



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

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PURPOSE & VISION

- Foreground the knowledge systems of communities and Indigenous peoples across the Global South and the Excluded North – knowledge long marginalised and undervalued.
- Guided by a gender-sensitive and decolonial ethos, rooted in an awareness of the colonial histories of knowledge. Building on, and advancing the principles of knowledge democracy.
- Systematise existing practices through collective reflection and peer learning.
- Centring the principles of participatory research and open science to distil lessons on values, ethics, policies, methodologies, and funding models for more just and impactful research.





EMERGING INSIGHTS FROM THE DECODE PROJECT

- Community/Indigenous knowledge is not the opposite of academic knowledge
- Community/Indigenous knowledge is embedded in culture, identity, and spiritual worldviews grounded in sustainability, conservation, and inclusion.
- Tangible needs of the community drive new knowledge production and mobilization.
- Recognition and respect of distinct community/Indigenous knowledge cultures fosters long-term, trust-based partnerships.



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Regenerating Acholi
Traditional Knowledge

- CBPR methods- especially arts-based and culturally grounded approaches, create safe spaces for genuine collaboration.
- Multiple forms of knowledge dissemination- academic and popular- are essential to reach diverse stakeholders.
- Women's leadership and knowledge are central to community-led research.
- Clear agreements on ownership, and knowledge and benefit sharing are critical to establishing and sustaining trust.
- Co-management and co-governance arrangements between communities and academic partners enhance knowledge mobilization and sustained impact.
- Research such as this strengthens climate resilience and local livelihoods.



ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLES OF CLIMATE RESILIENCE

The first two rounds of case studies have yielded illustrative examples of Climate Resilience, as we observe–

- **Mitigating Climate Impacts** by systematising the everyday practices and adaptive strategies of communities and Indigenous peoples, as demonstrated in Malaysia, Brazil, Bolivia, Western Canada, Tunisia, the Arctic, and in India.
- **Restoring Biodiversity** by strengthening community-rooted ways of relating to nature and the environment, as seen in the Arctic and Uganda.
- **Reviving Food Sovereignty** through the expansion of sustainable, land-based practices, illustrated in Bolivia, India, and Côte d'Ivoire.
- **Strengthening Community Well-Being and Improving Health Outcomes** as evidenced in Western Canada and Uganda.



Modernization of Apong Production



FURTHER IMPLICATIONS OF THE DECODE PROJECT

The next stage will deepen and expand DECODE's contributions to global knowledge democracy in several key ways:

- **Systematising knowledge** by broadening its scope to document and analyse experiences from a wider range of communities, geographies, and knowledge traditions.
- **Developing Methodological Guidance** for Ethical Co-Construction of knowledge with communities and Indigenous knowledge holders.
- **Advocacy with Research Funders and Donors** to promote authentic investment in community and Indigenous-led research.
- **Strengthening Global Alliances** for Knowledge Democracy.
- **Advancing Open Science** by the creation of an open access repository dedicated to Participatory Research and Knowledge Democracy.



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



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Thank You



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