

# Indigenous Cultural Knowledge as a pathway to climate change resilience: A case study in La Guajira, Colombia.

Orly Vidal  
Master of Environment



# Outline:

## 1. Introduction

## 2. Methods

## 3. Indigenous cultural knowledge

- Place
- Nature
- Social Networks

## 4. Resilience

## 5. La Guajira case study

## 6. Analysis and conclusions

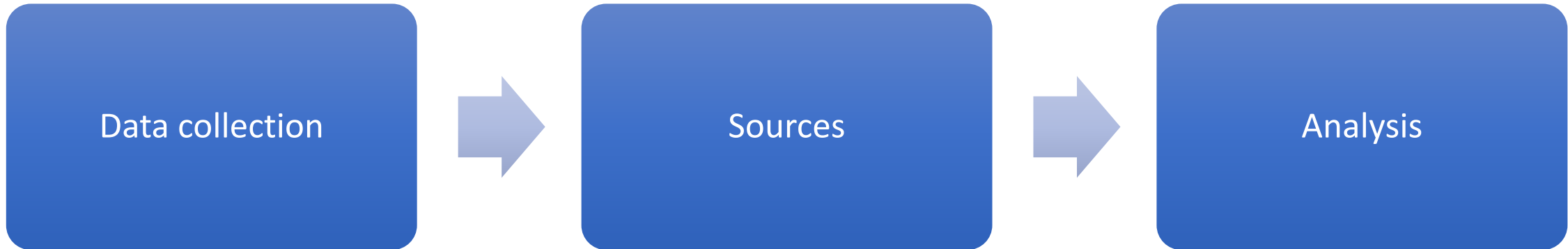


# Research Question:

How Indigenous cultural knowledge can contribute to build pathways to climate change resilience.

# Methods

Desktop Research – Literature Review – Case Study.



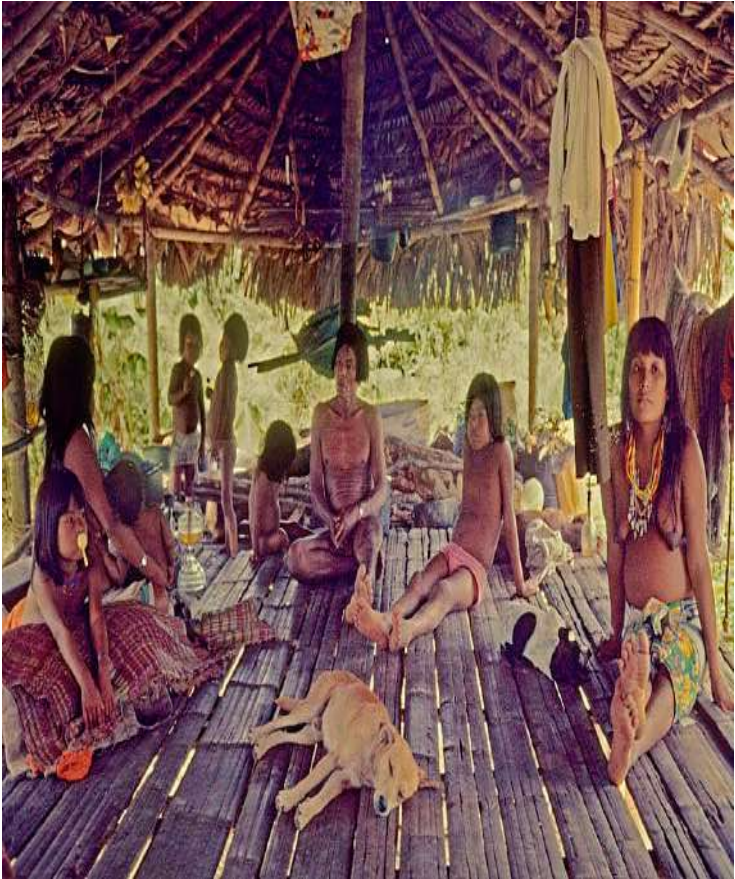
Value	Attributes	ç
P I a C e	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identity</li> <li>2. Social capital is a geographic concept</li> <li>3. Attachment to place</li> <li>4. Dependency</li> <li>5. Social interactions</li> <li>6. Not just a “thing” but way of seeing, knowing and understanding the world</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Clarke et al., 2018</li> <li>2. Adger, 2003</li> <li>3. Marshal, et al., 2007</li> <li>4. Raymond et al., 2010</li> <li>5. Smith, et al., 2012</li> <li>6. Tschakert et al., 2017</li> </ol>



