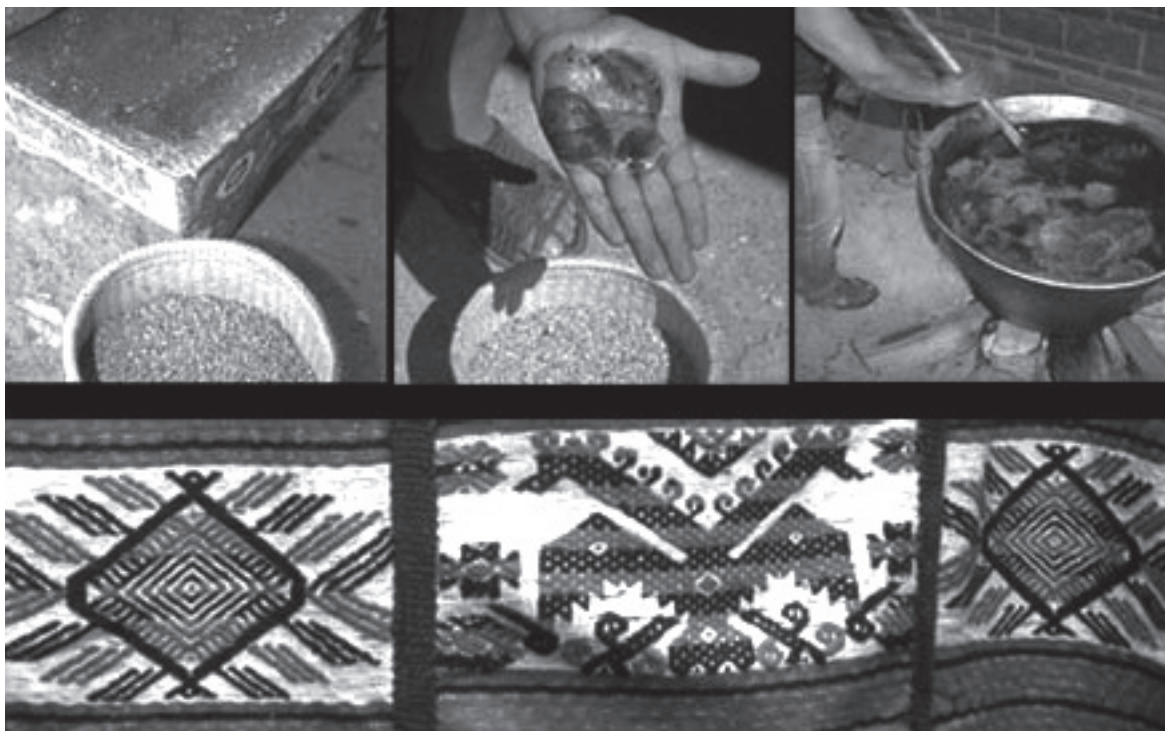


Traditional knowledge



In the course of history, human populations have developed sophisticated knowledge about their environment, the flora and fauna and the use of various species. This experience was acquired over thousands of years and is known as **traditional ecological knowledge**. It is closely tied to language, oral traditions and beliefs of each population. The transmission of this knowledge is done through beliefs, social attitudes, principles and conventions of behaviour and practices developed through experience.

a great variety of languages. In Mexico to date, there are 11 language families, 68 language groups and 364 variants.

80
indigenous
peoples

364
language
variations

In Mexico, traditional ecological knowledge is crucial because there are some 80 different indigenous groups (12.4 million Mexicans) with

1,330
useful
species

3,000
products

In the tropical rainforest alone, around 1330 plant species useful to the indigenous people have been documented, from which are obtained over 3000 products, including medicines, food, construction materials, timber, fodder, fibre, fuel, etc.