



Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals



Tribal Wellbeing for Seven Generations Program Newsletter

October 2025

Welcome to our monthly newsletter which provides news items, resources, announcements about funding opportunities, conferences, and training, and other information relevant to tribal climate change issues.



Photo credit: Elton Cooley

Meet the Team

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Photo: Kelsey Jensen

In the Diné way, the clan system is matrilineal which means the clans are passed down through the mothers. My siblings and I have the same four clans acknowledging our mother and grandmothers. My children have the clans of our matriarchs including their grandmothers. We are born of clans who were destined to lead, guide, support and care for their people. Some of us are in leadership positions and stationed at the front or in the lead, and some of us are walking alongside others. I often think about those elected or placed into leadership positions and some people are more visible than others. I guess with high level positions, people tend to be visible in the community and media.

I like to reflect on my personal and professional life and am grateful for the experiences and opportunities that have come my way. I have always enjoyed interacting with people and find it easier to do it than others who may find it overwhelming and stressful. That doesn't mean I dread it sometimes, but I try to keep my social engagements meaningful. I want to ensure my energy is well spent and I am not left regretful. And what I mean by that is I do not engage with those who are not willing to hear my opinions, stories or experiences without interruption or criticism. I appreciate constructive feedback that provide learning opportunities rather than judgement. I try to be thoughtful, patient, kind and reciprocal because that is how I would want to be treated. I am also honest enough with myself to know that not everyone will return in kind and may want to argue to get their point across.

In our work we are tasked with caring for our earth and non-human relatives. It is not easy work but can be enjoyable, rewarding and inspiring. My clan relatives have continued to teach me that we, as the five fingered beings, must be leaders in caring for the earth, sky and waters. My clans honor our non-human relatives, and I have looked to their teachings to help me move forward each day. For example, my maternal grandfathers are from the Water that Flows Together People, and has led me to becoming a river guide, and someone who speaks for the protection of our waters.

Every one of us are leaders. We may not have the loudest voices, but our strength shows in our expertise, knowledges, efforts, determination and reciprocity. Some of us have yet to acknowledge that is who we are, and there are some of us who have run to the podium and are quickly taking the reins. My elders have told me that I would be a leader but that I would have to figure out how I wanted to lead. I am still figuring it out but at the same time, I am taking the reins and saying yes, I can help lead. Recently, I was appointed the sole director of ITEP while my former co-director was assigned to be the Associate Vice President for the Office of Native American and Indigenous Advancement. Although it is a one-year assignment, we are excited to continue our work in working with Tribes. In accepting the role of Director, I am honoring my ancestors who survived so I could be here to continue their work and life they prayed for.

With gratitude and respect, on behalf of the [Tribal Wellbeing for Seven Generations Program \(TW7G\)](#), Nikki Cooley



YOUR TRUSTED TRIBAL RESOURCE HAS A NEW HOME!

CHECK OUT ITEP'S NEW WEBSITE AT
ITEP.NAU.EDU

This website is not just a digital upgrade—it's a renewed commitment to empowering Tribal communities with the tools and knowledge they need to protect their lands, cultures, and futures.

— ITEP Director, Nikki Cooley, Diné

In The News

[A tribe in Arizona planned to connect 600 homes to electricity. Then the funding was cut](#)

For as long as 55-year-old Hopi Chairman Tim Nuvangyaoma has been alive, high-voltage power lines have cut across Hopi lands in northeast Arizona, carrying vast amounts of power long distances throughout the Southwest. But residents of the Hopi Reservation have never been connected to that grid. Instead, tribal members have relied on a single power line that runs roughly 30 miles east and west across high desert punctuated by three distinctive mesas, home to 12 distinct villages, including some of the oldest inhabited communities in the United States. © NPR, 10/07/25

[On Wind River Reservation, a buffalo harvest for young and old](#)

The shot rang out, and the buffalo collapsed on a slope of silvery green sagebrush still damp from the previous night's rain. The rest of the herd, in a field below, startled and then began milling. The lumbering animals slowly organized, moving toward the fallen bull. They surrounded the body, nudging and prodding it as if they were urging the bull to stand back up and join them. "This is the most heartfelt part," Jackie White, Food Bank of Wyoming's tribal relations specialist and a member of the Northern Arapaho Tribe, said from her vantage point in a nearby truck. © WyoFile, 10/08/25

[How Tribal Nations Are Charging Ahead with Electric School Buses](#)

"The kids love it!" exclaimed Katie Tiger, the electric school bus project manager for school transportation fleet operator Cherokee Boys Club. What started as a single pilot, when the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians' deployed its first electric school bus in 2022 has become a transportation transformation. Now, three years later, Cherokee Central Schools in North Carolina is on track to have a fully electrified fleet by the end of the year, which will give all its students a clean and quiet ride. © World Resources Institute, 10/08/25

[Standing In The Good Sky: His Ojibwe name inspires young Indigenous leader](#)

Bazile Minogizhigaabo Panek is a proud member of the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa. Growing up in the northernmost

reaches of Wisconsin, Panek reveled in nature. "I was highly immersed in the culture and the ceremony thanks to my parents, and I like to recognize them for that," he says. Bazile came to recognize the importance of his people's traditional ecological knowledge and of honoring his ancestors. "The relationship we have to the environment is within the language. The idea of animacy, that referring to trees, animals and even rocks as living beings provide a different way of understanding them — a greater respect. © WUWM NPR, 10/10/25

