

RESEARCH PROJECT SUMMARY

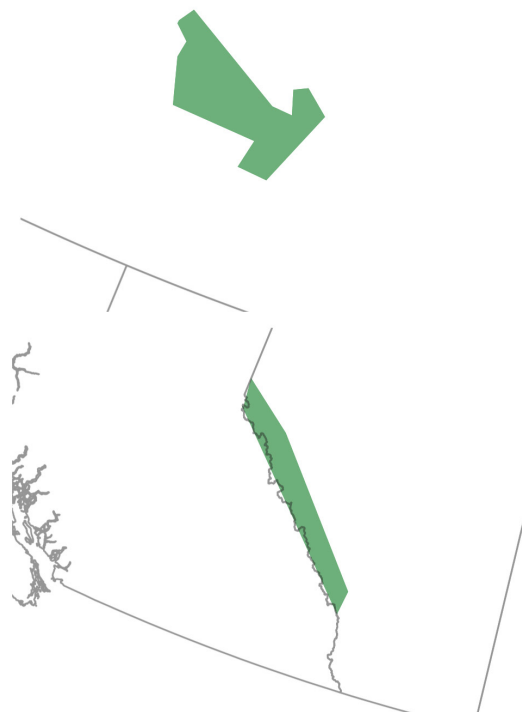
Indigenous Land Rights in Canada and New Zealand: Sustainable Protected Areas in Rural and Mountain Environments

Natural resource development, climate change and rural depopulation are affecting many communities in isolated rural mountainous regions of the planet. Investing in tourism infrastructure around the creation of parks are strategies that communities are increasingly adopting to address rural challenges and initiate economic development in a more sustainable manner. However, the histories of Indigenous experiences globally in parks and tourism industries have been fraught with exploitation, displacement and cultural loss. This leaves many Indigenous communities across the country and around the globe at a difficult crossroads.

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Collaborators: Lois Philipp (Northern Loco), Anna Carr (University of Otago), Lonnie Dixon (Stoney Tribal Administration), Jeremy Landry (Northern Loco)

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Legend

 Research location

Project Partners



UNIVERSITY
of
OTAGO



Indigenous Land Rights in Canada and New Zealand: Sustainable Protected Areas in Rural and Mountain Environments

Objectives

- Understand how the creation of parks and protected areas have historically impacted, or are impacting, Indigenous communities in mountain regions of rural Canada and New Zealand
- Examine the various levels of co-management of parks that government agencies, Indigenous communities and global collaborators are currently establishing in mountain regions of rural Canada and New Zealand
- Assess the risks, benefits, and viabilities of parks and related tourism industries in mountain and rural Indigenous communities.
- Interpret the policies and legal frameworks on land use, tourism, and economic development that are shaping the livelihoods of rural Indigenous peoples who live near mountain regions of Canada and New Zealand.

Research Plan

Indigenous Methodologies (IM) guided this project to foster a research process that was collaborative in orientation and held Indigenous perspectives at its core throughout the entirety of the research project. IM highlighted inequitable power relationships and helped ensure that communities' interests were recognized and access to sensitive material was appropriately guarded. Oral history interviews with knowledgeable land users and sharing circles with Elders served as the primary methods of data collection. The project built strong researcher-community relationships by spending extended time in communities, listening, and learning firsthand about local perspectives.

Key Outcomes & Impact

In this project, we set to build our research questions around concerns and opportunities expressed at the community level to foster pan-Indigenous approaches to conservation practices and tourism development related to regional protected areas. This included three different Indigenous communities: Morley, Alberta, Nakoda; Fort Providence, Northwest Territories, Dene and Metis; and Urewera, Aotearoa / New Zealand, Tuhoe, Maori. This comparative dialogue was productive to both deconstruct binaries between European-centered conservation approaches and Indigenous-led conservation, but also to demonstrate the value of combining multiple Indigenous-led conservation approaches and park management perspectives. We assert that this research is crucial as it can lead to national and international Indigenous best practices models that can benefit diverse organizations, communities, governments and various stakeholders while supporting local ecosystems and livelihoods.



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