



Society for
Ecological Restoration
International

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INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE GOES GLOBAL

Global warming. Scientists discovered it in the late 1990s. Indigenous people detected it decades earlier.

Among observations: Some wildlife populations--affected by climate change--dwindled or even disappeared.

Native awareness of such variances comes naturally. Many groups depend on wildlife for survival. Commonly, mammals, fish, and birds are culturally, even spiritually, connected to indigenous lives and societies.

This worldwide indigenous experience and understanding—traditional ecological knowledge (TEK)--has been anywhere and everywhere until now.

The Society for Ecological Restoration International's (SERI) Indigenous Peoples' Restoration Network (IPRN) website is pulling it together (www.ser.org/iprn).

A far-reaching initiative and significant commitment, it incorporates centuries of knowledge about environmental preservation and restoration, with links to groups applying TEK.

The IPRN Resource Center is a comprehensive portal available for TEK resources: books, journals, magazines, organizations, and databases, including connection to training, technical assistance, and funding sources.

It is a valuable internet portal for indigenous peoples' knowledge to address global warming and environmental degradation or destruction as well as other ecological restoration challenges. The website will soon launch web- and pod-casts of TEK restoration projects and practitioners.

SERI's IPRN was founded in 1995 by Dennis Martinez, a TEK expert of O'odham heritage. He explains, "IPRN maintains this website linking indigenous communities and individuals to help them coordinate restoration efforts. It also promotes collaboration between Western science and TEK, between environmental restoration and indigenous cultural survival, and between nature and humans."

IPRN is hosting *The Earth in Transition: How Traditional Ecological Knowledge Addresses Climate Change in Zaragoza, Spain*, part of SERI's World Conference on Ecological Restoration, September 13, 2005. More than 50 indigenous experts will convene to discuss how their tribal knowledge will help western scientists approach climate change.

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