

# INSTITUTE FOR TRIBAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROFESSIONALS



**NAU**  
NORTHERN  
ARIZONA  
UNIVERSITY

Tribal Wellbeing for Seven Generations Program Newsletter

March 2026

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



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## Meet the Team

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## Yá'át'ééh! Gumyu! Loloma! Hello!



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**D**o you remember the first of your current job? I remember. In fact, I remember my first paid job when I turned sixteen. If you grew up on the Navajo rez, chances are that you were able to get your first job at the local chapter house. My mother helped me apply and I was stationed down Shonto canyon at the chapter house. I did several odd jobs including landscaping, cleaning, and helping around the post office. The next summer I was stationed at the local fire station at, what was then Shonto Boarding School, and the designated fire chief/maintenance person trained me on how to answer phones and direct people to the correct units. To this day, I remember and use his guidance in how to present yourself professionally over the phone and in-person.

I'd love to hear your memories of your first paid job. I know that most of us have had jobs as soon helping on the farm, ranch or family business where our payment was the discipline and knowledge. I am thinking about my position here at ITEP. I may have told some of you that I like to tell the story of how I worked for ITEP as a student worker for the short time and it may have been during the school year or summer. Even back then I was impressed with the work they were doing with Tribes and somewhere in the back of my mind, I told myself that I wanted to work for ITEP. Fast forward to the early 2000's, in the midst of applying for jobs, I know I submitted my applications for ITEP at least six times and did not get an interview. In 2015, I finally got one but did not get the job. Then I got a phone call asking if I was still interested (of course, I said yes!) and due to some shifting, they were able to bring me onboard. I was a young mother with her second child whom I was still breastfeeding and a partner finishing up nursing school and working their way up as well. I immediately took to the job and was enjoying learning and being challenged. The puzzle piece fit perfectly. I was working with a great team at ITEP, and they all welcomed me so warmly and offered their assistance, that I remember their hospitality to this day. I can confidently say I was working one of my dream jobs. I just loved working with Tribes and partners and traveling to see their homelands. I still love it. I just do less of it. Now I am in a leadership role that I have been entrusted with but now enjoying working even closer with all ITEP programs and working groups.

Over the years, I have received a lot of mentorship and guidance from people all over the world. I have grown into the person I am now and will be. One of those people was Dr. Selso Villegas. He was the [Executive Director of the Tohono O'odham Nation's Water Resources Program](#). If you had the privilege of working with him or even hear him speak, his passion, commitment, deep knowledge and respect was clear. His teachings was so embedded in the history and stories of his people and that alone was motivations. And I appreciated and still carry on this practice of thinking outside the box and not always going for the norm. You also knew of his passion for shoes which is something I will never forget. He often wore sneakers which were always clean, shiny and bright. I would always ask about his latest additions to his collection, and he would brighten up even more. When I give presentations or talks, I quote him and talk about why I always do. It was hard to news to take when we heard he had walked on and at the same time, considered ourselves so fortunate to have known him. On behalf of ITEP, we send our condolences to Selso's loved ones and the Tohono O'odham Nation. We mourn a leader, educator, and a relative whose profound impact that is sure to last many lifetimes.

On behalf of our Tribal Wellbeing for Seven Generations team, Nikki

**We have always adapted;  
we just have to adapt  
even faster now.**

**-Selso Villegas**

## IN THE NEWS

### [California opens \\$9.2M climate bond round for tribal land return, nature-based projects](#)

The California Natural Resources Agency has opened a competitive \$9.2 million funding round for tribal land acquisition and climate resilience projects — part of California's push to return ancestral lands and finance tribally led conservation. © Tribal Business News, 2/17/2026

### [Enbridge paid police to protect one pipeline. Now it wants to do it again in Wisconsin.](#)

The Canadian oil pipeline giant Enbridge will pay Wisconsin law enforcement for riot suits, training, and hours spent policing protests, according to an agreement approved by two counties last week. The secretive arrangement offers an uncapped funding source to local sheriffs as the company prepares for disruptive, Indigenous-led resistance to the controversial Line 5 reroute.

© Grist, 3/3/2026

### [Tribal Nations' Intervene to Protect Chuckwalla Homelands](#)

On March 3, 2026, the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan granted the Tribal Nations' motion to intervene in *Torongo v. Burgum*, the case that threatens the long-sought designation of the Chuckwalla National Monument. © Native American Rights Fund, 3/4/2026

### [How Montana tribes are using sovereignty to restore their waterways](#)

About three decades ago, a series of cases filed on behalf of the CSKT by the federal government sparked the tribes' fight for quantifiable water rights and eventually led to what is now the Water Compact. The CSKT-MT Compact quantified the tribes' reserved and aboriginal water rights, recognizing existing tribal cultural and religious uses and protecting other existing water rights, regardless of their basis in state or federal law. But by the time the compact was settled, over 100 years of industrialism had left their mark on watersheds in and around the reservation. © High Country News, 3/9/2026

