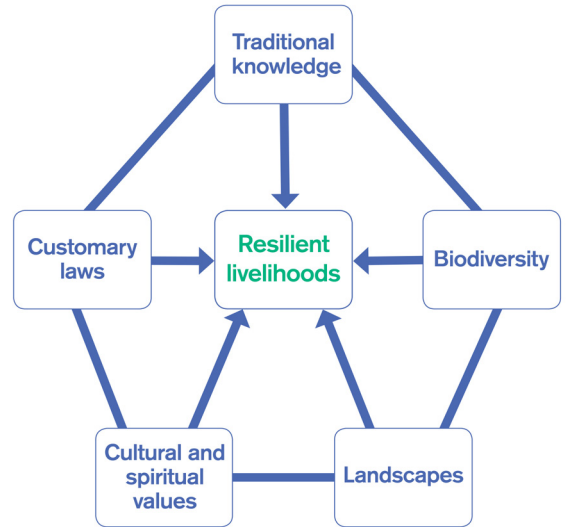


What is biocultural heritage?

Vital for the wellbeing of society

The inter-linked biological and cultural diversity of indigenous peoples and local communities, from seeds to landscapes and from knowledge to spiritual values, handed down from generation to generation.



Biocultural heritage is the knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous peoples and their biological resources, from the genetic varieties of crops they develop, to the landscapes they create. Its components are inextricably linked in the daily practices and worldviews of indigenous peoples, and sustained over generations thanks to their cultural and spiritual values.

Biocultural heritage is vital for the wellbeing of indigenous peoples, local communities and society as a whole. It provides:

- A diversity of resilient crop varieties, livestock breeds and production strategies for **adaptation to climate change**
- Knowledge and value systems that promote **conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity** and ecosystem services
- Sustainable **agricultural** practices and nutritious foods
- Alternative concepts of wellbeing which integrate ecosystems and the economy, promote **inclusive low carbon development**, and strengthen social cohesion
- Unique biocultural **products and services** such as traditional foods, crafts, natural medicines and beautiful landscapes.

The concept was inspired by the worldview of Quechua communities in the Potato Park, Peru. It serves as a guide for the work of the International Network of Mountain Indigenous Peoples (INMIP).

For more information

Visit: www.bioculturalheritage.org & www.inmip.net

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