

Mercer, J., I. Kelman, L. Taranis, and S. Suchet-Pearson. 2009. "Title: Framework for Integrating Indigenous and Scientific Knowledge for Disaster Risk Reduction". Disasters, in press.

Abstract:

A growing awareness of the value of indigenous knowledge has prompted calls for its use within disaster risk reduction. Whilst increased dialogue advocates use of indigenous knowledge alongside scientific knowledge there is as yet no clearly developed framework demonstrating how the two may be integrated to reduce community vulnerability to environmental hazards. This paper presents such a framework utilising a participatory approach in which relevant indigenous and scientific knowledge may be integrated to reduce a community's vulnerability to environmental hazards focusing on small island developing states. First, an analysis of the need for such a framework is presented alongside the difficulties of incorporating indigenous knowledge. This is followed by an explanation of the various processes within the framework drawing on research completed in Papua New Guinea. This framework is an important first step in identifying how indigenous and scientific knowledge may be integrated to reduce community vulnerability to environmental hazards.