### [The feds pulled \\$1.5B from tribal clean energy. Tribes are finding another way.](#)

With nearly 1,600 projects by tribal governments and Native entities losing some or all of their federal funding, tribes have been forced to get creative. To keep clean energy projects alive, tribes are turning to philanthropy, low-interest loans, and nonprofits to bridge the massive financial gap. © Grist, 3/10/2026

### [A shrinking Colorado River is forcing farms to change](#)

States, Tribal nations and the federal government are reckoning with 100 years of developing water infrastructure based on assumptions of continuing abundance and expansion. These ideas — and the legal frameworks built around them — are colliding with the reality of a river with much less water than expected, raising complex questions about what the Colorado can sustain, how its water should be used and who will shoulder the necessary cuts. © High Country News, 3/12/2026

### [The Latest Front in the Battle Over Climate Lawsuits: Bills Wiping Out Liability](#)

Republican lawmakers in multiple states and Congress are advancing proposals to shield polluters from climate accountability and prevent any type of liability for climate change harms — even as these harms and their associated costs continue to mount. © Inside Climate News, 3/14/2026

### [Studying the Future of Data Centers on the Cherokee Nation Reservation \(Opinion\)](#)

Across the country and here in Oklahoma, the rapid growth of artificial intelligence is driving unprecedented demand for data centers — facilities that power everything from health care systems and financial services to the everyday digital tools our citizens rely on. Their expansion brings real economic opportunity. It also raises serious questions about energy use, water consumption, land stewardship and long-term sustainability. © Native News Online, 3/15/2026

## RESOURCES

### [2026 Sovereignty in Action \(SIA\) Awards](#)

The Sovereignty in Action (SIA) Awards were created during the COVID-19 pandemic to support grassroots initiatives while prioritizing community health and safety by shifting away from in-person events. Now, SIA continues to honour our communities through supporting their work towards climate justice, climate change, and Indigenous sovereignty. First Nation, Inuit, and Métis Peoples within so-called Canada are invited to apply or nominate another relative to be awarded \$2,500 CAD to honour their work, whether it's on the land, in language, research, or acts of resistance and care. **Deadline: April 30, 2026**

### [Call for Sessions: California Land Recycling Conference](#)

We encourage proposals from a broad range of land reuse backgrounds and disciplines to share best practices and explore cutting-edge strategies that promote environmental stewardship and community revitalization. The selection committee will consider overall program variety, innovative topics, high-impact speakers and other parameters to ensure a well-rounded program. Session submissions should include all the required information; completeness of the submission will be considered during the review and selection process. **Deadline: May 4, 2026**

### [Call for Nominations: Planning Tribal Advisory Group](#)

The Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation (LCI) is moving into the next phase of updating California's SB 18 Tribal Consultation Guidelines and developing an accompanying Tribal Consultation Toolkit. As part of this work, LCI is opening a 60-Day Solicitation Period from March 19–May 22, 2026 for nominations to the Planning Tribal Advisory Group (PTAG). The PTAG will support updates to the SB 18 Guidelines & Toolkit as well as the General Plan Guidelines and Specific Plan Guidelines. Tribal leaders, staff, planners, Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (THPO), and Indigenous Knowledge holders are encouraged to nominate themselves or others. **Deadline: May 22, 2026**

### [The Youth Funding Toolkit from The Iris Project](#)

Every year, young leaders do incredible work for nature and climate, but accessing funding can be a real challenge. The Youth Funding Toolkit, from The Iris Project, is a free, open-access resource co-created with project leaders and youth-led organizations, packed with practical tips on telling your story, building budgets, preparing for donors, and finding the right opportunities. If you're supporting youth-led projects, or part of one yourself, check it out.

### [Report: Nature-Based Climate Solutions](#)

Indigenous Climate Action has officially released their latest report: Nature-Based Climate Solutions. While NbCS are often positioned as climate solutions, this report takes a deeper look at what they mean for Indigenous Peoples, lands, and sovereignty. The report features details on a) what NbCS are and how they're being used; b) critical perspectives on settler-led approaches; c) the risks, harms, and barriers impacting our communities; and d) opportunities for Indigenous-led climate solutions rooted in rights, responsibilities, and land-based knowledge.

