduardo S. Brondizio[12], Neil French Collier[1], Tom Duncan[1], Erle Ellis[13], Hayley Geyle[1], Micha V. Jackson[1,14], Harry Jonas[15], Pernilla Malmer[16], Ben McGowan[1], Amphone Sivongxay[1] and Ian Leiper[1]

Understanding the scale, location and nature conservation values of the lands over which Indigenous Peoples exercise traditional rights is central to implementation of several global conservation and climate agreements. However, spatial information on Indigenous lands has never been aggregated globally. Here, using publicly available geospatial resources, we show that Indigenous Peoples manage or have tenure rights over at least ~38 million km² in 87 countries or politically distinct areas on all inhabited continents. This represents over a quarter of the world's land surface, and intersects about 40% of all terrestrial protected areas and ecologically intact landscapes (for example, boreal and tropical primary forests, savannas and marshes). Our results add to growing evidence that recognizing Indigenous Peoples' rights to land, benefit sharing and institutions is essential to meeting local and global conservation goals. The geospatial analysis presented here indicates that collaborative partnerships involving conservation practitioners, Indigenous Peoples and governments would yield significant benefits for conservation of ecologically valuable landscapes, ecosystems and genes for future generations.

There are at least 370 million people who define themselves as Indigenous[1], are descended from populations who inhabited

Increasingly sophisticated spatial tools are being developed to determine national responsibilities towards global environmental

Received: 20 December 2019 | Accepted: 9 June 2020
DOI: 10.1111/1365-2664.13705

Journal of Applied Ecology
BRITISH ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY

INFORMING DECISION-MAKING WITH INDIGENOUS AND LOCAL KNOWLEDGE AND SCIENCE

Review

Working with Indigenous and local knowledge (ILK) in large-scale ecological assessments: Reviewing the experience of the IPBES Global Assessment

Pamela McElwee[1] | Álvaro Fernández-Llamazares[2] | Yildiz Aumeeruddy-Thomas[3] | Dániel Babai[4] | Peter Bates[5] | Kathleen Galvin[6] | Maximilien Guèze[7] | Jianguo Liu[8] | Zsolt Molnár[9] | Hien T. Ngo[10] | Victoria Reyes-García[11,12] | Rinku Roy Chowdhury[13] | Aibek Samakov[14] | Uttam Babu Shrestha[15] | Sandra Díaz[16] | Eduardo S. Brondízio[17]

[1]Department of Human Ecology, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ, USA; [2]Helsinki Institute of Sustainability Science (HELSUS), Faculty of Biological and Environmental Sciences, University of Helsinki, Helsinki, Finland; [3]Center for Functional and Evolutionary Ecology, Biocultural Interactions Team, UMR 5175, University of Montpellier, CNRS, UPV, IRD, EPHE, Montpellier, France; [4]Institute of Ethnology, Research Centre for the Humanities, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest, Hungary; [5]IPBES Technical Support Unit for Indigenous and Local Knowledge, Section for Small Islands and Indigenous Knowledge, UNESCO, Paris, France; [6]Department of Anthropology and Geography, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO, USA; [7]United Nations Environment Programme-World Conservation Monitoring Centre, Cambridge, UK; [8]Center for Systems Integration and Sustainability, Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI, USA; [9]Centre for Ecological Research, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Vácrátót, Hungary; [10]Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES), IPBES Secretariat, Bonn, Germany; [11]Institució Catalana de Recerca i Estudis Avançats (ICREA), Barcelona, Spain; [12]Institut de Ciència i Tecnologia Ambientals, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (ICTA-UAB), Barcelona, Spain; [13]Graduate School of Geography, Clark University, Worcester, MA, USA; [14]Aigine Cultural Research Center, Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic; [15]Global Institute for Interdisciplinary Studies, Kathmandu, Nepal; [16]Instituto Multidisciplinario de Biología Vegetal (IMBIV) and Facultad de Ciencias Exactas, Físicas y Naturales, Universidad Nacional de Córdoba, Córdoba, Argentina and [17]Department of Anthropology, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN, USA

Available online at www.sciencedirect.com
ScienceDirect
ELSEVIER
Current Opinion in Environmental Sustainability

Working with Indigenous, local and scientific knowledge in assessments of nature and nature's linkages with people

Rosemary Hill[1], Çiğdem Adem[2], Wilfred V Alangui[3], Zsolt Molnár[4], Yildiz Aumeeruddy-Thomas[5], Peter Bridgewater[6], Maria Tengö[7], Randy Thaman[8], Constant Y Adou Yao[9], Fikret Berkes[10], Joji Carino[11], Manuela Carneiro da Cunha[12], Mariteuw C Diaw[13], Sandra Díaz[14], Viviana E Figueroa[15], Judy Fisher[16], Preston Hardison[17], Kaoru Ichikawa[18], Peris Kariuki[19], Madhav Karki[20], Phil OB Lyver[21], Pernilla Malmer[22], Onel Masardule[23], Alfred A Oteng Yeboah[24], Diego Pacheco[25], Tamar Pataridze[26], Edgar Perez[27], Michèle-Marie Roué[28], Hassan Roba[29], Jennifer Rubis[30], Osamu Saito[31] and Dayuan Xue[32]

