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Climate Change Adaptation in Rwanda through Indigenous Knowledge Practice

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ABSTRACT The research paper demonstrates the contribution of indigenous knowledge and farming practices to climate change resilience. The study involved a purposive sample of 100 indigenous knowledge holders living adjacent to the Nyungwe National Park (NNP) and Volcanoes National Park (VNP), Rwanda. The major threats to climate change included deforestation, floods, changes in volcanic activity and changes in solar radiation and the use of chemical fertilizers. The majority of local farmers (75%) perceived indigenous farming systems and practices to be effective in climate change resilience. It is cheap, relying mostly on less external inputs, local and indigenous varieties, crop residues, and cow dung and produces a significant contribution on climate change resilience and has less side effects compared to the modern farming systems and practices. It is therefore imperative to incorporate IKS into modern farming systems and practices to increase agricultural productivity without compromising on environment and nature conservation.