Source: <https://expotur-eco.com/en/guajira-seven-reasons-to-know-it/>

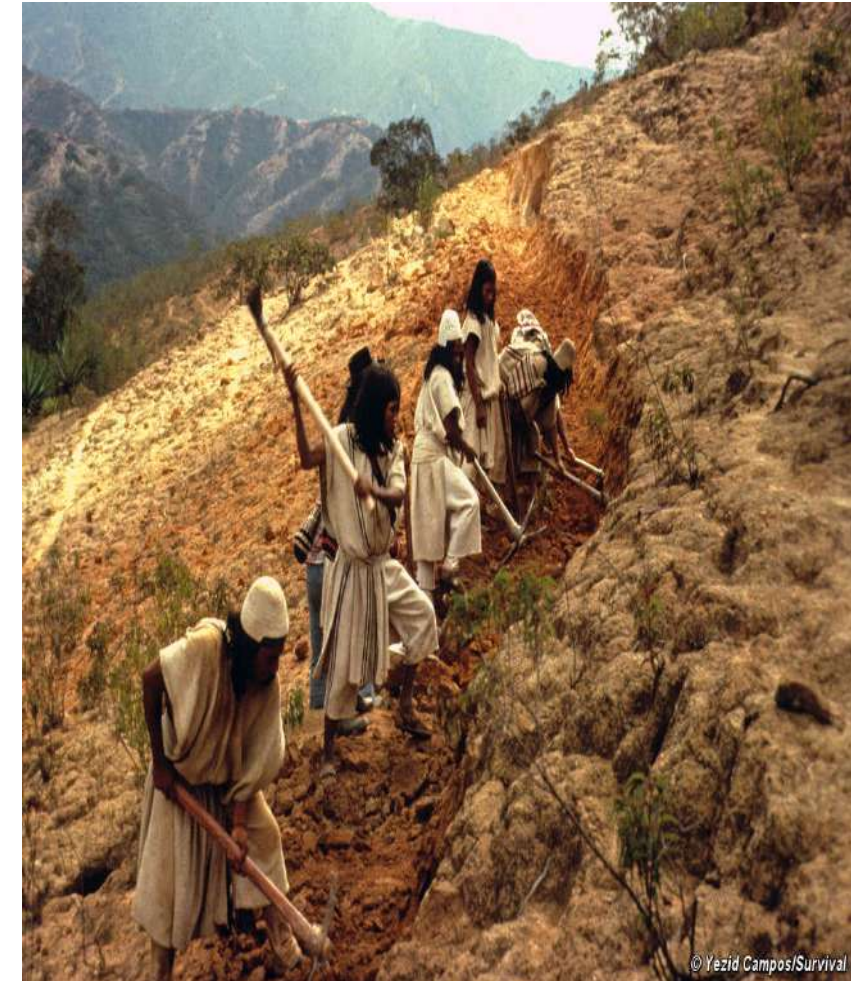


V a l u e	Attributes	Relevant supporting literature
N S o c i a l n e t w o r k s	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Interactions – Reciprocities</li> <li>2. Social capital and collective action.</li> <li>3. Social-ecological networks.</li> <li>4. Social wellbeing.</li> <li>5. Attachment to place</li> <li>6. Not all networks are equal</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Baggio et al., 2016</li> <li>2. Adger, 2003</li> <li>3. Janssen et al., 2006</li> <li>4. Baird and Gray, 2014.</li> <li>5. Beilin and Reid, 2015</li> <li>6. Newman and Dale, 2005</li> </ol>



Source: <https://expotur-eco.com/en/guajira-seven-reasons-to-know-it/>

Value	Attributes	Relevant supporting literature
N a t u r e	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The harmony of the natural environment</li> <li>2. The sustainability of natural resources</li> <li>3. Mother nature</li> <li>4. A shared value</li> <li>5. Man – Nature relationships</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Agrawal and Gibson, 2001</li> <li>2. Berkes, 1989</li> <li>3. Frazier et al., 2004</li> <li>4. Reichel – Dolmatoff et al., 1999</li> <li>5. Tschakert et al., 2017</li> <li>6. Raymond et al., 2010</li> </ol>



