

Please read this document carefully before you start! Your homework submission should be *at least* 250 words total, addressing the questions at the bottom of the page.

Scientist Spotlight: Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim



Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim is an environmental activist and geographer from Chad. She is member of the Mbororo pastoralist community which is an indigenous community in Cameroon, Central African Republic and Chad. As a member of this indigenous community, she has been a strong advocate for environmental justice as the effect of climate change impacts the location and migration of these communities. She founded the Association for Indigenous Woman and Peoples of Chat when she was only 16 years old, which aims to introduce way for women to make money through 3D participatory mapping which can be used to manage sustainable ecosystem resources. Her goal is to increase support for both traditional knowledge and science to improve resilience to climate change especially for rural communities.

She has a variety of awards, including being recognized as top 100 woman by the [BBC](#), and by [TIME's](#) Women Leaders in Climate Change. In addition to all of this, a fun fact that she likes to share is that she is highly passionate about scuba diving, despite living in a land-locked African country.



Learn more about Hindou Ibrahim in the resources below:

- 1) Listen to this Ted talk about the intersection between indigenous science and climate change: [Hindou Oumarou Ibrahim: Indigenous knowledge meets science to take on climate change | TED Talk](#)
- 2) Learn more about her organization here: [AFPAT – Association of Indigenous Fulani Women of Chad](#)

Instructions for Written Assignment:

After reviewing these resources, write a 250 word or more reflection with your responses TO BE SUBMITTED TO Blackboard, which addresses ideas related to the following questions:

1) *What was most interesting to you in reviewing these resources?*

One of the most interesting points in the TED Talk on the intersection of Indigenous science and climate change is when Hindou Ibrahim discusses how women contribute to her culture's knowledge systems through a process called 3D participatory mapping. I also appreciated how she delves into her culture and describes the distinct roles of men and women. She explains that women aren't allowed to sit with the men and that men traditionally hold and discuss the

knowledge. During the mapping process, the men gather first to discuss and mark essential locations for their community, like water sources and other vital places. Once they've finished, they invite the women to review the map. Ibrahim explains that it's often the women who correct the men's locations. In this way, women play a crucial role by collecting and holding knowledge, while men use that knowledge to shape community plans.

2) *What did you learn from these resources about indigenous knowledge and climate change?*

I've learned new perspectives on the importance of Indigenous knowledge, especially in understanding environmental signs. For instance, observing insects can reveal whether it's going to rain. In the TED Talk, Hindou Ibrahim explains how her community looks at insect behavior like if they pack their eggs inside to predict rain. I've also learned that climate change is already impacting Ibrahim's culture and will continue to threaten their way of life if no action is taken within the next ten years.

What do these resources tell you about the types of people that do science?

These resources don't necessarily tell me anything relevant about people who do science but mainly focuses on the indigenous knowledge aspect. However, I do want to mention in the TED talk Ibrahim mentions working with the meteorologist and discussing how she knew it was going to rain without the use of technology.

3) *What new questions about indigenous knowledge do you have after reviewing these resources?*

I currently can not think of any new questions that I would have about indigenous knowledge after reviewing the material.