[Colorado River Indian Tribes may grant personhood rights to 'living' river](#)

The Colorado River Indian Tribes may soon become the third Indigenous government in North America to grant personhood rights to a river. 'Aha Kwahwat, or the Colorado River, has been at the heart of Mojave culture and history for millennia. The river is also critically important to the other three cultures that make up the Colorado River Indian Tribes: the Chemehuevi, whose ancestral lands lie to the northwest of CRIT's lands, Navajo and Hopi who moved to the area in the 1940s. "All of the four tribes are connected to water, connected to the river," said CRIT Chairwoman Amelia Flores. "It means life for all tribal members. It's a living body of water." © AZ Central, 10/08/25

[Quannah ChasingHorse Says The Colorado River's Survival Is About More Than Water](#)

The Colorado River's uncertain future is the focus of the new nature documentary "The American Southwest." Stunningly captured by director Ben Masters with narration from model and climate justice advocate [Quannah ChasingHorse](#), the film debuted in theaters on Sept. 5 and hits major streaming platforms Friday. "The American Southwest" highlights the abundance of life in the 1,450-mile-long waterway — including elk, trout, salmon, condors, Mojave rattlesnakes and jaguars — while revealing what stands to be lost if the river isn't protected. © Huffpost, 10/10/25

[What we know about the devastating storm in Western Alaska](#)

In the late night hours of Oct. 11, the remnant of Typhoon Halong slammed

Alaska's southwest coast, bringing hurricane-force winds and record flooding to numerous Alaska Native villages on the coast. Evacuees and rescuers describe massive destruction: utility poles snapped in half, boardwalks — the roads and sidewalks in many tundra villages — uprooted, houses floated off their foundations, some with families still inside. According to the state, more than a thousand people are displaced — some have no home to return to. NPR, 10/17/25

[5 Indigenous Takeaways From NYC Climate Week](#)

NYC Climate Week 2025 served as a reminder that Mother Earth cannot wait for bureaucracy to protect her. As we navigate democratic backsliding in the so-called United States, we continue our efforts to defend our homelands across Turtle Island against extractive industries, including fossil fuels, artificial intelligence, and hypermilitarization. Our team on the ground at Climate Week met with dozens of relatives from around the world as well as accomplices to keep Indigenous-led solutions at the forefront of these conversations. These discussions around coalition building, resource channels, visibility, and the need for ongoing support of climate organizations, provided insight for the road ahead. © NDN Collective, 10/12/25

[Anchorage groups look for donations of traditional Alaska Native foods for displaced Halong victims](#)

The Alaska Native Heritage Center has teamed up with the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium to collect traditional Alaska Native foods for villagers who have been displaced by flooding brought on by ex-Typhoon Halong in Western Alaska. "We are asking our community to donate traditional Alaska Native foods, whether that's to the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium or to the Alaska Native Heritage Center," Heritage Center CEO Kelsey Wallace said. "The foods that are donated will get directly into the hands — and the bellies — of our relatives here in Anchorage." © Alaska's News Source, 10/23/25

Resources

Call for Input: [Roadless Rule Tribal Hub](#)

The Roadless Rule Tribal Hub is an informational platform created in partnership between Against the Current Consulting, The Wilderness Society, and collaborating Tribal organizations. Although the public comment period for the Roadless Rule rescission ended September 19, federal tribal consultation requirements provide for extended engagement beyond this date. The current 21-day timeline does not meet federal standards requiring 30 days' advance notice plus 30 days post-consultation for written comments. **Deadline: November 19, 2025 and beyond until meaningful consultation occurs**

[Water Year 2025 Impacts Survey](#)

Now that water year 2025 is complete, we want to hear from you! How was the Pacific Northwest (Washington, Oregon, and Idaho) impacted? We encourage you to fill out the Water Year 2025 Impacts Survey. The goal of this survey is to gather information about impacts and response actions that were implemented during the 2025 water year (October 1, 2024 - September 30, 2025) due to either abnormally dry or abnormally wet conditions. We welcome reports of impacts from those working in the drinking water, agriculture, forestry, fisheries, hydropower, recreation, and stormwater sectors, as well as tribal, local, state, and federal agency staff that work with these sectors. The anonymous survey should take about 15-20 minutes to complete and your responses are vital for informing the PNW Water Year Impacts Assessment. **Deadline: November 26, 2025.**

[Call for Abstracts: Native American Fish & Wildlife Society 2026 Annual National Conference](#)

The Native American Fish & Wildlife Society is now accepting abstracts for presentations at the 2026 National Conference, taking place May 4–7, 2026, at the Turning Stone Resort Casino in Verona, NY. Hosted by the Oneida Indian Nation of New York, this annual gathering brings together Tribal natural resource professionals from across the country for four days of learning, collaboration, and connection. We're sharing the call early so you can plan ahead—submit your presentation ideas, secure travel, and get ready to join us for this important national event. **Deadline: March 6, 2026**

