

The COVID Observatories

*Monitoring the interaction of COVID, climate risks & food systems among
the world's Indigenous peoples*

James D. Ford, Ingrid Arotoma Rojas, Carol Zavaleta, Maria Osipova, Didas Namanya

**UN DESA International Expert Group Meeting on
Indigenous peoples and pandemics**

COVID-19 and Indigenous Peoples

LETTER

Indigenous people and the COVID-19 pandemic: the tip of an iceberg of social and economic inequities

The outbreak of the novel COVID-19 that began in Wuhan, China, killed a Yanomami (an Amazonian tribe) adolescent on 9 April 2020, presumed to have been contracted from gold miners. Although the strong influence of environmental conditions such as place of residence and socio-economic status on health or illness is irrefutable, scant attention is paid to the interconnectedness of people and how conditions that affect one group ultimately

state, even of the Rodriguez a recent COVID higher f vations. With in SARS nities an curative fatality only res and spre to infect erty rate conditio indigen These a even the bal pop

Climate change and COVID-19: reinforcing Indigenous food systems

Indigenous populations are at especially high risk from COVID-19 because of factors such discrimination, social exclusion, land dispossession, and a high prevalence of forms of malnutrition.¹ Climate change is compounding many of these causes of health inequities, undermining coping mechanisms that are traditionally used to manage extreme events such as pandemics, and disrupting food systems and local diets.² Addressing underlying structural inequities and strengthening Indigenous knowledge systems offer opportunities for building resilience to compound socioecological shocks, including climate effects and pandemics.

Climate change is affecting Indigenous food systems,

food-aid programmes. During this self-isolation, reliance on Indigenous food systems is inextricably linked to Indigenous knowledge about the land, rivers, and biodiversity, which includes knowledge of local techniques to preserve and prepare food.⁷ However, food from the forest is being affected by biodiversity and vegetation loss: heatwaves, precipitation variation, and more frequent and intense extreme weather events are all related to deforestation and climate change and are compounded by a weakening of traditional hunting and fishing skills as a result of climatic and societal changes.^{6,8,9}

In the Arctic, Inuit are witnessing some of the most rapid rates of warming globally.³ The remoteness of the region has helped curtail the spread

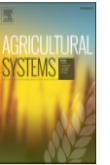
Comment

Agricultural Systems 186 (2021) 102990

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Agricultural Systems

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/agry



COVID-19 impacts on agriculture and food systems in Nepal: Implications for SDGs

Jagannath Adhikari^{a,*}, Jagadish Timsina^{b,c}, Sarba Raj Khadka^d, Yamuna Ghale^e, Hemant Ojha^b

^a University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia

^b Institute of Study and Development Worldwide, Sydney, Australia

^c Global Ever Greening Alliance, 1 Vision Drive, Burwood East, Melbourne, Australia

^d FIAN International Board, Heidelberg, Germany

^e Independent Consulting, Agriculture, Food Security and Gender, Kathmandu, Nepal

International Review of Education

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s11159-020-09876-5>

ORIGINAL PAPER

Education in uncertainty: Academic life as Indigenous health scholars during COVID-19

Tracey Galloway¹ · Andrea Bowra² · Tenzin Butsang² · Angela Mashford-Pringle²

Accepted: 18 November 2020

© UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning and Springer Nature B.V. 2020

COMMENT

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-020-19923-2>

OPEN

Building resilient Arctic science amid the COVID-19 pandemic

Andrey N. Petrov¹ , Larry D. Hinzman², Lars Kullerud³,
Tatiana S. Degai⁴ , Liisa Holmberg⁵, Allen Pope² & Alona Yefimenko⁶



Arctic
Ocean

The COVID Observatories Project

Canada

NORTH
AMERICA

Pacific
Ocean

Aruba

Peru

Bolivia

SOUTH
AMERICA

Atlantic
Ocean

Ghana

AFRICA

Kenya

Uganda

Namibia

South Africa

EUROPE

Russia

ASIA

India

Sri Lanka

Indian
Ocean

Australia

AUSTRALIA

Fiji

<https://sites.google.com/upch.pe/covid-observatories>

Observatories in each region

COVID Observatories have been established in each region, and are composed of:

