

Cultural Values and African Indigenous Knowledge Systems in Climate Change Adaptation

Hassan O. Kaya

*DST-NRF Centre in Indigenous Knowledge Systems, University of KwaZulu-Natal,
Durban, South Africa*

Telephone: +27 (0)312607237, Email: kaya@ukzn.ac.za

KEYWORDS Policy Development. Cross-cultural Communication. African Rainmakers. Spirituality. Cosmology

ABSTRACT A number of examples in this paper are used to demonstrate the efficacy of culture and indigenous knowledge systems (IKS) in climate change adaptation. The analysis is based on examination of secondary sources. The paper advances the argument that climate change impacts on cultural communities differently because they live in diverse natural environments and experience it differently. This necessitates cross-cultural communication in the search of sustainable solutions to the challenges of climate change through shared experiences. Emphasis is put on the need to document and protect IKS for sustainability and policy development. There is also the need to understand the impact of globalization on agricultural practices and the importance of interfacing indigenous and other knowledge systems to meet its challenges.