### [Policy Resources for Addressing Climate Adaptation Funding Barriers Experienced by Northwest Coastal Tribes](#)

Beginning in late 2024, the Northwest Climate Resilience Collaborative's Tribal Coastal Resilience Project, a partnership of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, University of Washington Climate Impacts Group, Washington Sea Grant, and Western Washington University, partnered with a team of legal and policy experts from the Harvard Environmental and Energy Law Program (EELP), the University of Washington Native American Law Center, and the Environmental Policy Innovation Center to better understand available policy frameworks and existing programs that could help streamline funding processes and unlock new sources of funding to advance Tribal adaptation. This research effort produced a suite of policy tools offering a range of approaches and resources for strengthening Tribal funding and capacity for adaptation and resilience efforts. (December 2025)

### [Federal Land and Water Management: Additional Actions Would Strengthen Agreements with Tribes](#)

Federal agencies manage national forests, parks, and bodies of water that are Tribes' ancestral territories. These places have special significance for Tribes. Agencies have agreements and work with Tribes to share decision-making when managing these lands and their resources. But more can be done to better facilitate collaboration. For example, agencies have different authorities for entering into agreements with Tribes. As a result, there are fewer opportunities for tribal input. We recommended Congress consider addressing this, and more. We also made recommendations to multiple agencies. Shared decision-making agreements with federal agencies enable Tribes to provide substantive, long-term input into natural and cultural resource management decisions for public lands. In treaties, Tribes ceded millions of acres of their territories to the federal government in exchange for certain commitments. Many of these areas are now public lands. Agencies committed in 2022 to ensure Tribes play an integral role in deciding how to manage federal natural resources. These agencies include the Departments

of Agriculture, Commerce, and the Interior and their components, such as Agriculture's Forest Service and Commerce's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). (January 2026)

## JOBS & INTERNSHIPS

### [Junior Data Manager for NOAA's NCEI](#)

CIRES has an immediate opening for a student with an interest in acquiring experience in environmental data and information management. This position requires basic computer skills, intellectual curiosity, attention to detail, and willingness to learn. Coursework in geosciences, oceanography, GIS, computer science, or information science is desirable, but not necessary. This position is located within the National Centers for Environmental Science (NCEI) at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) campus in Boulder, CO.

**Deadline: ASAP**

### [Native Teen Guide In Training Program](#)

This camp was developed to invest in Native-Centered Teen programming for rising 8th-12th graders through place-based outdoor education, social-emotional learning curriculum, as well as to provide accessible pathways for Native Teens to learn about guiding and natural resource career opportunities. The Native Teen Guide-In-Training Camp begins at San Island in Bluff, Utah, which launches into an 8 day and 7 night river trip down the San Juan River that stretches through the desert landscapes and canyons of the Diné-Navajo Nation. There are two sessions, one of which will be filmed by a professional documentary crew. **Deadline: ASAP**

### [Natural Resource Workforce Development Fellowship](#)

This fellowship provides graduate students (open to graduate students at the seven SW CASC consortium institutions (UofA, NAU, USU, UNLV, UCLA, UC Davis, and Scripps Institution of Oceanography at UC San Diego)) with training and experience in developing actionable science to inform natural resource management. The 2026-27 cohort will focus on Cloud Seeding – fellows will work together to synthesize the current state of knowledge regarding cloud seeding, clarify its role in southwestern water issues, and provide insight on how it can be used effectively. Funding for NRWD fellows includes a \$9,000 stipend and travel costs covered for cohort meetings. **Deadline: April 10, 2026**

### [Tribal Affairs Director - Washington State Parks](#)

Washington State Parks seeks a strategic and collaborative leader to serve as Tribal Affairs Director, leading the agency's Office of Tribal Relations and ensuring meaningful government-to-government engagement with tribal nations whose ancestral lands and treaty rights intersect with Washington's state park system. This position reports to the External and Legislative Relations Director and works closely with the Executive Director as a member of the agency's Executive Leadership Team. It provides executive-level direction, accountability, and coordination for the agency's tribal consultation obligations and intergovernmental relationships. **Deadline: review starts April 13, 2026, open until filled**

### [Fellowship Programme of the OHCHR Humanitarian Funds](#)

Are you passionate about human rights and ready to deepen your expertise within the United Nations system? The OHCHR Fellowship Programme of the Humanitarian Funds offers a rare chance to join the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva, Switzerland for a one-year fellowship (renewable once).

**Deadline: April 15, 2026**

### [Energy Education and Engagement Fellow](#)

Sustainability Service Corps is hiring an Energy Education and Engagement Fellow to support The Energy Coalition (TEC) team in San Diego, CA from September 2026 to July 2027! In this hybrid role, you will lead enrollment in technical skill certifications for school-based energy and water audits by engaging educators, supporting student participation, and coordinating implementation. You'll also mentor high school interns through TEC's internship program and help plan and facilitate lab days, educator trainings, and community events across the region.

**Deadline: open through the end of April 2026**

### [Paid Tribal Climate Position for California Students](#)

The Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation (LCI) is hiring a Tribal Student Assistant to help shape California's climate future while uplifting Tribal communities. This role will contribute to climate resilience efforts in partnership with Tribal communities, including a) research and data support; b) tribal engagement and coordination; and c) technical assistance. They are hoping to reach Native students and students with a demonstrated interest in Tribal climate resilience, Indigenous knowledge systems, environmental justice, public policy, or climate science. **Deadline: April 20, 2026**

### [Youth Program Summer Internship](#)

Are you a college or graduate student enrolled in a major or certificate program in agriculture, environmental studies, natural resources, or food systems? Apply for a summer internship! Selected interns will engage in a 12 to 14-week paid internship between the months of May and September. This internship will follow a hybrid model of in-person and virtual activities. Interns will dedicate 25-35 hours weekly to site-based and remote activities.