[Who's Driving This Bus? A Culturally and Legally Informed Approach for Electrifying Student Transportation in Indian Country](#)

This working paper bridges critical knowledge gaps for school bus electrification stakeholders in order to work with Tribal Nations and Native communities by examining how Tribal history, laws, structures, and cultures influence electric vehicle transitions within modern Native education and transportation systems, while providing concrete measures to overcome the complex electric school bus deployment challenges facing Tribes. This working paper bridges critical knowledge gaps for school bus electrification stakeholders in order to work with Tribal Nations and Native communities by examining how Tribal history, laws, structures, and cultures influence electric vehicle transitions within modern Native education and transportation systems, while providing concrete measures to overcome the complex electric school bus deployment challenges facing Tribes. (10/6/25)

[Broken Trust — President Trump's Proposed FY 2026 Budget and Tribal Water](#)

Although obviously subject to Congressional appropriations, the President's proposed budget is important in its demonstration of this Administration's lack of concern about upholding federal Treaty and Trust responsibilities and supporting Tribal water needs. The ongoing federal shutdown has further delayed agency operations and grant disbursements, compounding uncertainty for Tribal governments and stalling planning, contracting, and project implementation at a time when reliable water access remains

critical. The report provides a detailed, program-by-program analysis across four different federal agencies outlining where the proposed cuts would hit hardest and how they would undermine the progress made and intended through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act. It also highlights the broader implications for Tribal communities and offers recommendations for congressional action to uphold the federal government's obligations to Tribal Nations. (October 2025)

[Launching the Conservation Capacity Project](#)

We are committed to serving U.S.-based conservation 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations. This includes those advocating for oceans, clean water and local watersheds, urban green space, wildlife habitat, Indigenous-led conservation, public parks and working lands, or those connecting youth, veterans, rural, and historically excluded communities to the outdoors. Conservation Capacity Project provides access to public education and pro-bono, tailored support to enable non-profit organizations to rapidly and strategically respond to immediate challenges and strengthen the health of their organizations. Support includes webinars and one-on-one coaching with experts, many of which have specific expertise in the conservation field, to help strengthen organizational infrastructure such as crisis communications, cybersecurity, financial planning, fundraising, HR, and more.

[The government shutdown shows the need to reform how the federal government funds Native American Tribes and communities](#)

While the effects of the federal government's ongoing shutdown will be widespread, it will have a particularly damaging impact on Native American Tribes and people. The federal government maintains trust and treaty obligations to Tribal Nations, citizens, and communities that are distinct from its relationships with other groups in the United States. In exchange for the lands and natural resources that now encompass the United States, the federal government entered into treaties and passed numerous laws, which court decisions have affirmed, that obligate it to provide certain funding and services to Tribal Nations, citizens, and communities. These obligations include supporting Native Americans' health, education, land rights, natural resources, and economic well-being, among other areas. (10/28/25)

[Historic Preservation & Cultural Resources Mutual Aid Network](#)

The Historic Preservation and Cultural Resources Mutual Aid Network was created by preservation advocates to offer a simple way for people in our community to ask others for assistance with historic preservation and cultural resources employment, emotional, and financial needs. Whether you're currently employed anticipating a layoff or reduction in force, underemployed due to decreasing workloads, a student facing a tough job market, or others facing similar challenges, please feel free to share your story and ask for whatever help you need. This platform connects people needing networking, job searching, and financial assistance with those who can help.

[Experts, not Obstacles: Indigenous Conservation Excellence and the Trap of Conservation at any Cost](#)

Harvard Kennedy School researchers release global scoping review finding Indigenous conservation practices achieve equal or superior results in biodiversity protection, wildfire management and sustainable management of natural resources. A new paper from a research team at the Harvard Kennedy School explores Indigenous conservation practices, finding that Indigenous peoples are achieving equal or superior conservation outcomes across the globe and calling on policymakers, funders, and conservation leaders to support Indigenous-led stewardship as a key strategy to combat biodiversity loss and climate change. (09/30/25)

Job & Internship Opportunities

Indigenous Agroforestry Network Contractor

The contractor will lead planning and coordination of the Indigenous Agroforestry Network events and communications. You are supported by an existing, cross-programmatic Indigenous Agroforestry Network team, an engaged steering committee of external project partners, and key partners. The primary responsibility of this role will be to provide event planning and coordination support for the 2026 Indigenous Agroforestry Network Gathering. **Application deadline: November 2, 2025**

Summer 2026 Internship- ITEP's Tribal Wellbeing for Seven Generations Program

Applications are now open for Host Sites in the ITEP Tribal Wellbeing for Seven Generations Program. We are honored to partner with organizations across Mother Earth who are leading efforts to protect and uplift our human and non-human relatives. Host sites will develop a project work plan focused on resilience, which may include community outreach and engagement, research and interviews, implementation of resilience actions, transformative art projects, and more. Internships are 10 weeks at 40 hours per week and can be in-person, hybrid, or virtual. For questions, please contact kim.shaw@nau.edu **Applications deadline: November 21, 2025.**

