

trackingchange

Local and Traditional Knowledge in Watershed Governance

Global Knowledge Symposium &
United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues
New York City 2019



Sharing Voices and Stories from the Mackenzie, Amazon and Mekong Basins!

Group photo in front of our
location – The Church of
the Covenant!

From April 29th to May 3rd, 2019 the *Tracking Change...* project hosted our second Global Knowledge Symposium in New York City and held a side-event at the *UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues*. The Symposium was an opportunity to bring together those participating in the project from the Mackenzie, Amazon and Mekong River Basins, allowing for discussion on freshwater ecosystems both in Canada and in the international context of Brazil and Thailand.

United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPF0II18)

On April 30th, 2019, participants from the TC Global Knowledge Symposium attended and facilitated an official side event at the UNPF0II18. The side event was an incredible opportunity to showcase our work and network with Indigenous communities experiencing similar pressures on their livelihoods.

Since 2002, the UNPF0II has met for ten days at the UN Headquarters in New York City to raise awareness and increase outreach on Indigenous issues and make recommendations to the Economic and Social Council. The goal of our attendance at this event was to increase the project's profile, network with key influencers and establish connections with other Indigenous communities, organizations and researchers from other parts of the world to share stories and create hope.

Objectives of the Global Knowledge Symposium

1. Create **opportunities** for indigenous community participants from the Mackenzie River Basin and the Lower Mekong River Basin to share their own local and traditional knowledge about social-ecological change and develop a better understanding of its significance at **global scales**.
2. Develop a **deeper understanding** of the knowledge, practices and beliefs of Lao/Thai fishers through **place-based learning activities**.
3. **Identify and advance theories and conceptual frameworks** that can help **explain trends** and patterns in the livelihoods of fishing communities in the Mackenzie, Mekong and Amazon including the changes associated with **hydropower**.
4. Strengthen **research collaboration** between graduate students, junior and senior faculty and community knowledge holders (fishers) and partners from Canada, Thailand and Brazil.
5. **Build global academic-community-policy networks** that can effect change in the governance of the Mackenzie, Mekong and Amazon.



Arriving in
New York City!



6. Catalyze critical thinking about the **methodological best-practice for studying and communicating about fisher knowledges and practices**.
7. Advance community reporting and academic publication through **knowledge mobilization workshops**.

More information available on www.trackingchange.ca



The Tar Sands Songbook

As part of the GKS 2019, Tracking Change presented *The Tar Sands Songbook*, a documentary performance by Tanya Kalmanovitch with accompaniment by Andrew Boudreau. The performance showcases our complex and sometimes unseen relationship with oil.

After the performance, audience members and participants were invited to meet Tanya and discuss the relationship with oil, as well as the piece itself and her own personal experience.

Tracking Change would like to extend a big thank you to Tanya and Andrew for their beautiful and moving performance!

Student Posters from the Symposium can be found in the Outreach section of the Tracking Change Website!

Participants of the Tracking Change Global Knowledge Symposium engaged in five days of knowledge sharing with the intent to create research publications and additional projects! Being able to connect as an entire group is one of the most important aspects of Tracking Change – celebrating the interconnectedness of all communities in the project, both from Canada and internationally in Brazil and Thailand. Discussion took place about fishing livelihoods, community-based methods, indicators of change and more.

Additionally, participants spent a fun week in New York City, seeing shows, eating food, going to a Yankees game and more! What an experience!

Thank you to all our participants and collaborators for an awesome trip to New York City!



Our awesome Organizing Team!

A big THANK YOU goes to the Church of the Covenant and Reverend Edmunds and Elaina, Bernice and Charmaine from the Westgate Hotel, Patsy's Pizzeria, Eddy and Christopher White!

Photo's and video from the conference can be found on the Tracking Change Website!



For more project information visit our website:

www.trackingchange.ca



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