**Deadline: April 20, 2026**

### [2026 Southwest Regional Summer Youth Practicum](#)

The Summer Youth Practicum (SYP) is designed to provide Native American students (incoming 10th – 12th grade) an opportunity to gain hands-on and in-lecture experience in the interdisciplinary components of natural resource management and Indigenous knowledge. One of the goals of the NAFWS is to educate Native American youth to understand the importance of professional natural resource management and the interconnectedness to culture, as well encourage them to continue their education and pursue careers in the natural resource fields. **Deadline: April 24, 2026**

### [2026 National Summer Youth Practicum](#)

The National Summer Youth Practicum (SYP) is designed to provide Native American and Alaskan Native high school students (ages 14 – 17 years old) an opportunity to gain hands-on and in-lecture experience in the interdisciplinary components of natural resource management and Indigenous knowledge. This week-long practicum is in beautiful and mountainous sites of Northern Colorado. Students from the continental U.S. are encouraged to apply. **Deadline: May 2, 2026**

### [BLM New Mexico Internship](#)

Conservation Corps New Mexico (CCNM), in partnership with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Las Cruces District Office (LCDO) and Public Lands Interpretative Association (PLIA), seeks 5 passionate candidates to support a two-phased public land stewardship initiative. The first phase will focus on BLM LCDO projects such as environmental education, community outreach, habitat restoration, and trail/recreation site maintenance with the goal of helping to protect sensitive desert and riparian ecosystems while improving public access to public lands. For the second phase, individual placements will assist PLIA with engaging local 7th and 8th graders by providing classroom lessons and field trips, focused on hiking and learning on public lands. Applicants must be New Mexico residents between the ages of 18 and 25 with a high school diploma or equivalent. **Deadline: open, internship starts June 15**

### [Postdoctoral Researcher, Indigenous Science](#)

The California Academy of Sciences seeks a Postdoctoral Researcher in California Indigenous Science to join an innovative project within the Institute for Biodiversity Science and Sustainability (IBSS). The candidate will co-design and implement a braided science program that integrates Indigenous Knowledge with Western methods. This is a two-year appointment, requires a PhD, and is a paid research position. **Deadline: open**

### [Senior Forester](#)

The Snoqualmie Indian Tribe is hiring a Senior Forester position. The Senior Forester will support the Tribe's work to promote forest health and diversity and sustainable harvests from Snoqualmie Tribe forested lands. The Forester will assist and be responsible for planning, recommending, and implementing strategies for forest regeneration, growth, and health while balancing environmental, economic, and cultural factors. **Deadline: open**

### [Alaska Director of Conservation](#)

The Alaska chapter of The Nature Conservancy, the world's largest environmental nonprofit, is hiring a senior conservation leader who applies strategic, systems-level thinking to advance the Alaska chapter's relevance and impact on the state's most pressing conservation challenges. They lead the chapter's conservation work and team—including strategy development, project implementation, staff leadership and scientific direction—to achieve Alaska's and The Nature Conservancy's broader strategic goals. **Deadline: open until filled**

### [Dakota Grasslands Specialist](#)

The Buffalo Nations Grasslands Alliance is hiring a Dakotas Grasslands Specialist. The Grasslands Specialist will be responsible for providing technical expertise to Native producers (Tribal farmers and ranchers, Tribal programs, and Native-led organizations operating on Tribal and/or Allotted lands) in accessing the technical and financial resources they need to restore grasslands and implement conservation practices through their farming, ranching, and conservation operations. Applicants must have a Bachelor's degree in agriculture, biological sciences, or related field and reside in South Dakota or North Dakota and within or near the Northern Great Plains ecoregion. **Deadline: open until filled**

### [Tribal Engagement Coordinator](#)

This role will support meaningful connections between Tribal Nations, ancestral lands, and conservation partners—centering respect, trust, and Tribal sovereignty every step of the way. The Tribal Engagement Coordinator will play a key role in implementing our new Listening to Our Lands program, a place-based initiative designed to bring Tribal Nations onto protected lands to foster land reconnection, knowledge exchange, and shared stewardship across Virginia’s Chesapeake Bay watershed and throughout what is now known as the Commonwealth of Virginia. Through community-centered engagement, land tours, gatherings, and collaborative sessions, the program will seek to advance Indigenous conservation priorities related to land access, tenure, data sovereignty, and long-term conservation relationships. **Deadline: open until filled**

### [Vegetation Specialist](#)

The Vegetation Specialist is responsible for providing programmatic, field, technical, and administrative support for the Swinomish Department of Environmental Protection’s Forestry, Camas, and Noxious Weed Control Programs, by supervising vegetation field activities and data collection. The required work includes plant identification, vegetation field crew leadership and participation using a full range of vegetation management techniques, and fieldwork tracking and reporting. The position is supervised by the Forester and provides general oversight to 3-5 technical environmental staff and/or seasonal technicians or interns in vegetation-related activities. **Deadline: open until filled**