2026 Truman D. Picard Scholarship Application

Sponsored by the Intertribal Timber Council. Dedicated to the support of Native American students pursuing a higher education in Natural Resources, Forestry, and Fire. The Truman D. Picard Scholarship Program is dedicated to supporting Native American students pursuing higher education in Natural Resources. Preference will be given to students whose degree or area of study directly involves management of Forest Resources or Fire. **Application deadline: March 20, 2026**

Program Manager - SWCASC

Arizona Institute for Resilience (AIR) at the University of Arizona is in search of a Program Manager. The SW Climate Adaptation Science Center (SWCASC) is a USGS funded federal university partnership, hosted at the University of Arizona with seven university partners. Our mission is to develop actionable science and implementable climate adaptation solutions. We seek a Program Manager to support the daily business operations, planning and communications functions within our university and across the network of seven research teams. Natural and cultural resource managers within the region of AZ, CA, NV and UT are stakeholders who we engage with through trainings, webinars, collaborative programs and in-person events.

Application deadline: open until filled

Sustainable Building Apprentice - Red Cloud Renewables

Join our dynamic team as a Sustainable Building Apprentice and gain hands-on experience in sustainable construction practices and building efficiency. This comprehensive 9-week program is designed to equip apprentices with essential skills and knowledge in the growing field of sustainable building. Apprentices will receive tools necessary for their trade at the end of the program. Mentorship and practical training in real-world scenarios. Opportunity for career growth in sustainable construction and building management. To apply contact Dylan@redcloudrenewable.org or call (605) 923-8326. **Application deadline: ASAP**

Public Lands Program Manager

Conserve Southwest Utah is seeking a dedicated conservation

leader who is passionate about inspiring others and leading grassroots environmental change. We welcome candidates who have recently completed their education and are eager to jumpstart their conservation careers, as well as professionals seeking to transition from other fields. This position will focus on protecting local public lands and engaging community voices in the conservation of these lands. Start date: No later than January 12th, 2026. **Application deadline: ASAP**

Biologist II- Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

This position will be primarily field-based and focused on the restoration and the research, monitoring, and evaluation of the enhancement of Pacific Lamprey as well as their habitats in the John Day, Umatilla, Walla Walla, Tucannon, Grande Ronde and Imnaha river basins. The position will utilize principles of fishery science, population dynamics, statistics, sampling theory, and experimental design while functioning in this position. Biologist II will work in both field and office settings to carry out assigned projects including data collection, analysis, reporting and the presentation of project findings. **Application deadline: ASAP**

Climate Adaptation Project Manager II, Networking and Knowledge Sharing – ANTHC Climate Initiatives

The Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) Climate Initiatives department is recruiting a motivated, organized leader who thrives by connecting people. This is an opportunity to join a dynamic team that is creating change from the local to national levels. This new position will support planning, developing, coordinating, and overseeing the activities of the networking and knowledge sharing branch. Duties include developing and leading a climate adaptation community of practice, gathering and disseminating information on current and planned climate adaptation activities statewide, coordinating peer-to-peer learning opportunities with Tribal communities, social network analysis, and publishing the CETC monthly newsletter. Apply by contacting: hrrcruiting@anthc.org. **Application deadline: ASAP**

Engagement and Communications Apprentice- Climate Science Alliance

The Engagement and Communications Apprentice (Apprentice) works collaboratively with a diverse set of partners to coordinate events and communications focused on advancing climate resilience, capacity building, and community outreach. Working closely with the Director of Education and Engagement, Director of Communications, and the Convene Program Manager, this position provides programmatic and administrative support for Climate Science Alliance education initiatives, community events, and general communications. The Apprentice assists staff in a wide variety of projects, events, and outreach activities. **Application deadline: ASAP**

Kurt Grinnell Aquaculture Scholarship Foundation (KGASF)

The Kurt Grinnell Aquaculture Scholarship Foundation is actively soliciting scholarship applications at this time. To qualify, students or prospective students must be: 1) an enrolled Member of a Tribe or First Nation, or a Member of a Metis, Inuit, Alaska or Hawaiian Native group; and 2) be enrolled to study at a university, community college or a technical or trade institution. In addition, students should be pursuing or planning to pursue a degree or certificate focused on: aquaculture; fisheries; natural resource management; or a field closely related to the above subjects, and must have a demonstrated interest in aquaculture. **Application deadline: accepted anytime of the year**

Funding Opportunities



Additional Sources for More Opportunities:

1) More Funding Opportunities can be found at the Tribes & Climate Change website: <https://itep.nau.edu/>

2) Tribal Climate Change Guide maintained by the Pacific Northwest Tribal Climate Change Project at the University of Oregon: <http://tribalclimateguide.uoregon.edu/>

3) Searchable database of all discretionary grants offered by the 26 federal grant-making agencies. <https://www.grants.gov/applicants/>

4) Tribal Funding Registry Presented by: The Hozhonigo Institute <https://www.tribalfunding.org/>

FY 2026 Farm to School Grant Program

The objective of the fiscal year (FY) 2026 Farm to School Grant is to improve access to local foods in eligible Child Nutrition Program sites through comprehensive farm to CNP programming that includes local sourcing and agricultural education efforts. These grants are expected to improve child health and nutrition and reinvigorate American agriculture by better connecting American farmers and producers with USDA's Child Nutrition Programs. **Application deadline: December 5, 2025**