- Community observers
- Policy observers
- Researcher observers

The policy observers

- Policy observers will be composed of decision making partners in each region who we already have research relationships with, and will document the official response to COVID at different levels of government, focusing on how issues around IPs are being addressed.
- Do we know who will our policy observers be
 - Go around each participant
- A note on who policy observers can be
 - Different levels government (local to national)
 - NGOs
 - Community leaders?
 - Ideally, some form of decision making role related to COVID (directly or indirectly)

Case studies



Case study: Peruvian Amazon



- Shawi
 - Region: Loreto
 - District: Balsapuerto
 - Indigenous population: $\approx 20\,000$
- Ashaninka
 - Region: Junin
 - Districts (TBD): Perene, Pichanaqui, Satipo
 - Indigenous population: $\approx 50\,000$

Case study: Peruvian Amazon

SHAWI



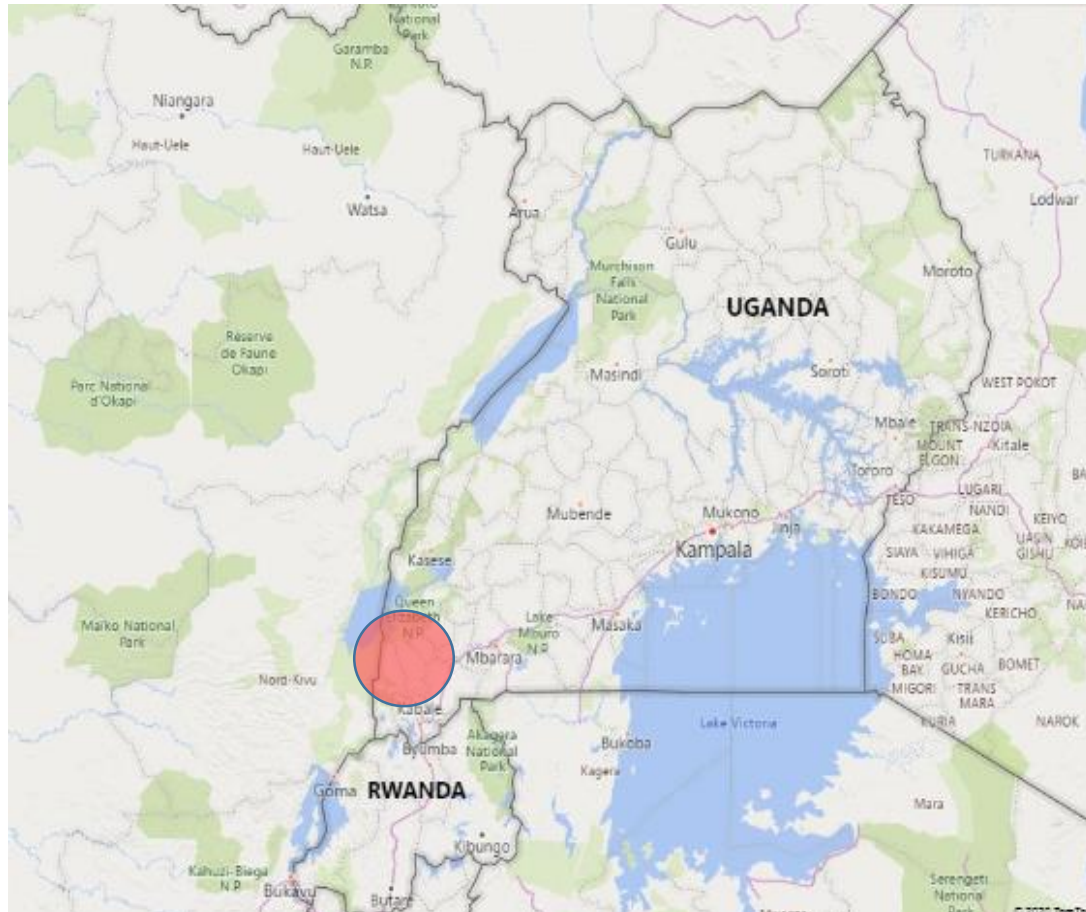
Photos by Matthew King

ASHANINKA



Photos by Elida De La Cruz

Case Study: Southwestern Uganda



- Batwa

	Batwa	Southwest Uganda ^a	Uganda
<i>Health</i>			
Life expectancy at birth (years)	28 ^b	n/a	53 ^c
Child mortality (% under 5)	41.0% ^d	18.1% ^e	13.7% ^e
Prevalence of malnourishment (% underweight children under 5) ^f	n/a	19.3% ^g	15.9% ^g