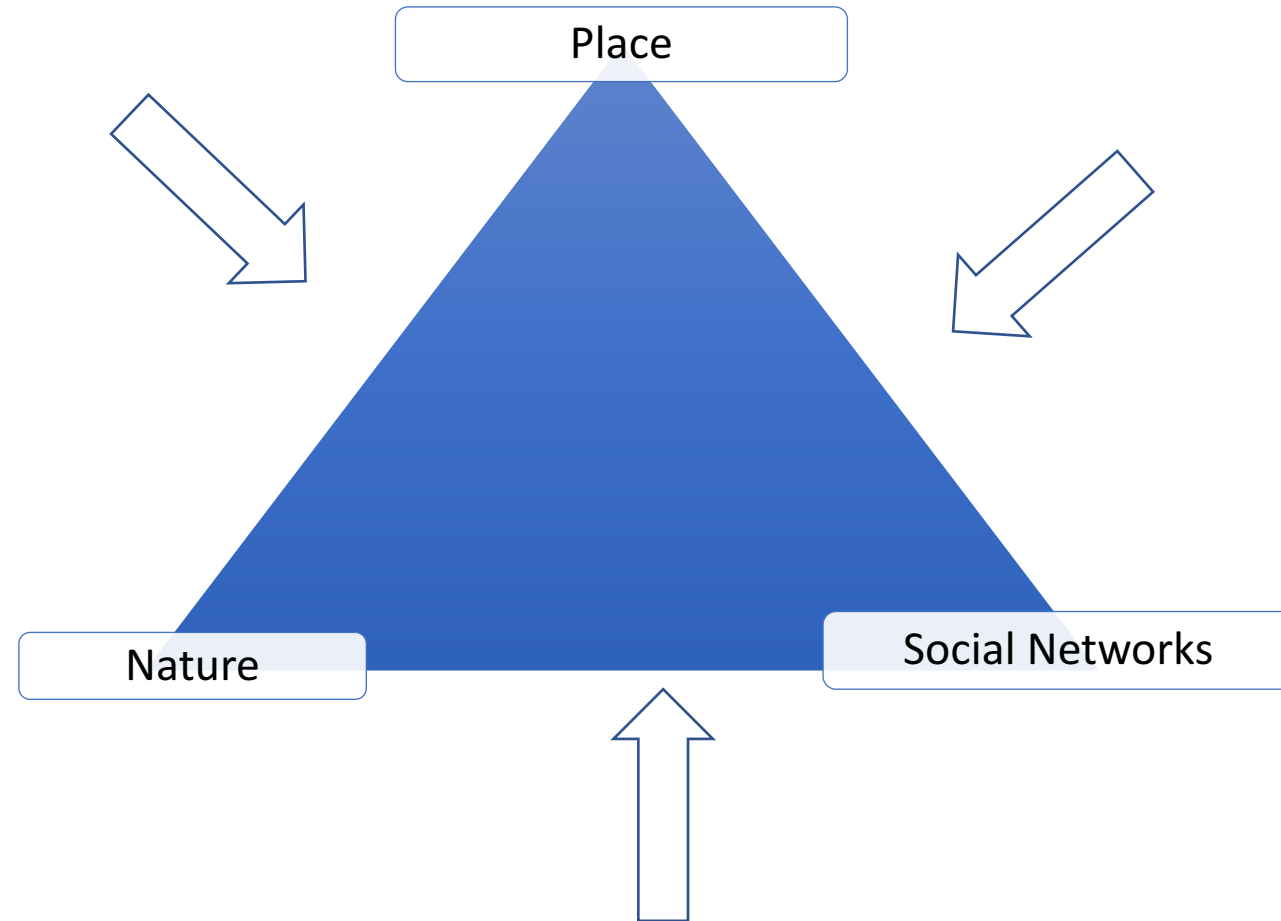
Source: <https://expotur-eco.com/en/guajira-seven-reasons-to-know-it/>



# Resilience

1. Capacity of a system to **absorb, recover to shocks and the ability to adapt** keeping the functional structures of the system.
2. Necessity to recognize **different disciplines** to properly **manage resilience principles** among **vulnerable communities**.
3. **Building Indicators to Social – Ecological resilience.**

 **External Factors: Climate Change**



# A case study: La Guajira, Colombia



Source: <https://expotur-eco.com/en/guajira-seven-reasons-to-know-it/>

# The Wayuu Indigenous Values:

**PLACE**



**NATURE**



**SOCIAL NETWORKS**





# Historical vulnerabilities in the Wayuu society.

- **Living in remote areas**
- **Extreme poverty**
- **Subsistence economy.**
- **Water and food insecurity.**
- **Dependent on natural resources.**





# Main Threat: Climate Change

COLOMBIA REPORTS

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(Photo: La Guajira Hoy)