Region 3 Fiscal Year 2025 Wetland Program Development Grants

Wetland Program Development Grants (WPDGs) assist state, Tribal, territory (Insular Areas), local government agencies, and interstate or intertribal entities in developing or refining state, Tribal, territory or local programs which protect, manage and restore wetlands. The goals of the EPA's wetland program include increasing the quantity and quality of wetlands in the U.S. by conserving and restoring wetland acreage and improving wetland conditions. **Application deadline: November 13, 2025**

Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grants for Tribes and Intertribal Consortia

The Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling

(SWIFR) grant program will assist local waste management authorities by supporting improvements to local post-consumer materials management, including municipal recycling programs, and assisting local waste management authorities in making improvements to local waste management systems. Consistent with the authorizing statute in Section 302(a) of the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act, SWIFR will support an economy that uses a systems-focused approach and involves industrial processes and economic activities that are restorative or regenerative by design, enables resources used in such processes and activities to maintain their highest value for as long as possible, and aims for the elimination of waste through the superior design of materials, products, and systems (including business models). **Application deadline: December 12, 2025**

Senate Bill 1 Sea Level Rise (SLR) Tribal Cultural Resources Funding Program

The purpose of the SLR Tribal Cultural Resources Funding Program is to provide funding for tribes to assess and plan for the impacts of SLR on their ancestral lands, cultural sites, lifeways, and resources in a manner that is beneficial to the tribe. This program is an alternative and more flexible funding pathway within OPC's broader SB 1 Grant Program. Eligible project types include both pre-planning activities (community visioning, education and outreach, data collection, and vulnerability assessments) and planning activities (setting adaptation priorities and developing culturally appropriate strategies to preserve and protect tribal cultural resources threatened by existing coastal hazards or future impacts of SLR). Next round due: January 6, 2026

Indian Housing Block Grant Competitive Program (IHBG-COMP) for FY2025

The Indian Housing Block Grant Competitive Program (IHBG-COMP) provides competitive grant opportunities to eligible IHBG formula recipients under the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA) to carry out eligible affordable housing activities for the benefit of low-income Tribal families. **Application deadline: January 15, 2026**

Fiscal Year 2024 Flood Mitigation Assistance Swift Current

Fiscal Year 2024 Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) Swift Current aims to better align the delivery of FMA flood mitigation funding to the disaster survivor experience. The purpose of FMA Swift Current is to reduce or

eliminate the flood risk to NFIP-participating communities and repetitive flood damage to structures and buildings insured by the NFIP following a flood-related disaster event, and to enhance community flood resilience within NFIP-participating communities. It does so by providing funding for mitigation opportunities immediately after a flood disaster event with the aim of delivering mitigation outcomes. **Application deadline: January 15, 2025**

Fire Science Innovations through Research and Education

Focus area 2: Enhancing Capacity for Fire Resilience in the Wildland-Urban Interface (FIRE-WUI); Considering impacts of wildland fire at the WUI in the context of global change, including demographics, ecosystems, land use and development, FIRE-WUI awards will support research that may for example: Inform community adaptation and governance relevant to wildland fire. **Application deadline: February 10, 2026**

Emergency Community Water Assistance Grants

USDA is accepting applications on a rolling basis for up to \$1M for projects that help eligible communities (including Federally recognized Tribes) prepare, or recover from, an emergency that threatens the availability of safe, reliable drinking water. Projects may include: Constructing water transmission line or extension; Repairing breaks or leaks in existing water distribution line; Addressing related maintenance necessary to replenish the water supply; Construction of new wells, reservoirs, transmission lines, treatment plants, and/or other sources of water (water source up to and including the treatment plant). **Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis**

Calendar Year 2022 Disaster Water Grants

The CY 2022 Disaster Water Grants Program is designed to assist communities by awarding grant funds to qualified entities for expenses related to water infrastructure systems in designated areas that were impacted by events that occurred during CY 2022 and were recognized through Presidentially Declared Disasters. In addition to damage repairs, these grants are also intended to develop system capacity and resiliency in order to reduce or eliminate long-term risks from future events. Water infrastructure systems include drinking water, wastewater, solid waste, and stormwater projects serving eligible communities. **Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis**

Upcoming Events

NOTE: Updated info on events can be found at the Tribes & Climate Change website:

<http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/tcc/Home/Events>

Webinar Series: September-December 2025

Tribal Green Transportation Training Series Session

4 part webinar series will provide a solid foundation about the latest trends in electric vehicles and EV charging infrastructure. Build your capacity for action while gaining support from technical experts. Collaborate with other Tribes across the PNW interested in transportation electrification (TE) planning that also leads to economic development opportunities.

- [Nov 19, 2025 - 1:00 PM](#) - Session 3: Charging and Infrastructure
- [Dec 10, 2025 - 1:00 PM](#) - Session 4: Workforce and Economic Development, How to Keep It Going

November

Summit: November 4, Pala Casino, CA

Tribal Climate & Health Adaptation Summit

Guided by the theme “Realities of Tribal Climate Disaster Resilience,” the Summit will focus on arming Tribal-serving professionals with the knowledge and skills needed to prepare for and act during climate change-related emergencies – such as extreme temperatures, wildfires, and storms – that may affect the Tribes they serve.

