

TRADITIONAL ECOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE



What is Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK)?

Also called Indigenous Knowledge or Native Science, TEK is the knowledge that indigenous people have accumulated and passed down through generations of evidence-based understanding of the relationships between humans and the environment.



Why is TEK important in terms of conservation and climate change?

Many people think environmental science is a new science, so we need new ideas and inventions to protect the land. But conservation has been practiced successfully by indigenous peoples for generations. Historically western science has not accepted TEK as a “real” science, but working with indigenous people is crucial to fixing the climate crisis.



Why is the Land Back Movement important for conservation?

Areas managed by indigenous people have been facing increasing resource extraction. Even some climate mitigation programs have had negative impacts on indigenous communities, all of which have negatively affected their livelihood, traditional practices, health, water-security, etc.

These impacts also challenge traditional land management. The Land Back Movement will allow indigenous peoples to be stewards of the land, as they always have been, meaning they will have the rights to fully manage the land. Indigenous people will be most effective at protecting the land if they are granted full property rights.



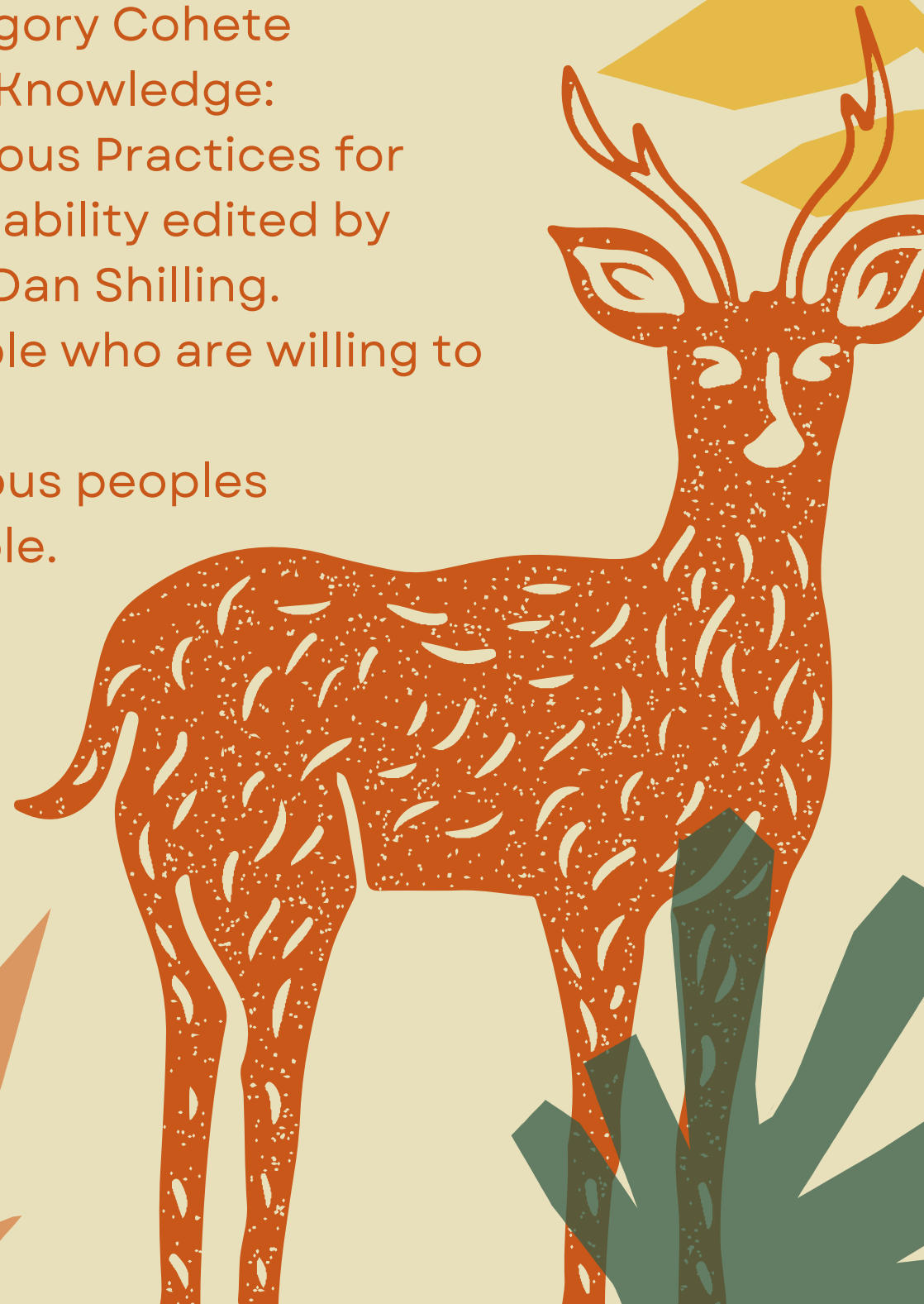
In the **Global Biodiversity Framework**, the plan is to protect and conserve 30% of the world by 2030.

However, it raises the concern of displacing indigenous communities and people who are least responsible for the climate crisis. It is estimated that up to 300 million people will be displaced with this plan. It is important that we make drastic changes, and quickly, to solve the biodiversity crisis, but not without collaborating with indigenous people who have been continuously displaced for centuries.



What can you do?

- Find out the tribal land you live on by looking up your address on native-land.ca.
- Do your research. Some great literature:
 - Braiding Sweetgrass by Robin Wall Kimmerer
 - Native Science by Gregory Cochete
 - Traditional Ecological Knowledge: Learning from Indigenous Practices for Environmental Sustainability edited by Melissa K. Nelson and Dan Shilling.
- Listen to indigenous people who are willing to share their story
- Collaborate with indigenous peoples whenever deemed possible.



Sources

There's a Global Plan to Conserve Nature. Indigenous People Could Lead the Way. - The New York Times

Summary for policymakers of the global assessment report on biodiversity and ecosystem services | Zenodo

NGO concerns over the proposed 30% target for protected areas and absence of safeguards for Indigenous Peoples and local communities

Collective property rights reduce deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon | PNAS

Interview with Gabby Menomin and Kyle Gill