Working with indigenous and local knowledge (ILK) is vital for inclusive assessments of nature and nature's linkages with people. Indigenous peoples' concepts about what constitutes sustainability, for example, differ markedly from dominant sustainability discourses. The Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystems Services (IPBES) is promoting dialogue across different knowledge systems globally. In 2017, member states of IPBES adopted an ILK Approach including: procedures for assessments of nature and nature's linkages with people; a participatory mechanism; and institutional arrangements for including indigenous peoples and local communities. We present this Approach and analyse how it supports ILK in IPBES assessments through: respecting rights; supporting care and mutuality; strengthening communities and their knowledge systems; and supporting knowledge exchange. Customary institutions that ensure the integrity of ILK, effective empowering dialogues, and shared governance are among critical capacities that enable inclusion of diverse conceptualizations of sustainability in assessments.

[15]Indigenous Women's Network on Biodiversity
[16]Fisher Research and Institute of Agriculture and Public Policy Institute, University of Western Australia, Perth, Australia
[17]Tulalip Tribes of Washington
[18]Institute of Policy Research, Kumamoto City, Japan
[19]KENRIK Section National Museums of Kenya, Nairobi, Kenya
[20]Centre for Green Economy Development, Nepal
[21]Manaaki Whenua Landcare Research, PO Box 69040, Lincoln 7640, New Zealand
[22]SwedBio at Stockholm Resilience Centre, Stockholm University, Stockholm, Sweden
[23]Foundation for the Promotion of Indigenous Knowledge
[24]University of Ghana, Department Plant & Environmental Biology, Legon, Ghana
[25]Cordillera Foundation, La Paz, Bolivia
[26]Independent expert, Georgia
[27]Fundación para el Desarrollo Rural Junej T'inam, Guatemala
[28]Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, MHNH, Paris, France
[29]The Christensen Fund, 487 Bryant St. 2nd floor, San Francisco, CA 94107, United States
[30]Green Climate Fund, Incheon 22004, Republic of Korea
[31]United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability, Tokyo, Japan
[32]School of Life and Environmental Science, Minzu University of China,

coop4CBD

Trends in
Ecology & Evolution

CellPress

Opinion

Inviting ecologists to delve deeper into traditional ecological knowledge

Zs. Molnár[1,*] and D. Babai[2]

Ecologists and conservationists increasingly a
ecological knowledge (TEK) is vital for a better un
of biodiversity; for example, for a more complex s
of long-term processes, ecosystem resilience, th
agement practices, and the worldviews underpin
a deeper understanding of the ecological dimen
conservation biologists should conduct participa
research on TEK. To conduct TEK research prope
to familiarize themselves more deeply with the met
further develop their links with social scientists,
such as strengthening respect towards other kn
inclusive in research and open to new types of val

Research of traditional ecological knowledge

TEK (see Glossary) is increasingly respected and used in ec
research [1–3] and in assessments of biodiversity and ecosys

Trends in
Ecology & Evolution

CellPress

Series: Local and Indigenous ecological knowledge

Science & Society

Towards richer knowledge partnerships between ecology and ethnoecology

Zsolt Molnár,[1,*]
Yildiz Aumeeruddy-Thomas,[2]
Dániel Babai,[3] Sandra Díaz,[4,5]
Stephen T. Garnett,[6]
Rosemary Hill,[7] Peter Bates,[8]
Eduardo S. Brondízio,[9,10]
Joji Cariño,[11] László Demeter,[1]
Álvaro Fernández-Llamazares,[12,13]
Maximilien Guèze,[14]
Pamela McElwee,[15]
Kinga Öllerer,[1,16] Andy Purvis,[17,18]

with, care for, and manage nature and its contributions to people (NCPs) [1–3]. Ecosystems managed, used, and/or owned by IP&LCs, although under increasing pressure from the expansion of industrial and extractive frontiers, are less degraded and their biodiversity is declining less rapidly than ecosystems under other management systems [4].

Beyond biophysical factors and lower densities of human populations and infrastructure, the main reason for high biodiversity in areas inhabited by IP&LCs is that their culturally based practices contribute to their well-being and sustain nature. These practices, based on long-term, in-depth, and dynamic ethnoecological knowledge, directly

we face today highlights the need for new partnerships to address critical social–ecological needs. In this paper, we advocate for the co-production of knowledge through just and equitable partnerships as a way to generate richer and fairer understanding of how nature functions, and how to steward it in a rapidly changing world.

IP&LCs contributions to biodiversity management and the underpinning ethnoecological knowledge

Existing research highlights the benefits from ecological–ethnoecological knowledge partnerships in three different contexts, as follows.