Summit: November 4-6, San Francisco, CA

Economic Futures Summit

You are invited to the inaugural Economic Futures Summit—a first-of-its-kind, Indigenous-led gathering to galvanize sustainability solutions and create new pathways for evolving the economy and confronting the climate and nature crises. Hosted in-person on Turtle Island (North America) and open to participants from around the globe, this 2.5-day summit will convene 400 Indigenous and non-Indigenous practitioners, investors, academics, thought-leaders and policymakers in climate, conservation and sustainability.

Conference: November 5-6, Deadwood, SD

Great Plains Tribal Water Alliance Annual Conference

This gathering will bring together Tribal leaders, elders, knowledge keepers, youth, and partners to share strategies, strengthen connections, and build

pathways for climate and water resilience that honor cultural values and protect future generations.

December

Conference: December 9-10, Virtual **Invasive Species and Climate Change**

The second International Invasive Species and Climate Change Conference is being organized by the Regional Invasive Species and Climate Change (RISCC) Network and hosted by the North American Invasive Species Management Association (NAISMA). The 1st IISCCC (January 2024) was a smashing success with nearly 1300 attendees from >20 countries and 6 continents. This conference is VIRTUAL allowing for more international attendance while reducing our carbon footprint.

Webinar: December 10, Virtual **Tribal Green Transportation Training Series Session**

Join our Tribal Green Transportation Training Series on Change Management and Transportation Electrification (TE) Planning! This 4-part webinar series will help Tribes explore the economic and environmental benefits of electric vehicles and EV infrastructure. Learn about the latest trends, gain technical support, and connect with other Tribes across the PNW advancing TE planning and economic development.

March

Workshop: March 4-6, Skamania Lodge, Stevenson, WA **Fire Adaption Workshop- Oregon State University**

Join Oregon State University, the Fire Adapted Communities Network and partners for an engaging workshop to transform how we adapt and coexist with wildfire in light of dynamic ecological, social and economic challenges. As new fire policies and adaptation strategies have grown across the Northwest, it is essential that we work together to learn, share and craft actionable visions. The workshop will be a space that honors wildfire adaptation as a collective and long-term journey involving diverse voices, generations, roles and experiences.

April

Summit: April 11-12, Tucson, AZ **U.S. Indigenous Data Sovereignty & Governance Summit 2026**

SUBMIT A PROPOSAL! The U.S. Indigenous Data Sovereignty Network invites Tribal and Indigenous leaders, Indigenous community programs, Indigenous data-focused scholars, policy experts, and other data actors and practitioners to submit a proposal for the 2026 Summit, “Coming Home: Indigenous Data Governance By Us For Us.” Deadline: October 30, 2025

Forum: April 15-17, San Antonio, TX

2026 South Central Climate Resilience Forum

The Forum will bring together representatives from non-profit organizations, all levels of government, community groups, the private sector, and academia from Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Texas. The goals of the event are to improve understanding of the climate-related challenges facing the region and increase awareness of work that is being done to enhance resilience in the region. The program will include presentations, symposiums, and workshops on resources, research, tools, knowledge, and experiences, and will provide opportunities for information exchange and network-building.

May

Forum: May 12-14, Pittsburgh, PA **7th National Adaptation Forum**

The National Adaptation Forum is a biennial convening for adaptation professionals to innovate, network, and focus on established and emerging climate adaptation issues of the day. The Forum provides opportunities for professional development through training sessions, facilitated presentations and panels, and formal and informal networking sessions. At its core, the Forum is cross-disciplinary, bringing together practitioners from a variety of sectors, spanning natural, built, and social systems. Participants include representatives from governments (local, state, federal and tribal), nonprofit organizations, corporate sector and universities.

International Indigenous News & Resources

In the News

[What would an Indigenous Law of the Sea look like?](#)

The Law of the Sea typically refers to international law described in a 1982 United Nations Convention that governs what states can and can't do in the ocean, and it serves as the basis for modern-day international law governing the ocean. The newly ratified "high seas treaty" creating a framework for ocean conservation builds upon the foundation set by the Law of the Sea. But like other U.N. treaties, only recognized states were able to sign onto that law, and not Indigenous peoples like Gíidaak's. The U.N. system prioritizes the perspectives and voices of governments that are internationally recognized, which makes it difficult for Indigenous peoples who have lost their lands and political independence to ensure their concerns are considered. ©Grist, 09/25/2025

[Indigenous leaders gather at the IUCN Indigenous Peoples and Nature Summit](#)

More than 100 Indigenous leaders from across the world are gathering at the global Indigenous peoples' summit at the IUCN World Conservation Congress that begins Oct. 8 in Abu Dhabi. The summit aims to set priorities and commitments for the broader conservation community, highlighting Indigenous peoples' effective participation in environmental negotiations, leadership and action. IUCN director-general Grethel Aguilar told Mongabay by email that the summit provides opportunities for direct engagement with stakeholders and donors at the local, national and international levels, which will help strengthen investments in Indigenous leadership, knowledge and conservation practices. "The summit is an affirmation that Indigenous peoples are not peripheral stakeholders, but rightful stewards of life on Earth." ©Mongabay, October 8, 2025

