

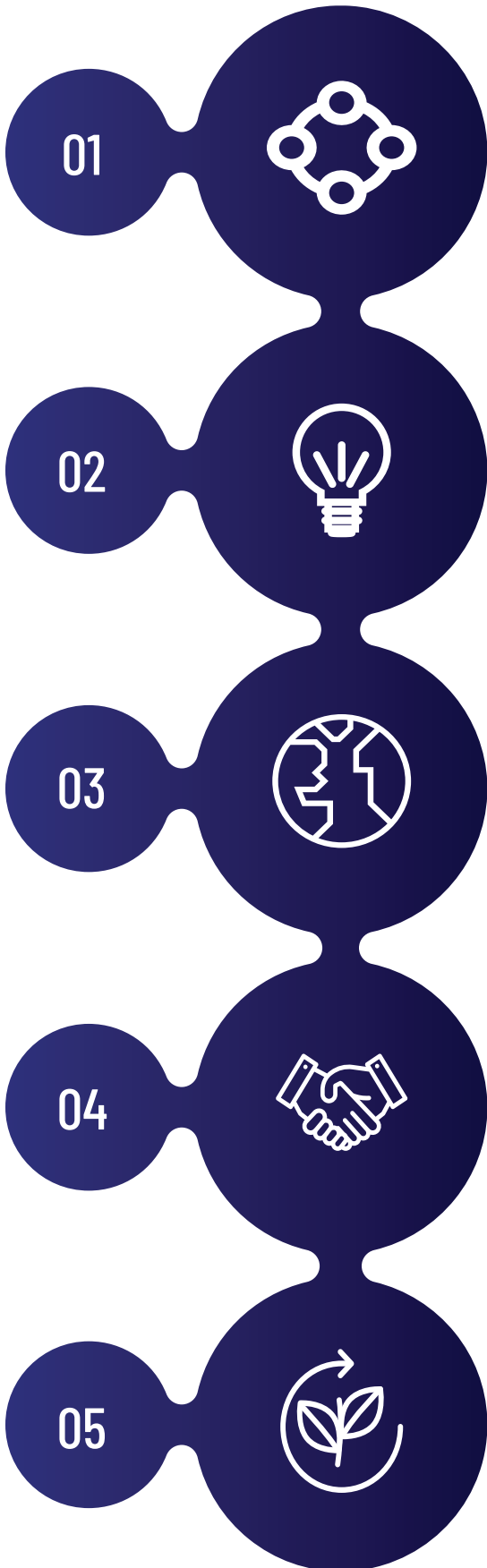
Indigenous Alternatives to Colonial Climate Risk Narratives: From the Risk to Resilience Special Report

Risk assessments and costs are only part of the larger climate change story. The National Risk Profiles report and many other assessment methods emphasize costs and human-centric values while the larger view is deprioritized. Since we are working with an incomplete dataset, or fragments of the bigger picture, our understanding of risk will be incomplete. With Western risk assessments' limited scope and patchwork approach by government bodies, we are making climate decisions with only a partial view of how our ecosystem is shifting under climate change.

For Indigenous peoples, resilience is deeply rooted in governance, ways of life, and worldviews, emphasizing interconnectedness, reciprocity, and adaptability. On our path through colonialism, many Indigenous people are actively healing and recovering tools that support resilience. This resilience manifests through several core principles and practices.

Credits

This factsheet was researched and authored by **Janna Wale** and **Brett Huson**; produced and designed by **Ash Vols** and **Dennis Pierre** and is a supplementary resource to the Risk to Resilience special report.



Interconnectedness and Reciprocity

Indigenous communities have long viewed the world as an interconnected web where humans, animals, plants, and the land are interdependent. This holistic perspective fosters a sense of responsibility and care for the environment, supporting community resilience.

Adaptability and Innovation

Indigenous peoples have a history of adapting to changing environments, which includes using cultural knowledge and laws to manage natural resources sustainably. For example, controlled burns to manage forest health demonstrate a proactive approach to environmental stewardship; enhanced aquaculture and agricultural practices are sophisticated ecological interventions to increase biodiversity.

Cultural Continuity

Maintaining cultural practices, languages, and laws strengthens community bonds and identity, which are crucial for resilience. These cultural elements provide a foundation for coping with and adapting to challenges, including climate change.

Community Cohesion and Support

Indigenous communities' robust social networks and communal support systems are a testament to their strength and resilience. These enable collective action and mutual aid in times of crisis. This communal approach ensures that knowledge and resources are shared, enhancing overall resilience.

Sustainable Living Practices

Indigenous ways of being often emphasize sustainability and living in harmony with all beings that are part of the community's surrounding ecosystem. This includes using resources to ensure their availability for future generations — a key aspect of resilience.