

Indigenous Curricula for Climate Action: Honoring Traditional Knowledge, Culture, and Consent

Ethically weaving Indigenous knowledge into education systems strengthens climate action and nature stewardship while fostering cultural revitalization and intergenerational learning.

What is Indigenous curricula?

Indigenous curricula refers to “*curricula created, composed, and upheld by Indigenous Peoples, whether recently or in ancestral times, that reflects generational place-based knowledge systems, Indigenous languages and other elements of Indigenous worldviews and cultures.*”¹

Guidelines on free, prior and informed consent (FPIC)

Indigenous knowledge is often collectively safeguarded and may be confidential.

The **LCIPP web portal’s Rights Safeguards and Protocols** is one example of guidance for the ethical engagement of diverse knowledge systems.



Climate action through Indigenous curricula

Weaving Indigenous knowledge and local practices into educational curricula fosters effective climate responses.

For example, in Kazakhstan, **Indigenous nomadic herders partner with local universities to share traditional knowledge** and inform national climate strategies and action.²

Weaving Indigenous knowledge into educational systems:

- ❖ Revives and revitalizes Indigenous language and culture
- ❖ Facilitates intergenerational learning and inter-cultural linkages
- ❖ Highlights the critical role of Indigenous women as stewards of traditional knowledge
- ❖ Must adhere to the principle of FPIC.

Key findings

Indigenous curricula and materials in informal and formal educational systems

Informal knowledge systems

Informal knowledge systems refer to the transmission of knowledge through oral tradition and cultural practices.

- ❖ **Bangladesh:** In North Samburu, Indigenous children learn about rotational farming and cultural practices through daily activities and games.³
- ❖ **Peru:** In the Amazon, community cooking programs and traditional seed exchanges foster cultural learning and intergenerational knowledge transmission.⁴



Formal knowledge systems

Institutions are beginning to embed Indigenous perspectives into formal education systems.

- ❖ **Global:** From 2005 to 2017, the Indigenous Intercultural University established a virtual network across 11 countries, offering postgraduate education that integrated Indigenous worldviews.⁵
- ❖ **New Zealand:** Victoria University of Wellington (Te Herenga Waka) offers a Master of Indigenous studies centered on Māori and Pacific Indigenous experiences, rights, and self-determination.⁶

Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP)



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