[Indigenous monitoring project helps protect isolated peoples in Colombia's Amazon](#)

Indigenous communities neighboring the peoples living in isolation in Colombian Amazon have spent more than a decade helping the latter remain separate from the outside world. Members of the Curare-Los Ingleses Indigenous Reserve and of the community of Manacaro use traditional knowledge and technology alike to monitor threats to their territory and to protect nearby communities living in isolation. ©Mongabay, October 16, 2025

[COP30 urged to link climate justice with reparations for historical crimes](#)

Hundreds of environmental and human rights groups and activists have penned a letter urging the upcoming UN climate conference, COP30, in Brazil to place justice and reparations for people unfairly affected by the climate crisis, colonialism and slavery at the centre of talks. The signatories, which include Brazil's Instituto Luiz Gama and the Caribbean Pan African Network (CPAN), urged organisers on Friday to "centre the voices of Africans, people of African descent and Indigenous Peoples" at the upcoming meeting in Maloca, in the Brazilian Amazon, from November 10 to 21 this year. ©AlJazeera, September 27, 2025

[Global Conservation body backs genetically modified wildlife over Indigenous opposition](#)

This week, members of the International Union of Conservation of Nature, one of the world's largest

conservation groups, voted against a moratorium on the release of genetically engineered species into the wild to assist in conservation efforts and in favor of the use of synthetic biology, the technology used to alter or "edit" genetic material in living cells. The two motions have drawn intense criticism from Indigenous-led groups and international organizations focused on agriculture, beekeeping, conservation, and biodiversity, which lobbied the International Union of Conservation of Nature, or IUCN, to impose the moratorium. A related motion, which would green light the use of synthetic biology for research, was approved in a vote. ©Grist, October 17, 2025

Call for Input & Nominations

[Call for Case Studies: Global Indigenous Peoples' Climate Contributions](#)

ELATIA network and Indigenous Livelihood Enhancement Partners (ILEPA), in partnership with the UN High-level Champion for COP28, Razan Al Mubarak, and with support from the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund, are pleased to announce the call for case study submissions for the global data study on Indigenous Peoples and climate change. The Study emphasizes a rights- and responsibilities-based approach, highlighting Indigenous Peoples as agents of change in climate action at local, regional, national, and international levels. It will focus on case studies from the seven socio-cultural regions of Indigenous Peoples: Africa, Asia-Pacific, Arctic, North America, Latin America and the Caribbean, Central and Eastern Europe, and the Russian Federation, illustrating their contributions to climate ambition, mitigation, adaptation, and trends in access to climate finance. **Deadline to Submit: ASAP**

[Call for Inputs: Report of the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights on "Nature conservation and cultural rights"](#)

The Special Rapporteur intends to explore synergies and challenges in ensuring both cultural rights and the conservation of nature at the same time. She intends to clarify how cultural rights – protecting identities, values and ways of life – are important to the field of nature conservation and vice versa. The study will zoom in the sections of the population whose cultural rights are particularly affected by conservation practices; and will assess the work of the main stakeholders in this field.

Deadline to Submit: November 15, 2025

[Call for Inputs: Study of the Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development on "Artificial Intelligence, Cultural Rights, and the Right to Development"](#)

In light of evolving global dynamics affecting human rights, particularly those linked to rapid technological change, this study will specifically explore the implications, both positive and negative, of AI on cultural rights within the broader framework of the right to development. This study is part of the Mechanism's broader mandate to examine emerging global challenges that impact the realization of the right to development. **Deadline to Submit: November 30, 2025**

[Call for Inputs: Thematic study on Indigenous Peoples Free, Prior and Informed Consent, Business and Human Rights](#)

The Working Group on Business and Human Rights has

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systematically stressed that meaningful engagement with Indigenous Peoples and communities includes meeting international standards on the right to free, prior and informed consent (FPIC). However, based on its ongoing engagement with Indigenous Peoples throughout its activities, including country visits, business and human rights Forums and regular consultations, the Working Group has observed a consistent gap in the effective implementation by States and businesses of FPIC requirements in the context of business activities. The Working Group will develop a thematic study to help States and businesses—including investors—understand and fulfill their obligations and responsibilities related to FPIC, in accordance with international human rights law and standards, including the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.(HRC/24/41). **Deadline to Submit: December 1, 2025.**

Job & Internship Opportunities

Job: Conservation International: [Director of Indigenous and Community-Based Ocean Governance](#)

The Director of Indigenous and Community-based Ocean Governance will lead the Community-based Conservation program in Hawai'i, serving as a key organizational leader responsible for achieving transformational conservation outcomes. Leveraging place-based learning emerging from Hawai'i, the Director will help lead strategy development, in collaboration with partners and colleagues, towards a global Indigenous Ocean Governance strategy, lending technical support and oversight across the organization. **Deadline: Until Filled.**

Call for Nominations: [3rd Biennial UN Global Indigenous Youth Forum](#)

