Eco Soul: Can Spirituality Boost Ecosystem Restoration Initiatives?

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What this research is about
There is a new kid in town. Spiritual Ecology is here to enrich our knowledge about the way humans relate to the natural environment. This new frontier in research can help building interdisciplinary connections between the Social and Natural Sciences with the goal to protect socio-cultural and ecological wealth.

What is the plan?
- The research project is in its early stages, with a preliminary literature review done.
- Current guiding questions relate to what the perception and implementation are about cloning as a strategy for ecosystem restoration while promoting spiritual values and the traditional use of medicinal plants in Indigenous Communities.
- This is a collaborative project including U of Guelph, GRIPP (Gosling Research Institute for Plant Preservation) and the Six Nations in Southern Ontario.

What do you think?
Let me know!
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What we know so far
- Due to globalization, cloned plants have translocated rapidly across the world (1). This has made native and non-native species “mingle” in the collective knowledge of human societies.
- The translocation of plant species has affected the sense of place and cultural identity among traditional societies (2).
- Australia has led the research on socio-cultural aspects on the relationships between Indigenous Peoples and plant technology (3).
- Indigenous thinking towards cloned plants is not well known, but preliminary evidence indicates that there is a range of attitudes leaning towards rejection of sacredness carried by the clones.

What you need to know
This is the first research project in Ontario to explore ideas of Indigenous spirituality and technology acceptance focusing on native medicinal plants, cloning and ecosystem restoration.

References:

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