

Final Abstract

CEESP members Dennis Martinez Mérida and Alejandro Argumedo will be running a Panel session on the Indigenous world of adaptation to climate disruption with a particular focus on the role of community ecosystem management and eco(bio)cultural restoration as revealed in the international work of the Indigenous Peoples' Biocultural Climate Change Assessment Initiative (IPCCA) at the SER@!! World Conference on Ecological Restoration: <http://www.ser2011.org/en> Living in some of the most vulnerable ecosystems on earth, Indigenous peoples are the most impacted by climate disruption while bearing the least responsibility

Objectives and Tools:

This special session panel will offer restorationists a look into the Indigenous world of adaptation to climate disruption with a particular focus on the role of community ecosystem management and eco(bio)cultural restoration as revealed in the international work of the Indigenous Peoples' Biocultural Climate Change Assessment Initiative (IPCCA). Living in some of the most vulnerable ecosystems on earth, Indigenous peoples are the most impacted by climate disruption while bearing the least responsibility. With few resources and little outside support, they are nevertheless continuing to demonstrate resilience to change through innovation and the adaptability of traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) while collaborating where necessary with Western restoration science. We will discuss how Western science and TEK can be complementary in ecocultural restoration and ecosystem-based adaptation; how the drivers of negative policy and economic impacts on Indigenous wellbeing and adaptive capacity, as well as already degraded ecosystems, are exacerbated by climate disruption; and the role of ecocultural indicators in identifying and measuring—both quantitatively and qualitatively—the impacts of indirect and direct drivers on ecological integrity and adaptive capacity.

Justification:

While Western ecological restoration is gaining ground internationally, Indigenous ecocultural restoration—the relationship of Indigenous cultural viability and biodiversity—is little known. As many ecologists and restorationists are increasingly recognizing, local and Indigenous peoples have intergenerationally-acquired local knowledge that is important in assisting Western scientists in filling the many gaps in knowledge that will be required in the identification of ecological thresholds/tipping points for restoration and ecosystem-based adaptation at multiple spatial and temporal scales.