

Reflections on the Indigenous Health Adaptation to Climate Change (IHACC) Project

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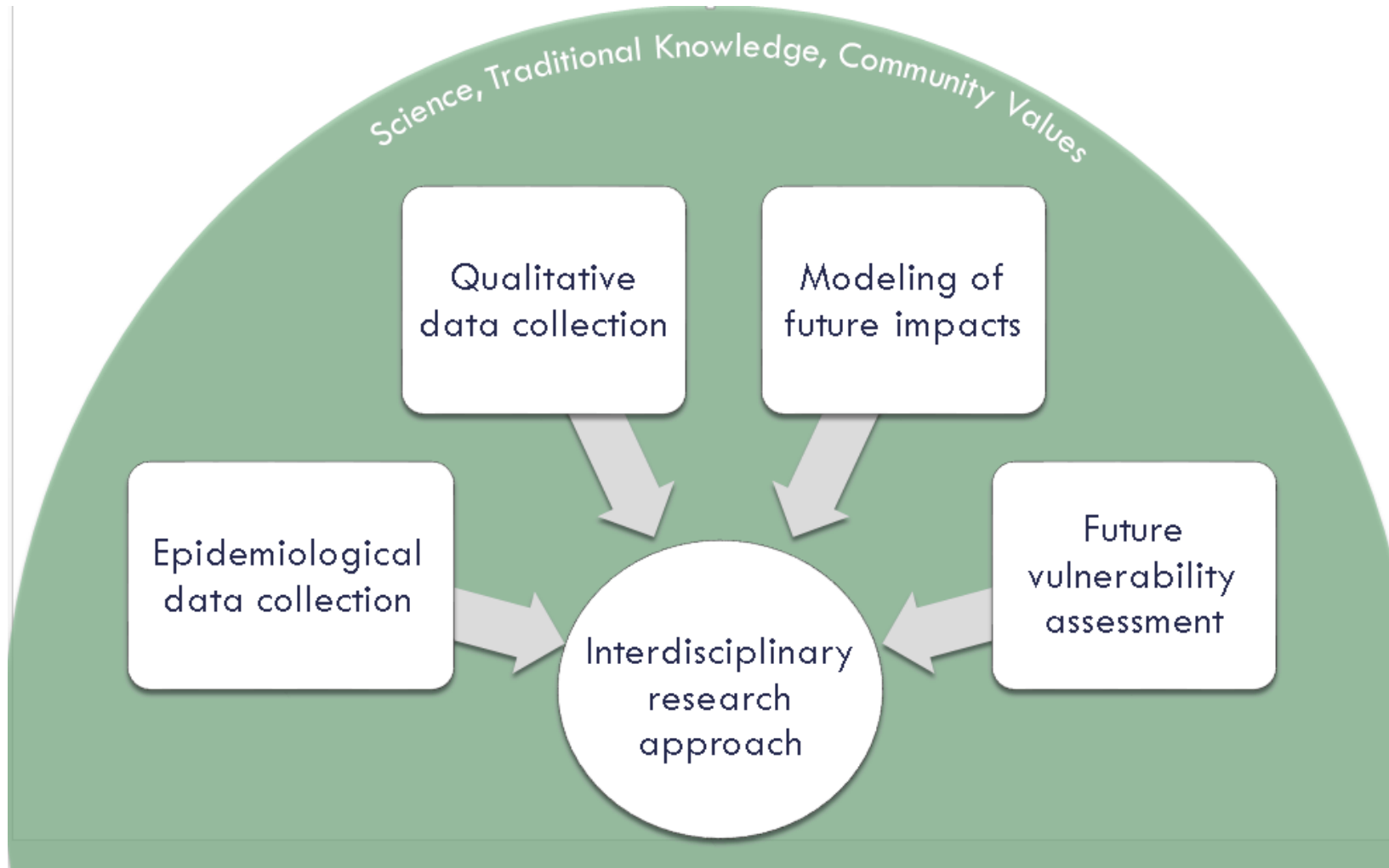
The IHACC Program

- **Overarching goal:** Develop an understanding of the health dimensions of climate change for remote Indigenous populations
- **3 regions:** Peruvian Amazon, Uganda, Canadian Arctic
- **3 climate-related health risks:** Vector borne disease, food security, acute gastrointestinal illness (AGI)



IHACC community based research in action

Research approach



Did we meet our objectives?

- **18 month self-reflective exercise**
- **114 key informant interviews with IHACC researchers, community leaders, students, decision makers**
- **21 focus groups with 177 community members**





Advancing Knowledge


AIM: Increase knowledge on CC, health & Indig. Peoples

- Ford (2012, *AJPH*): 44 peer reviewed articles on Indig. health & CC; 1 from LMICs
- **IHACC: First such project in Uganda & Peru**
 - >40 articles (more planned as we're still analyzing results)
 - Cited in 17 IPCC WGII chapters
- **Baseline research on climate-related health risks**
 - Highest rate of food insecurity globally among Batwa
 - Very high AGI among Inuit
 - No malaria in Peruvian sites
- **Potential of CC to worsen existing inequalities**
 - Establish magnitude of this across the regions



Shaping policies & practice

AIM: Empower Indigenous peoples to adapt to the health effects of climate change

- **Modification of practices & livelihoods in communities to reduce vulnerability**
 - Provision of ID cards in Peru
 - Crop information in Uganda
 - Safe water use in Arctic
- **Empowering community practices around adaptation research**
 - 1st ever research project in Ugandan & Peruvian communities
 - Training, valuation of TK&LK  confidence

Shaping policies & practice

AIM: Empower Indigenous peoples to adapt to the health effects of climate change

- **Informed institutional practice among partners**
 - Baseline info used in health campaigns
 - Catalyzed interest in adaptation (especially in Peru)
 - Enhanced credibility of partners who were able to get funds (Uganda)
- **Informed international adaptation discourse/policy**
 - UNFCCC Adaptation Committee work
 - UNESCO collaborations (planned workshop)



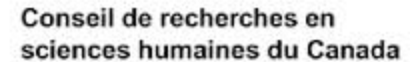
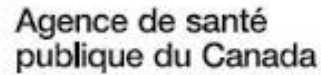
Training

AIM: Train next generation of adaptation researchers, create community / institutional adaptation champions

- 1st generation training in research in Uganda & Peru
- CBPR approach new in the regions; noted to be 'gold standard' for future work
- Community RAs assumed leadership roles
- IHACC graduates working in decision making roles in regions
- Rigolet applied for their first research grant

Challenges

- **Development deficit very pronounced in Uganda and Peru**
 - Development vs Research?
 - How do we do CBA in such contexts?
 - Managing expectations
- **Sustaining community interest**
- **Maintaining partnerships with high institutional turnover**



INDIGENOUS HEALTH

adaptation to

CLIMATE CHANGE

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