The UN encourages Indigenous Youth who are working for the future of Indigenous Peoples' food and knowledge systems, biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration and climate change resilience to join us for the III Session of the UN Global Indigenous Youth Forum (UNGIYF). Co-hosted by the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus (GIYC) and FAO, the UNGIYF is the only high-level forum in the UN dedicated to Indigenous Youth. It is a biennial forum, taking place every 2 years, and builds on the momentum of the positive changes that Indigenous Youth are advancing globally. **Deadline to Submit: ASAP**

Call for Applications: [Indigenous Women's Program Fellowship 2026 \(Land is Life\)](#)

Land is Life invites Indigenous women leaders who are driving change in their communities to apply. We welcome proposals with clear and achievable goals that demonstrate a strong commitment to advancing Indigenous Peoples' rights, gender equality, and community well-being. Under their Indigenous Women's Program, the year-long fellowship nurtures the next generation of Indigenous women leaders by supporting those who are taking innovative steps that contribute to gender equality, the well-being of their communities, and the recognition of their land and resource rights. **Deadline: November 5, 2025**

Resources & Funding

Funding: [Youth Wellness Honorarium \(Indigenous Climate Action\)](#)

Honorariums are intended for Indigenous Youth engaged

in frontline activism and/or climate justice organizing. At ICA we know that financial and mental health barriers often impact Indigenous Peoples when engaging in climate justice work. By creating this fund, Indigenous Climate Action hopes to remove some of those barriers that come up when upholding our sacred responsibilities. The fund can be used to pay for counseling sessions, provide an honorarium to an elder for their teachings, pay for an art or yoga class, or for gas to get out on the land if you live elsewhere. **Deadline: ongoing.**

Publication: [State of Funding for Tenure Rights - Donor Funding for Indigenous Peoples, Local Communities, and Afro-Descendant Peoples \(UN\)](#) (September 2025)

The second State of Funding for Tenure Rights report provides an updated analysis of international donor funding for Indigenous Peoples, Local Communities, and Afro-descendant Peoples (IPs, LCs, and ADPs) in tropical countries from 2011 to 2024. Despite this growth, funding for tenure rights remains below one percent of climate aid. Tenure rights funding has also declined gradually since a 2021 peak, potentially signaling waning momentum and a need for renewed commitments.

Publication: [Identification, demarcation, registration and titling of Indigenous Peoples' lands: practices and lessons / Interim report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous Peoples \(UN\)](#)

In the first part of the present report, the Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous Peoples, Albert Kwokwo Barume, sets out his activities since being appointed and taking up his functions in January 2025. In the second part of the report, he explores the current global challenges facing Indigenous Peoples' right to traditional territories, focusing on fundamental notions about the importance of land, territories and resources. He provides a foundational understanding of the rights and then reviews regional trends with regard to identification, demarcation, registration and titling; the criminalization of Indigenous land rights defenders; and the interplay between Indigenous Peoples' ancestral territories and international security. He calls for a paradigm shift, whereby States would consider Indigenous Peoples to be allies and partners in matters of international security affairs.

Publication: [State and Trends in Adaptation Report: Small Island Developing States](#) (Global Center on Adaptation)

Small Island Developing States are among the least responsible for climate change – yet, they stand to suffer the most in terms of negative impacts. Despite contributing less than one percent of greenhouse gas emissions, small island developing states are highly vulnerable to tropical cyclones, hurricanes, storm surges, and droughts. From 1970 to 2020, these states lost US\$153 billion due to weather, climate, and water-related hazards. Drawing on strategic partnerships, the report brings together the best knowledge on the science, policy, and practice of climate adaptation in these states.

Publication: [The State of Sápmi](#)

The State of Sápmi journal aims to tackle socio-political issues within Sámi society and provide analysis and perspectives on Sámi rights. The first two issues draw on community perspectives and data from the Indigenous Navigator surveys conducted in Finland, Norway, and Sweden. Together, they highlight how constitutional recognition, self-determination, and rights related to reindeer husbandry are implemented – or undermined – in

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practice. (2025)

Publication: [A Tribal Government Handbook for Operationalizing FPIC in the Context of Conservation and Development](#)

This handbook is written for Tribal governments. It seeks to assist them in utilizing the self-determination and related Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (“FPIC”) provisions of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (“Declaration”) in developing Tribal laws and policies to protect their rights and interests in (1) lands, waters, and territories owned by Tribal Nations within their jurisdictions and (2) ancestral Tribal lands, waters, and territories now managed by federal agencies.

Publication: [The Tribal Guide to Implementing FPIC in the Context of Conservation and Development](#)

This guide seeks to provide educational information to Tribal governments regarding Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC), as articulated in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (the Declaration).¹ It focuses on opportunities to use FPIC as a tool to protect Tribal rights and interests in the context of conservation and development. (The Implementation Project, 2025)

Events

Forum: April 20th -May 1st, 2026, UN Headquarters, New York

[UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues](#)

The twenty-fifth session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) will be held from April 20 to May 1, 2026, with the theme “Ensuring Indigenous Peoples’ Health, Including in the Context of Conflict.” As a high-level advisory body to ECOSOC, the Forum addresses Indigenous issues related to development, culture, the environment, education, health, and human rights.

July 13-17, 2026, Geneva, Switzerland

[UN 19th Session of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#)