# Documenting Traditional Ecological Knowledge for Mitigating Climate and Environmental Change

## **Presenting an Emerging Initiative**

Martha Lerski<sup>1</sup>, Frank P. Mwale<sup>2</sup>, Thomas Rose<sup>3</sup>

- <sup>1</sup> Leonard Lief Library, Lehman College | CUNY, Bronx, NY, USA
- <sup>2</sup> KEYS Organization, Kapyanga Village, Malawi
- <sup>3</sup> Deutsches Bergbau-Museum Bochum

martha.lerski@lehman.cuny.edu keys.organization.mw@gmail.com thomas.rose@daad-alumni.de

#### The challenge

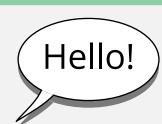
Can TEK and ICH be effectively documented to further intergenerational community knowledge transfer and global education about sustainability solutions?

#### **Glossary**

CARE: Collective Benefit, Authority to Control, Responsibility, Ethics ICH: Intangible Cultural Heritage FAIR: Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable T(E)K: Traditional Ecological Knowledge

### Help us to solve the challenge!

Do you want to get involved? You know someone tackling similar challenges? Let us know! We are a small team, eager to expand in number and expertise and to connect to similar initiatives.



#### **Envisioned Solution**

1

Recording TEK and ICH through surveys, interviews, and participatory observation of cultural and agricultural practices

Structuring information and prepare TEK and ICH for transfer into and application in other cultural settings

Informing policy makers about alternate approaches and TEK-based solutions tested by communities over time

Using a database compliant with

- FAIR data principles to optimise data for reuse
- CARE Principles for Indigenous Data Governance and TK labels to guarantee knowledge holders maintain full control over their knowledge and access to it

Inclusion of knowledge
holders in all steps, ensuring
knowledge is structured,
stored and represented
according to their needs

## Case study: KEYS organization

Knowledge Elders, Youth Share

- Uses TEK to develop and implement sustainable solutions to present-day challenges caused by environmental and climate change
- Location: Kapyanga (Malawi)











Example of TEK: Preparation and use of a traditional pesticide as an alternative to chemical pesticides