SPECIALITIES OF OUR REGION (Eastern EU member states)

- Between East and West
- Post-socialist countries
- Not having a world language
- Weak NGOs
- Weak inter-country collaborations
- Weak participation in most global fora
- IP&LCs are poorly recognized
- Biodiversity rich cultural landscapes with still many traditional land-use practices that are well studied

Local IPLC – conservationists/scientists follow-up formal meetings in Hungary/Ukraine in 2016


Kunadacs, March 8, 2016


Hódmezővásárhely, March 10, 2016


Nagybereg, May 19, 2016 (Ukraine)


Hajdúböszörmény, May 9, 2016

Visits of world-leading scientists to traditional knowledge holders (e.g. Sandra Díaz, Rosemary Hill)

IP&LCs in our region: mostly traditional knowledge holders (herders, farmers etc.)

- Strong inner-colonization by the urban population, decision makers etc.
- Poor networking between local traditional communities
- Social injustices inflicted on traditional knowledge holders both by EU, national goverments, even NGOs

Biological Conservation 285 (2023) 110190

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

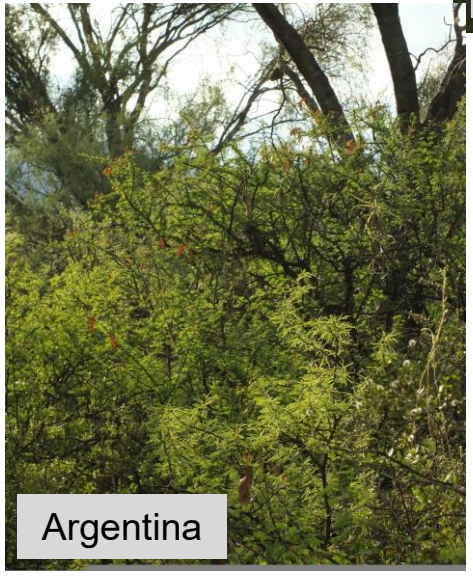
Biological Conservation

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/biocon

Social justice for traditional knowledge holders will help conserve Europe's nature

Zsolt Molnár [a,*], Álvaro Fernández-Llamazares [b,c], Christoph Schunko [d], Irene Teixidor-Toneu [e,f], Ivan Jarić [g,h], Isabel Díaz-Reviriego [i], Cosmin Ivascu [j,k], Dániel Babai [l], László Sáfián [m], Pål Karlsen [n], Huxuan Dai [o], Rosemary Hill [p]

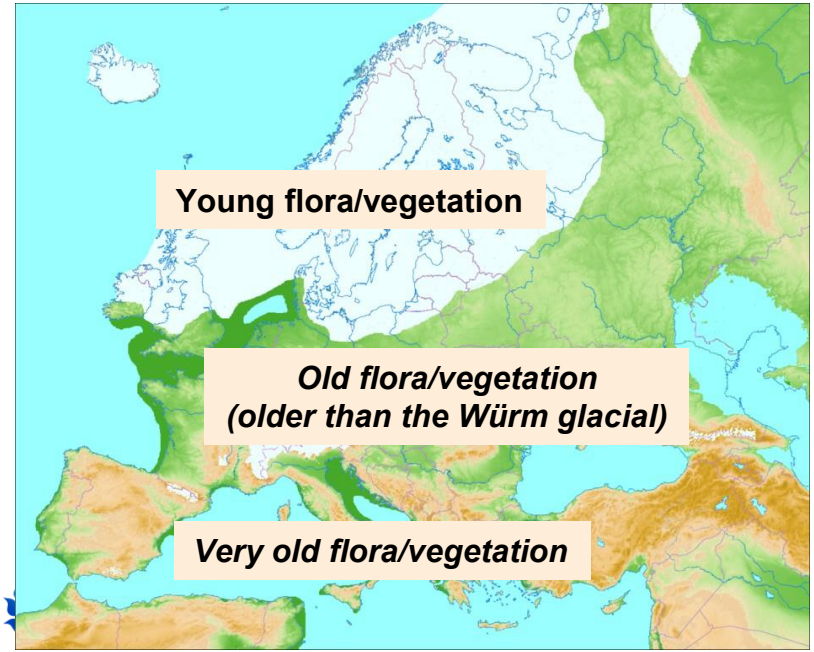
Visiting landscapes with vegetation relevant to understand our region



BIOLOGICAL REVIEWS
Cambridge Philosophical Society
Check for update
Biol. Rev. (2023), **98**, pp. 2307–2319.
doi: 10.1111/brv.13007
2307

Is there a massive glacial–Holocene flora continuity in Central Europe?

Ábel Péter Molnár[1,2], László Demeter[3], Marianna Biró[3], Milan Chytrý[4], Sándor Bartha[3], Batdelger Gantuya[5,6] and Zsolt Molnár[3,*]



My grandchildren’ future?