



## **Traditional Knowledge is the Aboriginal Peoples Key Contribution to Science and to Climate Change Mitigation, Adaptation and Food Security**

**Abstract:**

Traditional Knowledge is accurate and reliable; over the course of millennia, it has served First Nations well, and continues to do so today. Knowing the past can help us understand the present and leads us toward creative solutions for the future. One very present concern involves the many environmental problems stemming from climate change. But how do we measure such change? Science, of course, points us toward ice and fossils and oceanic cores, giving us a broad-brush view of the world that existed thousands and millions of years ago. But fossils and core samples cannot tell us, as Traditional Knowledge does, that when the salmon-berry bush blooms, the Oolichan eggs in the Skeena River are starting to hatch; or when snow covers the very top of the mountains, shellfish can be safely harvested. Traditional Knowledge is the fine print of the past, essential to understanding the scale of the changes we are now witnessing.