

Adaptation Learning from Indigenous Communities in the Global North and South

a proposed comparison pilot project between communities in Canada and South Africa

Proposed Pilot Project – Kainai First Nation in Canada and Nama Tribe in South Africa

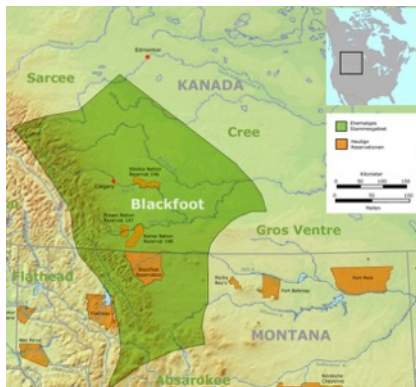
The Rockies Institute (TRI) is currently working with the Kainai First Nation (Blood Tribe) in Canada on climate adaptation and resilience. This work, combined with meetings with colleagues in South Africa, has demonstrated that sharing knowledge about climate resilience building and adaptation between indigenous communities in the global south and north would be of great benefit to indigenous communities elsewhere. TRI is therefore embarking on a pilot study in collaboration with the South African National Parks global climate change research staff to compare and contrast issues related to climate change adaptation between the Blood Tribe in Canada and the Nama Tribe in South Africa.

Recognizing that the two communities adopt significantly different approaches in how they interact with the natural resources, the project will explore:

- How each community views their relationship with the natural world
- Challenges related to current capacity to deal with climate change risks actions being taken now with regard to changes they've seen or fear
- What is working well with these actions?
- What are the barriers to adaptation moving ahead?
- Where is additional support needed – identification of gaps, including knowledge/ education/tools

Points of interest will include the relationship both communities have with:

- National parks;
- Impact of extractive industries (such as oil and mining);
- Land and its uses (livestock and crop production);
- Water and food security; and
- Governance systems potentially impacting their ability to adapt to climate change (international, national, sub-national, and treaty laws).



Indigenous communities around the world are at risk of experiencing direct consequences of climate change given their dependence upon, and close relationship with, the environment and its resources. They are often the first to experience the impacts of climate change on living standards, and among the first to attempt to adapt to and to mitigate climate risks through land use, cultural practices, habitation characteristics and resource management techniques.

A broader understanding of the adaptation techniques being adopted by indigenous communities — including the relationship between traditional knowledge with western science — can be extremely useful for other rural and underserved communities as well as for scientists, land-use planners and governments at the regional, national and global level. Collaborating with a network of indigenous communities, climate change adaptation and resilience experts, and leaders in other indigenous communities, TRI aims to establish a framework for capturing and sharing learning that will contribute to this growing body of globally relevant knowledge.

Interested project partners and supporters for this initiative are invited to contact our j
karen@rockiesinstitute.com for more information

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Increasing our Understanding - Growing our Capabilities

This project will contribute to valuable knowledge about how participatory processes developed in an indigenous community in an Annex 1 country could help inform processes in Annex II indigenous communities with similar challenges regarding adaptation implementation.

It will also provide a mechanism for sharing knowledge between two indigenous communities, which could increase the capabilities of both communities to adapt to climate change.

Proposed activities:

- Engagement of community members in the project (i.e. research technicians)
- Project-Based Vulnerability Assessments and Adaptation Plan as *an on-going process of learning and institutional change*;
- Framing the two communities through on-the-ground surveys, interviews and analysis;
- Gathering of knowledge related to adaptation measures related to:
 - Agriculture
 - Extractive Industries
 - Tourism
 - Access to water

Expected outcomes:

- Skills training for indigenous community members;
- Provide opportunity for peer-to-peer learning between the two communities;
- Development of a guidance document;
- Creation of a process for deep knowledge sharing between communities;
- A framework for indigenous community members to build their own adaptation plans and promote uptake by their elected local leaders and other community stakeholders.

Project Team (*confirmed members to date*)

Dr. Mmoto (Leonard) Masubelele, South African National Parks Landscape Ecologist

Dr. Karl Van Orsdol, adaptation and climate change specialist with over 20 years experience in working with governments and local communities in sustainable development.

Emily Harwit, MBA, international development specialist working both in private sector/ small enterprise development in fragile and post-conflict environments and in MEL (monitoring, evaluation and learning).

Laura Lynes, MA, stakeholder and engagement specialist and founder of TRI (completing an LLM in Climate Change Law & Policy at Strathclyde University, UK).

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