



# White paper: Application of Indigenous & Local Knowledge (ILK) in IUCN Red List assessments

Indigenous and Local Knowledge (ILK) has been developed over centuries or millennia by indigenous peoples and local communities (IPLCs) and is continuously evolving. It provides a unique and rich source of information on biodiversity and also represents an important aspect of human cultural, and behavioral diversity.

Application of ILK into formal scientific processes increases the likelihood that these processes are comprehensive and informed by the best available information.

Although application of ILK in Red List assessments has been limited to date, at least as specifically accredited, although some information from ILK holders may be included within cited reports and publications. This new document examines the issues and general principles surrounding the application of indigenous and local knowledge (ILK) in the IUCN Red List and outlines some key steps.

The document builds on discussions that have taken place over the last decade between the IUCN CEESP-SSC Sustainable Use and Livelihoods Specialist Group and the IUCN SSC Red List Committee and draws on experience from the IPBES ILK Approach.

There are no barriers in principle to applying ILK in the Red List which treats information from all knowledge systems equally. There are, however, specific requirements for accessing ILK and working with IPLCs.

Lack of time and resources are constant constraints in conducting Red List assessments.



<http://www.iucnredlist.org/resources/ilk>