<i>Education</i>			
Adult literacy rate (% literate aged 15–49 years)	<10% ^h	Women: 67.6% Men: 84.1% ⁱ	Women: 56.3% Men: 82.8% ⁱ
<i>Income</i>			
GDP per capita (constant 2000 \$US)	\$97 ^j	n/a	\$366 ^k

Case Study: Southwestern Uganda

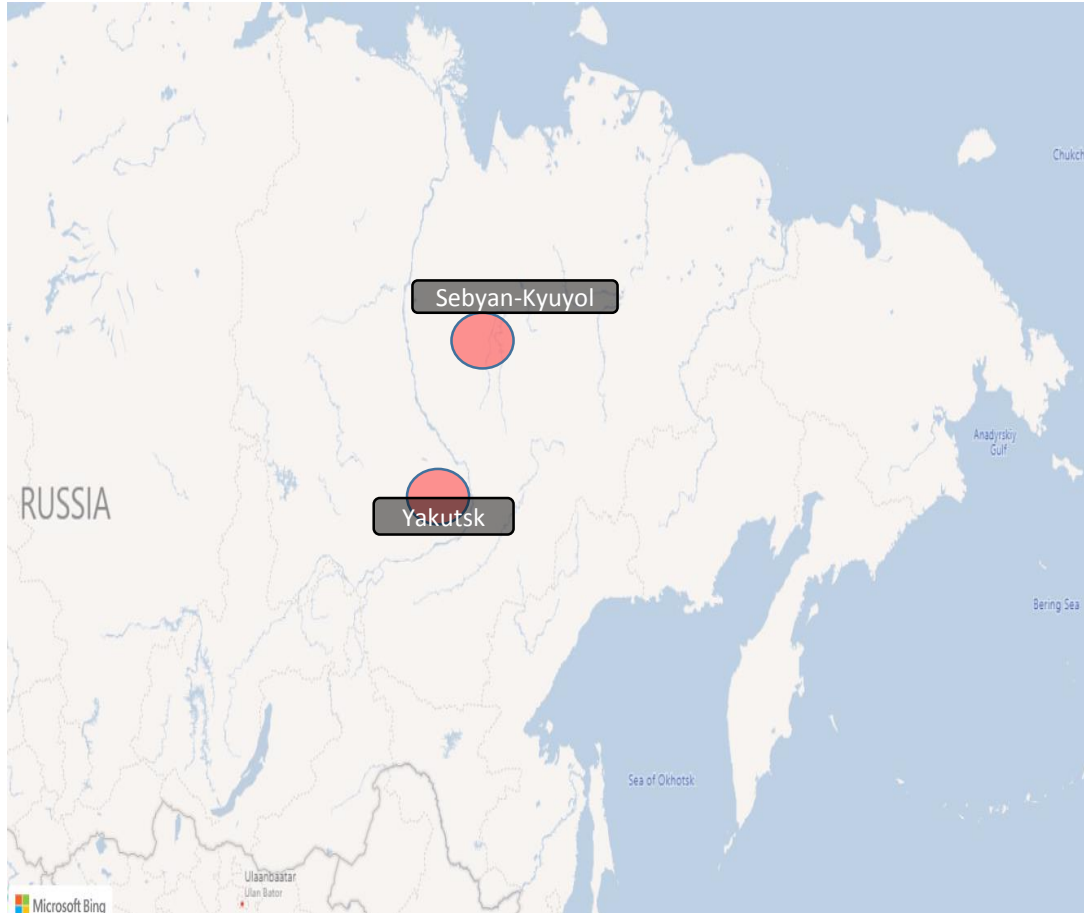
- Batwa population: **70,000 - 87,000** living in Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda & DR Congo. [**6,700 Batwa live within Uganda**]
- **Hunter and fruit gatherers** in full reliance on the forest for their physical, economic, spiritual, and social sustenance.
- **Lost access to forest homelands and resource base** without giving them alternative homes or sources of livelihoods.
- Displaced into 10 settlements along the edges of the forest **with no adequate shelter, food sources or effective access to education and health care.**
- Batwa affected by **strict COVID-19 measures including social isolation, staying home, and avoiding trading centres.** F
- **Food aid from government was distributed during the lockdowns** but did not reach in time and it was not sufficient.
- **No access to forests for medicinal plants and special traditional foods** which are vital in COVID-19 prevention.
- Many of the **Batwa settlements are located in remote areas away from health centres** where to access basic health care including for COVID-19.

