

## **The Role of Indigenous Knowledge in Sustainable Development: A Case Study of The Vietnam Mountain Regions**

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**ABSTRACT** Indigenous knowledge systems (IKS) in upland Vietnam are rich and greatly varied - in every aspect of development including conserving nature, health protection, farming systems, plant and animal varieties. This reflects the vast differences in physical conditions and the different needs of different local people. Such knowledge and diversity have been developed and practised over many centuries of local experiences. This paper reviews few of these vast indigenous knowledge systems in Vietnam concerning local communities' experience and knowledge in conserving nature, ensuring food security, and using medicinal plants. However, protecting and promoting indigenous knowledge are quite difficult. Indigenous knowledge systems in Vietnam are rapidly being eroded. This paper looks at the difficulties facing the conservation of Vietnam's rich indigenous knowledge and proposes several measures to mitigate these difficulties.