

# **AFRICAN INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS, GREEN ECONOMIES AND CLIMATE CHANGE IMPERATIVES**

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**To our Forebears and Descents**

Discussing and Analyzing IKS, CC, Development  
seeks Epistemic and Paradigm Ruptures

Divides/Fissures/Gaps

Efforts at creating a poly-epistemic world to address  
problems that affect all of humanity

Accelerated Action is now imperative as we accept  
the world of multiple and not singular worldviews  
which have had monopolies on power over the last  
500 years

- Promoting IKS is a form of **rediscovery of ourselves, our intellectual capacities and heritage**
- A process of stopping from running away from our shadows [**a liberation ethos**]
- **Liberation from Afro-Saxonism**
- A process to retrace our sense of unhu/ubuntu our being [**cognitive justice**]
- **In other words dealing with the humiliation we have suffered for centuries**
- **Squaring up to the epistemic violence of last 500 years**
- A process of transformation especially in academe where we need to address **academic capitalism**
- **Need to research and express diversity**

**The IKS, Green Economies and Climate Change Narrative is/must be a Cultural Narrative**

**Has to be the narrative of ordinary people in their environments**

**How divorced are we as analysts and researchers from our and the realities of our society and communities?**

**Documentation still needed to convince the world that our knowledge systems are for real**

**Need to enhance how to grow the practices, to multiply these so they can produce more in a world that expects the products out of them**

**We need to demonstrate what we offer as a continent to the global systems: our own human generated resources (our knowledge) undergirded by the natural resources of our continent**

**We can no longer just come to international panels like this to illustrate how IKS work. Much work is still needed in this regard. Much more action is needed.**

## IKS

- Part of the most valuable national resources and assets of any of our countries.
- What is the real value of our biotic resources and the knowledge around these? If we quantify within the African context, this represents trillions of dollars.
- What is the value of the IKS resources in **the informal economy** of any African society?
- How much IKS is embedded in this sector of the economy?
- How much IKS is embedded in the **formal sector**? Hence how much value lies in this?
- How much IKS is in the **rural areas** of the people?
- How much in our **urban populations**?

In African contexts, we can no longer treat IKS as some appendage.

IKS in effect represent the wholeness of its peoples, all of them, rural or urban, learned or not.

IKS also represent institutions and institutional approaches, knowledge

IKS represent the intricate inter-twinedness of our histories such as exhibited in our socio-linguistics

This is where the paradigm shift is needed and is taking place.

## knowledge of:

- behaviours of living organisms
- wind directions
- position of stars as early warning indicators of changing weather conditions
- selection of appropriate seeds and animal species
- mixed cropping
- water harvesting technologies and
- food preservation techniques such as fermentation and sun drying for food security.

Forests immensely important for:

- the well-being of the Earth
- their vital function in maintaining healthy, functioning ecosystems
- significant role in carbon absorption
- Recycling atmospheric moisture
- Soil stabilization
- Protecting humans from natural hazards
- ensure food security through erosion control
- shelter for innumerable – many as yet unknown – species,
- provide the ingredients for current and future pharmaceuticals
- cultural and spiritual significance for communities
- contribute to individual and collective identities
- operate as sources of livelihood

## **Indigenous Agricultural Systems that provide or are built on:**

- a. Low footprint agriculture, forestry and fisheries providing adequate food bioenergy and maintain natural resources availability;**
- b. Access to food and productive resources by especially rural indigenous people in a green economy context;**
- c. Stable food systems responsive to macroeconomic and ecological variability;**
- d. Low carbon food systems, including sustainable diets, biosecurity and waste management**

# What strategies for Integration?

- **Small** is indeed beautiful. It is in the small that IKS play out. The locales in both rural and urban set ups. From here we bulwark the **big picture**.
- We must invest in models that **cement the symbiosis between rural and urban systems**
- Invest in systems and processes that are based on our **common histories**, common **identities**, common **futures**: our unhu?
- Amount of livelihood security systems **embedded in ordinary people**, ordinary family set ups, both rural and urban
  - E.g. How much food is produced here?
  - What are the technologies used/needed here to scale up drastically production and productivity?
- **Up scaling** use of organic production for our own peoples
- **Green energy** options: how feasible at this level?
- Alternatives to **deleterious and degrading urbanization?**

- How do we **green urban consumption** in Africa itself? What is level of consumption of green foods? We must start here.
- How do we bulk up for external markets? What is the view of the western world on green foods because this represents our markets?
- How do we get **our youths** when they have survived the Mediterranean sea to project **their acquired knowledge systems and the values** inherent in this so that we create the market for the products they fed on in the villages and urban settlements back home?
- **Social dialogue**: how do we rediscover ourselves and get back to talking to our own peoples
- **Intellectual capitalization of our knowledge systems**

## So WHAT CAN WE EXPECT TO ACHIEVE

- a. **Synergies and Linkages** between the global/continental systems (economic, environmental including circulatory systems) and local community levels where action takes place and whose aggregated sum makes for social continuities and ameliorating potential of societal ruptures
- c. Co-learning and co-creation of information
- d. Co-management of knowledge
- e. Communication using **shared languages**: not just English as this is alienating
- e. Strengthening facets of the **fundamentals of African progress.**
- f. More beneficial embeddedness in the global village and not greater alienation such as being created by the **digital divide.**
- g. **Inform and influence our policy making processes, Agenda 2063 included**

# SUMMARY OF IKS AREAS

1. African Philosophies
2. African Historiographies
3. African Indigenous Diplomacy
4. IKS and Accumulated Assets
5. IKS and Development Discourse
6. IKS as Lifelong Learning
7. IKS and Ubuntu/Unhu
8. Inter-disciplinarity of IKS
9. Innovation Systems
10. Organization and Management of Information Systems
11. Environment and climate
12. Wide Range of Technologies:
  - Rituals
  - Hunting
  - Resource Extraction
  - Crop and Animal Production
  - Post-Harvest
  - Health

**13. Managing Environment**

**14. Climate**

**15. Mathematics and Numeracy**

**16. Language and Linguistics**

**17. IPRs**

**18. Futures**

**19. Pluriversities and Research Processes**

**20. Integration Systems that Use Common  
Languages**

# REFERENCES

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