

SONGLINES: A METHODOLOGY TO CHART THE GOOD OF 'NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS'?

Online Workshop | 05.11.2020 | 10:00 – 13:00 | Registration/ Enquiries: [Rachel Nisbet](#)

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NGO Partner: the International Rainwater Harvesting Alliance

Speakers: David Higgins, Marin Leer, Roy Sellars

This workshop explores the writing of Songlines as a potential methodology for mapping 'nature-based solutions' on decadal timescales.¹

Songlines, a working definition: mediated by a poet-singer, addressed to change-makers, and narrating practices that cultivate wellbeing for people through 'nature-based solutions'.

"SONG ON WATER"	
असाध्यै रुद यो दुःखार्थं रुदितो को बुद्ध भातं भुत्तेको ह ता आमा का आमा ठार्थं रुद सता भुत्तेको ह	CRYING HEAVILY Who can hear this sorrow? Faddy is swinging in the air Don't know where to go Mind is just wandering here and there
असाध्यै रुद यो दुःखार्थं रुदितो को बुद्ध भातं भुत्तेको ह ता आमा का आमा ठार्थं रुद सता भुत्तेको ह	CRYING HEAVILY Who can hear this sorrow? Faddy is swinging in the air Don't know where to go Mind is just wandering here and there.
सगर्भु ह हल रडा पातीं र्तां रुत्ता सुदर भातं भुत्तेको ह ता आमा का आमा ठार्थं रुद सता भुत्तेको ह	Want to make the terraces green Without water they can't be Faddy is swinging in the air Don't know where to go Mind is just wandering here and there

A Song by Devimaya Subedi (SOCIAL WORKER) and Tara Poudel (primary school teacher) at the start of IRHA & [Kanchan Nepal's 'Rain Communities'](#) project

It includes:

- 3 presentations that discuss Songlines from Indigenous Australian, Early-Modern English and Contemporary practice-based perspectives.
- Q & A, orientated by responses from practitioners working in IRHA's Ecosystem-based Adaptation projects (EbA; a nature-based solution) and poet/singers living in communities embarked on these projects.
- Practice-focused break-out sessions for poets, literary critics and development practitioners to workshop ideas for integrating Songlines in community-based adaptation projects that involve nature-based solutions.

Assessing Nature-based Solutions on Decadal Timescales

Nature-based solutions (NbS) are increasingly championed as a means of safeguarding livelihoods in populations vulnerable to climate change hazards. They advance multiple **Sustainable Development Goals**. Monthly project monitoring and evaluation ensures that donor-agreed targets are met during the implementation phase of ecosystem-based adaptation projects. However, deterministic indicators that benchmark 2-5-year EbA projects cannot evaluate the long-term changes to livelihoods and biodiversity they hope to initiate.²

Poetic song draws on the materiality of language to represent relationships between people and place.

Curating Songlines in local dialects, in the context of NbS projects, could have at least three benefits, fostering:

- Biodiversity by valuing language diversity; the two are linked.³ Ethnographically specific, loco-descriptive language helps people notice and nurture life.
- The active, participation intrinsic to community-based adaptation.⁴
- Assessment of the long-term impact of NbS and the SDGs, by analyzing the lexicons, narratives, figurative language and poetics of Songlines crafted to chart community-based adaptation.

International Rainwater Harvesting Alliance (IRHA)

IRHA's two decades of experience in community-based adaptation guides their conviction that behavioural change and competency development are key to transformative change. Current EbA projects in Senegal and Nepal empower local communities as actors, whose management of local rainwater flows can improve their livelihoods and health; thus, potentially mitigating climate change associated hazards and biodiversity loss.⁵



¹ Beaulieu *et al.* (2008), and Villanueva (2012) *Learning to Adapt*, offer a theoretical background on outcome mapping.

² Bours *et al.* (2014). <https://ukcip.ouce.ox.ac.uk/wp-content/PDFs/MandE-Guidance-Note1.pdf>

³ Loh, J., & Harman, D. (2014). *Biocultural Diversity. Threatened Species*, Endangered Languages: Zeist: WWF Netherlands. IPBES

⁴ IPBES (2019) *Global assessment report on biodiversity and ecosystem services of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services*. E.S. Brondizio, J. Settele, S. Diaz, and H. T. Ngo (eds). IPBES secretariat, Bonn, Germany. Chapter 5, p. 96; Villanueva (2012), 39-42.

⁵ IPBES (2019), chapter 5, p. 51.