## Drought in northern Colombia at crisis levels

by Alexandra Jolly | April 28, 2014

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### Food security

#### Colombia's pipes to nowhere: villagers die of thirst as corruption stalls dam project

The Rancheria river has run dry after three years of intense drought, decades of overuse and a lifetime of public corruption in the province of La Guajira, one of Colombia's poorest and most forgotten regions

► Talarumana, the Colombian village dying of thirst - in pictures



Residents of the little settlement of Talarumana, in Alta Guajira region of the La Guajira. Photograph: Stephen Ferry for the Guardian

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BBC NEWS

## Drought: Desertification and water scarcity



## Sea Level Rise: loss of clean, fresh water and land



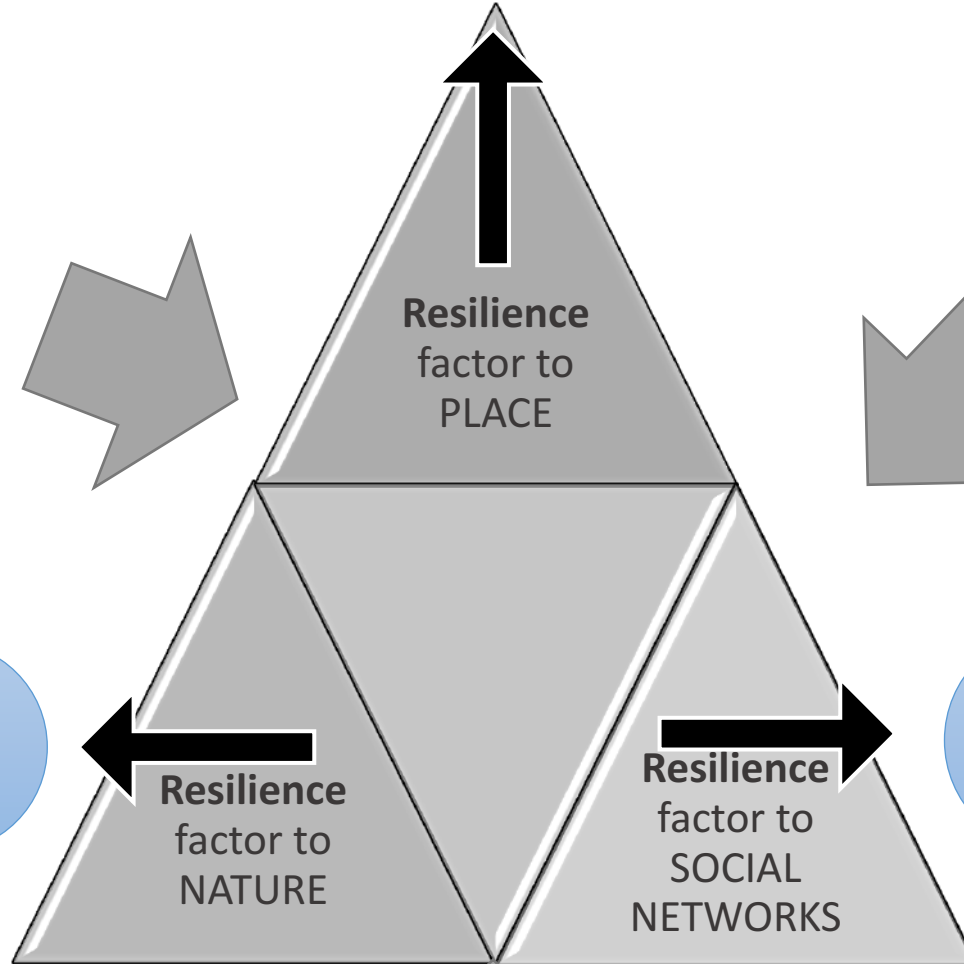
Construction of social identities in the territorial sphere:  
**Intergenerational Awareness.**

Industries, urban forces,  
property rights.

External influences promote  
disintegration and divisions.

Rational use of resources:  
**Natural Resource Management**

Community integration,  
collaborative models:  
**Communal Leadership and  
Governance**



Drought, sea level rise, historical vulnerabilities.

# Analysis and conclusions

- The challenges of indigenous cultural knowledge in building resilience to climate change are related to the threats that can face their places, social networks and natural assets.
- The potential of Indigenous Cultural Knowledge is to inform of management systems and resilience indicators.
- As place is where cultures and societies emerge regarding the surrounding natural environment, it is fundamental that the performance of resilience functions are constructed in the territorial context.
- Factors of resilience: Community integration. Intergenerational awareness. Governance of natural resources.