### [Kurt Grinnell Aquaculture Scholarship Foundation \(KGASF\)](#)

The Kurt Grinnell Aquaculture Scholarship Foundation (KGASF) 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. **Deadline: accepted anytime of the year**

# FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

## Youth to the Front Fund: The Creatives

Are you a creative or collective led by founders under 30, whose work centers BIPOC communities and challenges systemic injustice? Are you building bold, culture-shifting solutions and looking for funding and community to expand your reach? Creative Frontliners receive catalytic support, visibility, and connection to help scale their work and deepen impact. **Deadline: April 6, 2026**

## 2026 Member Collective Grant

The Conservation Alliance launched their 2026 Member Collective grant cycle. Through the Member Collective, TCA and its business members direct significant funding to impactful conservation efforts across North America. They support projects that secure long-term land and water protection, strengthen climate resiliency and biodiversity, and create lasting benefits for communities and outdoor economies. **Deadline: April 10, 2026**

## IEN-WMAN Mining Mini-Grant Program

The IEN-WMAN Mining Mini-Grant Program offers financial grant assistance to communities threatened or adversely affected by mining in the U.S. and Canada. The IEN -WMAN Grassroots Communities Mining Mini-Grant Program distributes over \$200,000 per year in \$4,000 USD grants to Indigenous communities and non-profit grassroots organizations across the U.S. and Canada. Our goal is to give at least 50% of the Mini-Grants to Indigenous communities. We recognize that mining activity often has detrimental impacts to all aspects of community and cultural well-being and we encourage projects that strive to protect the environment, ecosystems, cultural resources, and community health from mining impacts. This program is of tremendous value to community-based organizations, many of whom have very few opportunities to access financial support outside of their own pockets. **Applications open January 1, May 1, and September 1, 2026. Deadlines for submission are February 1, June 1, and October 1, 2026**

## National Forest Foundation: 2026 Collaborative Capacity Program

Collaborative Capacity Program financial awards invest in collaborative activities that support wildfire resilience, recreation opportunities, land & watershed restoration, and rural economies. This year's program funds projects that prioritize shared decision-making and bring together multiple perspectives to co-create solutions for forest

stewardship or increase Tribal co-stewardship of National Forests and grasslands. **Deadline: July 13, 2026**

## NDN Collective: Community Action Fund

This fund supports Indigenous frontline, grassroots groups and individuals leading "Defend, Develop, and Decolonize" work. It's specifically designed for rapid-response needs, movement building, and the protection of land, air, and water. The grant allots up to \$15,000 per project with a focus on Indigenous Peoples' organizations and Tribes within post-colonial borders of the US, Canada, Mexico. **Deadline: accepted on a rolling basis until October 30, 2026**

## Rivers & Mountains Conservancy Climate Resilience Program

\$11,100,000 for projects that build community resilience and capacity where resources are most needed. Investments will support multi-benefit and nature-based solutions, which includes funding to support climate change impacts on fish and wildlife, habitat restoration, and activities that accelerate climate smart management of California's natural and working lands and help meet the State's 2030 GHG reduction goals.

## 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). **Deadline: accepted on a rolling basis**

## **Additional Sources for More Opportunities:**

1) More Funding Opportunities can be found at the Tribal Wellbeing for Seven Generations website: <https://itewp.nau.edu/tw7g/resources/funding/>

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/>

## Water is Life Fund

Water is Life projects help to expand water, sanitation and hygiene services at the community level in Arizona with a prioritization given to projects focused on the Navajo Nation. Projects that are creative, community-led, and long-lasting are preferred. Each project must measurably improve access to water, sanitation, and/or hygiene for the target recipients. The focus must be on human needs, livestock and agricultural water projects are not eligible. If applying on behalf of an organization, the organization must have an annual operating budget of less than \$3 million. **Deadline: accepted on a rolling basis**

## CY 2022 Disaster Water Grants

The Calendar Year (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. **Deadline: accepted on a rolling basis**



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## APRIL

### **Summit: April 11-12, Tucson, AZ** **[U.S. Indigenous Data Sovereignty & Governance Summit 2026](#)**

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."

### **Forum: April 14-16, UNC** **Headquarters, NYC** **[The ECOSOC Youth Forum](#)**

The annual youth forum of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, is a platform that brings together young people from around the world to engage in deliberations on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It has evolved into a key platform where young people, high-level government representatives and other stakeholders contribute to policy discussions through their positions, ideas, solutions, and innovations for the SDGs.

### **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.

### **Forum: April 27-30, Pacific Northwest** **[NTFAQ](#)**

The National Tribal Forum on Air Quality (NTFAQ) aims to support tribal programs by fostering information-sharing and networking opportunities that are focused on building tribal capacity in air quality management. The event's agenda is driven by tribal input and priorities, with a focus on increasing tribal engagement in air quality initiatives that are relevant to tribal communities across the nation.

