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INDIGENOUS CLIMATE OBSERVATORIES

SCAN ME

About the company

The Indigenous Climate Observatories is an **interdisciplinary research collaboration** of Malmö university with the project partners with Indigenous communities in **Borneo, Malaysia** (focused on connections to the river / forest), **Eswatini** (focused on biodiversity), and **Lesotho** (focused on weather patterns).

This project examines **how local and Indigenous ways of knowing** — often overlooked in climate research — **can deepen our understanding of climate change.** It shifts the focus from scientific measurements to changes observed in rivers, forests, and the behaviors of animals, birds, and insects. It also asks **what relationships we need to build in order to respond to climate change collectively and meaningfully.**

Local Knowledge for Local Action

Tasks

Fieldwork in Eswatini 09/08/25 to 11/09/25 & Sweden

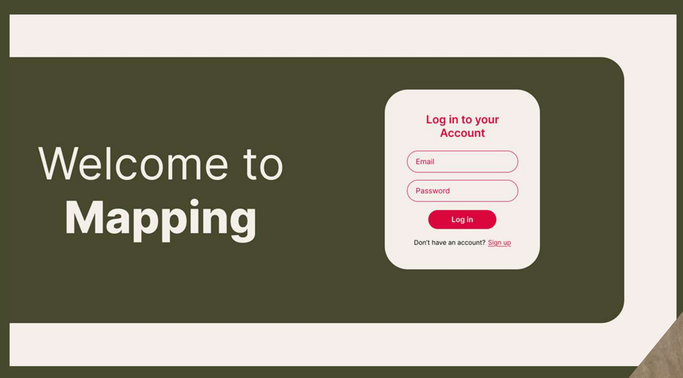
As part of cross-cultural fieldwork, I engaged with **local communities in Eswatini** to learn traditional knowledge related to forest ecosystems & medicinal properties of plants. Methods included *semi-structured interviews, environmental & participant observation, and visual documentation through photography and drone-based aerial imaging of local flora.*

In Sweden, I also helped organise **field-based activities** during the visit of Gugu Sibandze, creating opportunities for informal knowledge exchange and cross-cultural learning.

Mapping

I contributed to the initial development of a **mapping initiative** focused on Siphonochilus aethiopicus (wild African ginger). In the absence of an existing framework, I proposed **a conceptual model** for a scalable database to support spatial documentation, ecological monitoring, and possible cross-regional comparisons. Although currently paused, the project remains adaptable for future development.

These experiences strengthened my ability to **connect fieldwork & ethnographic insights with design methods** and to ***work responsibly*** across different cultural and ecological settings.



Current task:
Game design for weather-forecasting knowledge

My current assignment involves designing a **game** that **helps start conversations about different weather-forecasting methods**. The goal is to create a simple and engaging tool that brings together indigenous knowledge and contemporary perspectives, supporting community dialogue and knowledge sharing.