Case Study: Southwestern Uganda



Photos by Matthew King

Case Study: Siberia



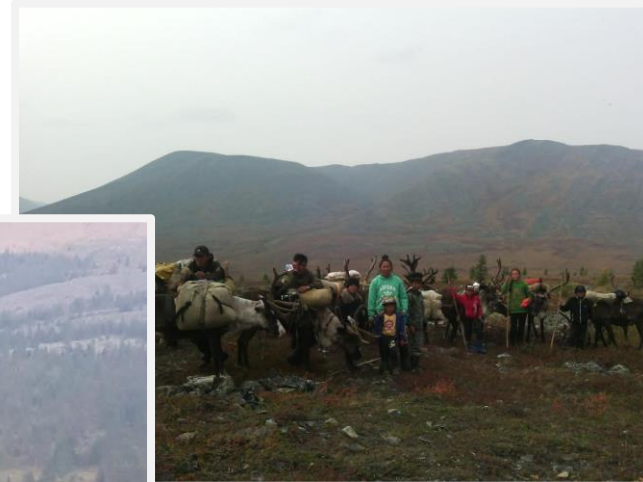
Years	Number of fires	Area burned, ha
1996	798	544 466
1997	194	71 928,2
1998	563	154 167
1999	414	27 172,8
2000	260	12 833,5
2001	596	673 686
2002	818	774 934
2003	587	133 289
2004	200	11 405
2005	263	468 994,3
2006	206	62 539
2007	81	6 073
2008 ^[2]	307	530 492,2
2009	225	260 390,0
2010	131	104 594,9
2011	511	971 650,6
2012	342	188 944,41
2013	390	813 137,4
2014	306	1 269 453,94
2015	224	26 324,49
2016	157	17 665,77
2017	634	1 608 990,44
2018	642	3 422 433,94
2019	1 865	3 999 584,3
2020 ^[3]	2 039	≈ 5 000 000

^[1] <https://minpriroda.sakha.gov.ru/gosdoklady-o-sostojanii-okruzhajuschej-sredy>

^[2] Отчет о деятельности Департамента по лесным отношениям Министерства охраны природы Республики Саха (Якутия) за 2008 год

^[3] <https://prav.sakha.gov.ru/news/front/view/id/3223585>

Case Study: Siberia



Thank You!

Emails: j.ford2@leeds.ac.uk (James), eeiear@leeds.ac.uk (Ingrid), claudia.zavaleta.c@upch.pe (Carol), marios1692@mail.ru (Maria), didamanya@yahoo.com (Didas)

Twitter: @ccadapt, @ArotomaRojas, @carolzavaleta

The COVID Observatories project is funded via a collective fund award from UKRI GCRF/Newton Fund, and is also supported by the Wellcome Trust