**Conference: April 27-28, Reno, NV**  
**[44th Annual NAFOA Conference](#)**  
NAFOA hosts an Annual Conference to collaborate, share practical insights, and collectively define a path toward stronger Tribal economies and sovereignty.

### **Conference: April 29-30, Reno, NV** **[2nd Annual Tribal Clean Energy Finance Forum](#)**

The Tribal Clean Energy Finance Forum is a timely and strategic gathering of Tribal leaders, investors, lenders, and clean energy stakeholders. Designed to be highly interactive and solutions-driven, the Forum will focus on building equitable Tribal partnerships that align both purpose and profit. Together, participants will navigate pathways to accelerate clean energy development on Tribal lands, leveraging diverse funding streams and building strong, equitable partnerships to achieve long-term success with clean energy development.

## MAY

### **Conference: May 4-7, Verona, NY** **[43rd Annual NAFWS National Conference](#)**

The 2026 Native American Fish and Wildlife Society Annual National Conference, hosted by the Oneida Indian Nation, will be held from May 4 to 7, 2026 at Turning Stone Resort Casino in Verona, NY.

### **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.

### **Conference: May 19-21, Fort Collins, CO**

### **[Confluence 2026 - Western Collaborative Conservation Network](#)**

Confluence is expressly focused on providing a place for collaborative conservation professionals, students, and emerging leaders to connect with one another and learn together about the best-practices, processes, and outcomes of collaborative conservation. It will be structured to support peer-to-peer learning about collaborative processes and skillsets, and designed as best as we can to create a space for community-building, networking, and mentorship

for everyone who attends. The theme of the year is: "The Future of Collaboration: The Power of Working Across Divides."

### **Conference: May 21-22, University of Redlands, CA**

### **[Second Annual California Native American Tribal GIS Summit 2026](#)**

The second Annual California Native American Tribal GIS Summit 2026 will take place in Redlands, CA. It is a gathering space for Tribal GIS practitioners - CA Native American Tribes, Tribal Partners and Organization who have an interest in the Tribal uses, needs, and solutions of GIS based technology. Virtual option for plenary sessions; workshops in person.

## JUNE

### **Convening: June 2-4, Bangor, ME** **[11th Native CDFI Capital Access Convening](#)**

This gathering brings together Native CDFIs, partners, and community leaders from across the country to learn from one another, share ideas, and strengthen the relationships that make this work possible. The theme this year, Investing in Relationships: Stronger Together, reflects the truth that strong Native economies grow from collaboration, trust, and community.

### **Conference: June 22-25,** **Albuquerque, NM**

### **[A Meeting of Sacred Waters: A Global Gathering of Indigenous Voices](#)**

A Meeting of Sacred Waters 2026, is a global gathering to highlight Indigenous-led solutions in support of our ancestral waters and lands. Through the collective experiences of Indigenous Peoples from the US and abroad, this global exchange explores solutions to restore balance for the wellbeing of humanity and the environment. We welcome all those who envision a sustainable future, including leaders and representatives from Indigenous Nations and communities.

### **Gathering: June 24-26, Shelton, WA** **[2026 Indigenous Agroforestry Network Gathering](#)**

The Indigenous Agroforestry Network invites Indigenous land stewards, gatherers, farmers, cultural practitioners, researchers, agency staff, nonprofit partners, and community members to join them for three days of learning, connection, and land-based exchange. Explore the intersections of Indigenous land stewardship, agroforestry, food sovereignty, forest and marine ecology, cultural arts, land back initiatives and more. Participants will engage in presentations, breakout sessions, panels, and field immersions visiting land and water projects.

**NOTE: Updated info on events can be found at the Tribal Wellbeing for Seven Generations Website: <https://itep.nau.edu/tw7g/>**

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## IN THE NEWS

### [Peru: campaigning for legal rights for Mother Nature](#)

Indigenous women in Peru are fighting for their rights in a context of dispossession, environmental damage and violence. These women are not only fighting for their collective rights, but also for the protection and care of Mother Nature. © International Institute for Environment and Development, 2/12/2026

### [Indigenous Guard of the Shipibo people exercises its autonomy by expelling illegal fishers from Lake Yacumama in Ucayali](#)

"We are here because the only way for us to organise ourselves is through the union of the peoples and community members... Why? To defend everything that belongs to our territory and lake." Indigenous guards from four Shipibo communities living around Lake Yacumama in Peru's Amazon region of Ucayali have come together to protect their ancestral waters. Through collective action, they successfully carried out interventions against fishers operating without authorisation on this historic lake belonging to the Shipibo people. By organising across communities, the Indigenous Guard is defending biodiversity, livelihoods and territorial rights, showing the strength of Indigenous autonomy in action. © Forest Peoples Programme, 3/5/2026

