



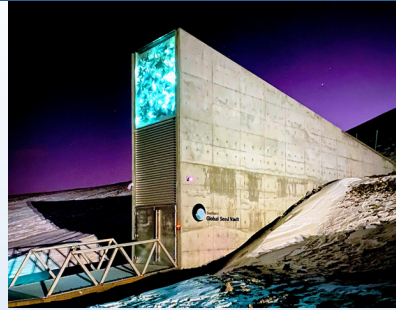
Abstract 210: Indigenizing Circular Economy Approaches to Sustainable Development Goal 2.5

Mervyn L. Tano, International Institute for Indigenous Resource Management mervtano@iirm.org

The Goal

End Hunger is Sustainable Development Goal 2. To achieve SDG 2, Target 2.5, in part aims to: “. . . maintain the genetic diversity of seeds, cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and their related wild species, including through soundly managed and diversified seed and plant banks at the national, regional and international levels . . .” Recently, international organizations, educational, technology, and research institutions, as well as professional associations have promoted circular economy approaches to attain the SDGs.

The Problems of the Classic Ex Situ Seed Storage Paradigm



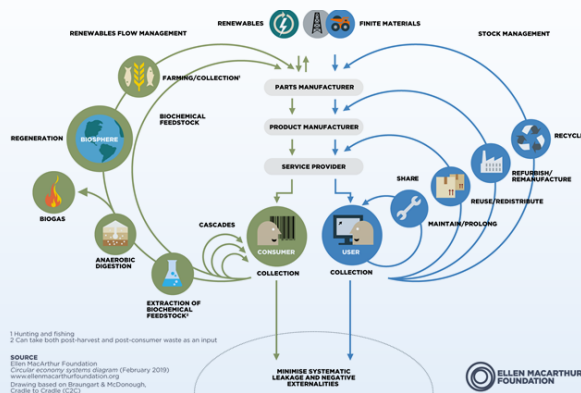
The Svalbard Global Seed Vault provides long-term storage of duplicates of seeds conserved in national gene banks. However, crop diversity is a continuing problem, particularly for the associated wild species which either are missing in gene bank collections or have their intraspecific diversity poorly represented. This is especially true of seeds from humid tropical regions.

It Takes A Village



Ensuring we have culturally important seeds to save involves a complex web of inter-related activities, laws, policies, practices, and institutions involving inter-related partnerships and collaboration between and among, for example, dedicated and broad-minded cultural practitioners, land and resource managers, growers, breeders, educational institutions, plant breeders, NGOs, and community advocates such as the Denver American Indian Commission (DAIC) pictured above.

The Problem of Circularity



The Circular Economy paradigm focuses on the flow of products and materials. It is inapposite when applied to the “stocks” such as: knowledge resources like relationships and responsibilities; building human, social, and cultural capital; and consensus building so vital to nation-building—all of which are integral to indigenous definitions of sustainability.

Indigenized In Situ Seed Conservation as a Response



Indigenizing circularity approaches to SDG requires adoption of indigenous frameworks for the requisite discourse and consensus-building. Beginning with the Lakota **Mitakuye Oyasin** and the Māori **Whakapapa** that acknowledge all living things are related, the discourse should be guided by principles such as **Kuleana; Lokahi, Aloha Aina; and Kaitiakitanga**.

Finally, Defining Ex Situ Broadly



IIIRM, DAIC, and a host of government and private partners are working to increase planting of native plants in Denver's parks and rights-of-way. We are developing courses at Haskell Indian Nations University to increase tribal participation in DoD cultural, natural resources, and environmental restoration management. And we will continue to conduct workshops, roundtables, and film/lectures on the issue.