Guiding research principles for researchers when engaging with Indigenous Peoples, native organisms, cultural/sacred sites, and/or relevant data

The purpose of the guiding research principles is to be a tool to assist APPS members when engaging with Indigenous Peoples, native organisms, cultural/sacred sites, and/or relevant data in a manner that respects traditional homelands, Indigenous Peoples, and all ways of knowing. Note that these guidelines serve as a starting point for researchers and professionals, and not as an authoritative document.

To begin co-partnership with Indigenous Peoples and research with native organisms, cultural/sacred sites, and/or relevant data researchers and professionals need to first build relationships and show respect for cultural processes and protocols. It is important to be genuine in your approach to building long-term relationships. In addition, be prepared to challenge or put aside your notions of how research should be conducted and seek advice from Indigenous researchers, professionals, and advisors.

<u>Indigenous self-determination</u>

The recognition and respect of Indigenous people's self-determination who speak for and hold knowledge across the lands and waters from time immemorial, regardless of legal recognition, will be fundamental to all research conducted. Researchers will also need to learn what self-determination is for those they are working with, as the meaning will vary among Indigenous Peoples. For Indigenous self-determination to be fulfilled, researchers must demonstrate that Indigenous peoples are empowered to have say in all aspects of the co-developed research and to let Indigenous peoples lead. Researchers must also disclose when an invention, result, or finding is based on Indigenous Knowledge.

<u>Consent and ethics</u>

Engagement that allows Indigenous peoples Free Prior Informed Consent, such as cultural authority agreements, to make informed decisions is essential before beginning all projects. Such consent and agreements will ensure data is collected, analysed, stored, and shared in accordance with cultural protocols and ethical considerations set forth by the Indigenous peoples.

Indigenous peoples have the right to govern the collection, ownership, and application of their own data and the data associated with research through data sovereignty. Researchers will acknowledge and disclose the origin of any Indigenous Knowledge, native organisms, cultural/sacred sites, and/or relevant data used or referred to in research.

<u>Cultural competence and safety</u>

Researchers will develop the ability to understand, communicate with, and effectively interact with Indigenous people, as well as integrate Indigenous values into the research process.

When working with native organisms, cultural/sacred sites, and/or relevant data, researchers should create meaningful and reciprocal engagement with the people with relationships to the research and establish and maintain long-term relationships before, during, and after the research is conducted.

Researchers will be fully aware of the cultural diversity of Indigenous peoples and how culture influences the way Indigenous peoples work with others or researchers should respond and interact with those people. Additionally, to promote cultural safety, researchers should examine themselves and the potential impacts of their own culture on research interactions by assessing their own biases, attitudes, assumptions, and stereotypes.

Equity and benefit-sharing

Research should be viewed as an act of reciprocity where researchers and Indigenous communities equitably exchange skills and resources with data, knowledge, and wisdom. Without mutual partnership and co-production of the research questions, there will be no collective benefit. The researcher should uplift the development and capability of Indigenous communities and researchers.

All benefits produced from research, invention, or findings with Indigenous Peoples, native organisms, cultural/sacred sites, and/or relevant data should be shared widely with the community(s). Researchers should also expect to be asked to give back in culturally appropriate ways before, during and after their research.

Responsibility and accountability

By working in full partnership, researchers are responsible for creating a long-term structure of equitable support and resourcing – technical, financial, or otherwise – for a continual relationship with Indigenous peoples. Researchers must integrate Indigenous protocols and epistemologies into research methodologies and protocols and be developed only after researchers have established meaningful and reciprocal relationships with communities. The outcome of the research needs to be reported back to the entire community, and the full data set be returned to them in a useable and accessible form.

Within the research protocols, steps should be taken to include accountability of researchers for the quality and impact of their research and engagement, and their obligations to the Indigenous communities that will be affected by the research. Hence, the Indigenous peoples will have final say on data and results sharing and can stop the research at any time. A key obligation to all work will be relational accountability, as to where all involved will be accountable to all relations.

Resource list (Please advise APPS executive committee to update this list):

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/declaration-on-the-rights-of-indigenous-peoples.html)

Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-sharing (https://www.cbd.int/abs/#:~:text=The%20Nagoya%20Protocol%20on%20Access%20to%20Genetic%20Resources%20and%20the,a%20fair%20and%20equitable%20way)

Ko Aotearoa Tēnei: Report on the Wai 262 Claim (https://www.waitangitribunal.govt.nz/news/ko-aotearoa-tenei-report-on-the-wai-262-claim-released/)

The Mataatua Declaration on Cultural and Intellectual Property Rights of Indigenous Peoples (https://ngaaho.maori.nz/cms/resources/mataatua.pdf)

Uluru Statement from the Heart (http://ulurustatement.org/the-statement)

Building Resilience in Indigenous Communities through Engagement: A Focus on Biosecurity Threats (https://www.cdu.edu.au/northern-institute/building-resilience-aboriginal-indigenous-engagement-model)

Indigenous Conserved Territories and Areas Conserved by Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (https://www.iccaconsortium.org/index.php/discover/)

An example of partnership with first nations peoples in the development of plant pathology Research (https://www.mdpi.com/1999-4915/13/8/1611)

New methodologies of engagement and meaning exchange between developers and Indigenous people including free and prior consent (https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0301479721010768)

Genomics Aotearoa guiding principals of engagement with Indigenous Peoples (https://www.genomics-aotearoa.org.nz/sites/default/files/2019-03/He-Tangata-Kei-Tua-Biobanking-Guidelines.pdf)

Te Mata Ira (Guidelines for genomic research with Māori) (https://www.genomics-aotearoa.org.nz/sites/default/files/2019-03/Te-Mata-Ira-Genome-Research-Guidelines.pdf)

Indigenous engagement protocols for threatened species researchers (https://www.nespthreatenedspecies.edu.au/publications-and-tools/indigenous-engagement-protocols-for-threatened-species-researchers)

Our knowledge our way in caring for country (https://www.csiro.au/en/research/indigenous-science/Indigenous-knowledge/Our-Knowledge-Our-Way/OKOW-resources)