

Blue Ecology and climate change: interweaving cultural perspectives on water, an indigenous case study

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Abstract The author proposes that we re-examine climate change from a Blue Ecology or “water first” angle: What is happening to the world’s water in the context of climate change? The author proposes the acknowledgement of water’s central functional and spiritual roles in our world, and urges us to apply both indigenous and science-based understanding as we develop collaborative climate change mitigation strategies. A definition of Blue Ecology, consistent with the UNESCO-IHP’s (2008) definition of water, is proposed, and also a Blue Ecology water cycle to be interwoven with Western science’s hydrological cycle. Finally, the author offers recommendations for hydrologists and water managers to implement Blue ecology.

Key words Blue ecology; Blue ecology water cycle; culture; indigenous perspective; interweaving; climate change