### [Indigenous rights, the environment, and international law: What's at stake at this week's seabed mining talks](#)

Trump's aggressive push toward deep-sea mining is putting pressure on global negotiators to act fast to shape deep-sea mining rules. Indigenous advocates who have been fighting for their rights to be acknowledged in global regulations for seabed mining are bracing for the outcome of this week's gathering of the International Seabed Authority in Jamaica, where representatives from three dozen countries are expected to discuss finalizing mining rules by the end of this year. © Grist, 3/09/2026

### [The Latest Tactic for Silencing Ecuador's Environmental Defenders: Shuttering Their Bank Accounts](#)

As the country moves to intensify mining and oil operations, environmental and Indigenous leaders' bank accounts are being frozen or closed. Such "debanking" cuts them off from financial support and paralyzes their work. © Inside Climate News, 3/10/2026

### [India's Jenu Kuruba People's Long Fight to Reclaim Their Forest](#)

The Indigenous group set up camp in a tiger reserve last year to reclaim their ancestral lands. Despite state opposition, they are still standing strong. © Earth Island Journal, 3/12/2026

### [1st Part of the 31st Annual Session of the International Seabed Authority \(ISA\)](#)

Since 2014, the International Seabed Authority has been developing rules, regulations and procedures to govern mining of minerals in the deep seabed beyond areas of national jurisdiction. This "Mining Code" is essential for balancing the global demand for minerals with the need to protect the environment and ensure fair benefit-sharing. With several countries pushing for allowing exploitation and mining to begin, finalizing the Mining Code is more important than ever. © IISD Earth Negotiations Bulletin, 3/13/2026

### [Olkeriai River Under Pressure: Maasai Communities Confront the Impacts of Sand Harvesting in Kenya](#)

Maasai journalist and Cultural Survival Investigative Journalism Fellow Lucas Kasosi documents how unregulated sand mining along Kenya's Olkeriai River is reshaping water sources, livelihoods, and pastoral life. Through his documentary investigation, community voices reveal how sand extraction feeding Nairobi's construction boom is leaving Maasai communities with shrinking water and degraded land. © Cultural Survival, 3/16/2026

## CALL FOR INPUT & NOMINATIONS

### [Call for Proposals: 2nd Islands Water Congress 2026](#)

The International Water Resources Association (IWRA) is excited to invite submissions to one of the leading global events dedicated to freshwater management in island contexts. They are inviting proposals for presentations, special 90-minute sessions or workshops, and other creative expressions. **Deadline: April 30, 2026**

### [Call for Input: UN study on the implications of sea-level rise for the full enjoyment of human rights](#)

The Human Rights Council Advisory Committee is preparing a study on the implications of sea-level rise for the full enjoyment of human rights, and in particular to identify its impact on, among others, Indigenous Peoples, persons of African descent, persons with disabilities, persons belonging to national and ethnic minorities, and coastal communities. **Deadline: April 30, 2026**

### [Call for Input: UN report on technologies related to climate change and their impacts on human rights](#)

In order to advance the clarification of the human rights-based approach to climate action and just transition, including the human rights imperative of defossilizing our economies, in her upcoming report to the UN General Assembly 81st session, the Special Rapporteur seeks to synthesize and analyze a varied body of evidence of the actual and potential impacts on human rights of technologies related to climate change mitigation, adaptation, and/or responses to loss and damage. **Deadline: April 30, 2026**

### [Call for Input: UN study on the implications of plastic pollution for the full enjoyment of human rights](#)

The Human Rights Council Advisory Committee seeks the views of and inputs from stakeholders to inform its study on the implications of plastic pollution for the full enjoyment of human rights, to be presented to the Human Rights Council at its 66th session. **Deadline: May 15, 2026**

### [Call for Input: Impact of work under the LCIPP](#)

The Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform (LCIPP) is looking for input on the impact of their work and assistance shaping the next workplan. Parties, Indigenous Peoples, local communities, and stakeholders are invited to submit their views on the following issues: a) activities and thematic focuses for the workplan of LCIPP for 2028-2031 (deadline: 30 September 2026); and b) impact of work under the LCIPP (deadline: 1 November 2026). **Deadlines: September 30, 2026 & November 1, 2026 (see above)**

### [Call for Input: Survey on Energy Sovereignty](#)

Recently, multiple levels of government in Canada have increased investment in major fossil-fuel-based energy projects. These efforts aim to position Canada as a "global energy superpower" through conventional, non-renewable energy development, raising concerns among

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many Indigenous Nations. International Climate Action (ICA) is developing a report that highlights Indigenous-led clean and just energy initiatives across the lands currently known as Canada. They are calling for input from the following Nations/projects: Three Nation Energy (3NE) Solar Farm, Gitchi Animki Hydroelectric Project, Cowwessess FN x SASK Research Council, Piitapan Solar Project, Old Crow Solar Project<sup>3</sup>, Mesgi'g Ugu's'n Wind Farm, Glooscap Energy Projects, Sukunka Wind Energy Project<sup>3</sup>, Wocawson Energy Project, Beaubassin Mi'kmaq Wind Management Company, and Tu Deh Kah Geothermal.

