

SPRINGER BRIEFS IN CLIMATE STUDIES

Marie-Jeanne S. Royer

Climate,
Environment
and Cree
Observations
James Bay
Territory, Canada

 Springer

SpringerBriefs in Climate Studies

More information about this series at <http://www.springer.com/series/11581>

Marie-Jeanne S. Royer

Climate, Environment and Cree Observations

James Bay Territory, Canada

 Springer

Marie-Jeanne S. Royer
Geography and Earth Sciences (DGES)
Aberystwyth University
Aberystwyth, UK

ISSN 2213-784X
SpringerBriefs in Climate Studies
ISBN 978-3-319-25179-0
DOI 10.1007/978-3-319-25181-3

ISSN 2213-7858 (electronic)
ISBN 978-3-319-25181-3 (eBook)

Library of Congress Control Number: 2015953010

Springer Cham Heidelberg New York Dordrecht London

© The Author(s) 2016

This work is subject to copyright. All rights are reserved by the Publisher, whether the whole or part of the material is concerned, specifically the rights of translation, reprinting, reuse of illustrations, recitation, broadcasting, reproduction on microfilms or in any other physical way, and transmission or information storage and retrieval, electronic adaptation, computer software, or by similar or dissimilar methodology now known or hereafter developed.

The use of general descriptive names, registered names, trademarks, service marks, etc. in this publication does not imply, even in the absence of a specific statement, that such names are exempt from the relevant protective laws and regulations and therefore free for general use.

The publisher, the authors and the editors are safe to assume that the advice and information in this book are believed to be true and accurate at the date of publication. Neither the publisher nor the authors or the editors give a warranty, express or implied, with respect to the material contained herein or for any errors or omissions that may have been made.

Printed on acid-free paper

Springer International Publishing AG Switzerland is part of Springer Science+Business Media (www.springer.com)

Preface

The contents of this book are a reworking of my doctoral thesis which was completed in 2012. Writing this book presented an opportunity to translate and condense the results, making it more accessible to the communities who participated in the research.

The contents of this book explore changes that have been observed by the Cree and that appear in scientific data on the territory of the James Bay. The idea of combining these two types of data streams was the driving force behind the original project.

Acknowledgments

None of this research would have been possible without the enthusiastic members of the Cree Trappers Association and the Eeyou Itschee's community at large. More particularly I wish to thank Rick Cuciurean, Thomas Coon and Fred Tomatuk for their warm welcome and dedication to the subjects of traditional ecological knowledge and climate change. I also wish to thank Marc Girard for the great map which graces the inside of this book. And finally a big thank you to my friends and family who read and reread these chapters to polish them up.

Contents

1	Introduction	1
	References	4
2	Climate Change and Traditional Ecological Knowledge	7
2.1	Why Climate Change?	7
2.2	Why Is There All This Interest in Climate Change?	8
2.3	What Exactly Is Climate Change?	10
2.4	Are These Projections Reliable?	12
2.5	Climate Change, Adaptation and Vulnerable Spaces	13
2.6	What Is Traditional Ecological Knowledge?	15
2.7	TEK and Biodiversity	17
2.8	Combining TEK and Scientific Knowledge	20
	References	24
3	Eastern James Bay and the Cree	35
3.1	The Eastern James Bay	35
3.1.1	Borders and Administration	35
3.1.2	Conventions and Agreements	36
3.1.3	Development Projects	41
3.1.4	The Physical Environment	44
3.2	The Cree of the Eastern James Bay	46
3.2.1	Eeyou Istchee	46
3.2.2	The Communities	48
3.2.3	Traditional Subsistence Activities	51
	References	55
4	Traditional Subsistence Activities and Change	63
4.1	Methodology	63
4.1.1	A Case Study in Ethnoecology	63
4.1.2	Data Sources and Collection	64
4.1.3	Questionnaires	65