

Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Formal Scientific Research for Climate Change

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ABSTRACT The paper is based on the spatial heterogeneity defined by indigenous and state government adopted scientific practices in tropical deciduous forests of Eastern Ghats in India, to demonstrate the way global ecological systems are increasingly being threatened. The objective is to develop a holistic research model based on different knowledge systems. Integration of indigenous knowledge systems (IKS) with modern scientific systems (MSS) has a great potential to strengthen socio-ecological resilience through the development of sustainable environmental management strategies. Although there is a broad consensus in scientific community, very few ecological studies have attempted a pragmatic and deep integration of these knowledge sources. Merging of two complex sciences is never an easy task, but if we are to move beyond for a greater understanding of the ecosystem complexities we should advance in the engagement of IKS and MSS on a more inquisitive platform. This paper produces a concept to synergise indigenous knowledge practices and modern ecological methods, for global climate change mitigation through forest management. It attempts to bring out convergent significance of both indigenous and scientific knowledge in improving the quality of ecological systems. Importantly it directs the practical inclusion of IKS as a worthy parameter into formal scientific research on climate change.