## [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: open**

## JOB & INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

### [Senior Manager, Species Fund at Re:wild](#)

Re:wild protects and restores the wild. The Senior Manager, Species Fund will lead and manage the deployment of a new large grant portfolio focused on the recovery of Endangered species, working under the guidance and supervision of the Fund's steering committee. This is a remote position with some travel as needed. Applicants must have 10+ years of conservation experience. **Deadline: April 15, 2026**

### [Saskatchewan Indigenous Community Foundation Executive Director](#)

The Saskatchewan Indigenous Community Foundation (SICF) invites Indigenous leaders to consider stepping into a foundational leadership role at a pivotal moment in our journey. SICF is building a trusted Indigenous-led foundation that stands with Indigenous peoples across Saskatchewan, listening, learning, and acting with care and accountability. This role is not about managing a mature institution. It requires someone who understands that supporting Indigenous peoples is not only about moving resources; it is about strengthening governance, nurturing trust, and advancing long-term self-determination. Preference will be given to qualified Indigenous candidates. **Deadline: April 30, 2026**

### [2026 UN Global Indigenous Youth Forum \(UNGIYF\)](#)

The Call for Applications is now open! Indigenous Youth from the seven socio-cultural regions are invited to apply. We encourage 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). Discover more about the UNGIYF. nCo-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.

## RESOURCES & FUNDING

### *Publication:* [Indigenous Waterviews](#)

The Agua Maestra collective gathers around cross cultural dialogues on diverse ways of coming to know as well as solidarity actions, which motivate experiences of collective research-creation. The anthology they created compiles the work of around forty Indigenous writers, artists and elders and brings together heterogeneous contemporary experiences, and celebrates diverse lands through their bodies of water and their multiple languages and cultures. © Indigenous Environmental Network & IWARMAYU, 2025

### *Working Paper:* [Challenging coloniality and racial injustice in finance for nature](#)

Generating finance to protect and restore nature is crucial to address the worsening global biodiversity crisis. However, most nature finance is delivered within a neo-colonial and racially unjust global financial architecture, leading to inequitable and ineffective allocation of resources. This exploratory paper introduces a discussion on coloniality and racial injustice in nature finance aimed at donors, governments and intermediary organizations involved in the delivery of nature finance. © International Institute for Environment and Development, February 2026

### [Strengthening Civil Society and Indigenous Voices at the UN Webinar](#)

On March 17, 2025, a discussion was held on the vital contribution of CSOs and Indigenous Peoples to the UN human rights system and why it matters to safeguard their space in the context of reforms and crises.

### *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**

## 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.

### *Conference:* May 11-14, 2026, Manila, Philippines

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## **CBA20: Local Solutions Inspiring Global Action**

The 20th International Conference on Community-Based Adaptation to Climate Change (CBA20) represents an important milestone, and is a unique space for practitioners, policymakers, researchers and community leaders to share lived experiences, strengthen partnerships and influence adaptation policy and practice.

## **Symposium: June 3-4, 2026, Bangkok, Thailand Strengthening Evidence on the Outcomes of Locally Led Adaptation Symposium**

More than 130 organizations and governments have endorsed the Principles for Locally Led Adaptation (LLA), yet only a small share of international climate finance supports adaptation at local levels – and even less of this funding is truly locally led. The symposium will bring together 25-30 researchers, practitioners, and knowledge holders to share new findings, take stock of the current state of evidence on the outcomes of LLA, and co-develop a forward-looking agenda for strengthening evidence that is credible, inclusive, and usable for decision-making.

## **Session: July 13-17, 2026, Geneva, Switzerland UN 19th Session of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**

All participants are encouraged to contribute to the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP) in a spirit of constructive, multi-stakeholder dialogue, keeping a focus on the theme of the discussion; and are strongly encouraged to include concrete recommendations in their statements. EMRIP experts chairing the items will use their discretion in managing interventions from the floor in order to enable different stakeholders to participate in the dialogue and to ensure a balanced debate.

## **Gathering: October 5-8, 2026, Hamilton, Ontario AFN 4th National Climate Gathering**

In less than 10 months, the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) will be hosting our 4th National Climate Gathering, from October 5 - 8, 2026. The event will take place at the Hamilton Convention Centre, a venue that is located on the traditional territories of the Mississauga and Haudenosaunee nations, and within the lands protected by the 'Dish with One Spoon' wampum agreement.

## **Congress: December 9-11, 2026, Montego Bay, Jamaica**

### **2nd Islands Water Congress**

The Islands Water Congress is a leading global forum dedicated to freshwater management in island contexts. Under the theme "Resilient Islands: Securing Water for Sustainable Development in a Changing World," the Congress convenes policymakers, scientists, practitioners, researchers, and island leaders from across the globe to confront the urgent and interconnected water challenges facing island communities.