



# Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals



Tribal Wellbeing for Seven Generations Program Newsletter

July 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.



Cacti with prickly pears. Adobe.stock

## Meet the Climate Change Team

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*Yellow flowers in the desert landscape of Arizona. Adobe.stock*

**W**hen my partner and I decided to be together for the long term, it was a thoughtful and patient conversation and decision. I know I am fortunate but have put in the work to be a good partner and parent. As you may know, my partner is from Iowa and until he left, he farmed corn and soybeans with his father. We enjoy listening to their stories and how much work they put into farming. My father-in-law is retired and enjoying such a good life and we are fortunate to hear his stories and wisdom. Back to the beginning of my story, when we decided to get married, we had a conversation about children and that if we were to become parents, their Diné heritage would be honored first. The Diné follow the custom of passing on their lineage through the women, so our children are of the Towering House People and born for the German and Bohemian people, their father's people.

This brings me to my thoughts about family. My partner has a friend who had a sign on his door that stated, "Friends Welcome, Family by Appointment". This said friend didn't have the best relationships with biological family, but his chosen family is what kept him going. We often say that family is important to our intergenerational sharing and teachings of our cultural knowledge about plants, animals, water, air and the stars. I still believe this to be true, and as I age, I find myself choosing people outside of my immediate, biological family to be a part of my chosen family. My father has always said that he was one of the richest people because of his family and cultural knowledge surrounding our family. So, I have taken that on whole heartedly. I am rich because I am surrounded by my human family who make me laugh, who make me think, who make me happy. I wake up to the sun each day and know our son is going to tell me about his dreams or

this day, and that our daughter is going to tell me that she loves me and that she will work on her weaving and math homework. I have three dogs who are extremely happy to know I am awake so they can wag their tails and expect me to feed them. Then I will go out to greet, talk to and water our corn, squash, melons, tomatoes, flowers and chard. Afterwards, I often head to town and get to work with amazing folks here at ITEP who do such good work for Tribes.

I may not be money rich, but I am rich in family and friends who, indirectly, help me look forward to each day. I get to spend a few hours outdoors each day to be with our non-human relatives and think about the next steps in moving our efforts to care for Mother Earth. But I won't turn down a day by the beach or a week or more on the river and enjoying the sun with a mocktail in hand.

Tell me your thoughts. What or who enriches your life?

On behalf of the Team at ITEP's Tribal Wellbeing for Seven Generations Program,  
Nikki Cooley



# In The News

## **Indigenous Wisdom Meets Environmental Science: Bazile Panek's Consultancy Revolution**

When major environmental organizations hit roadblocks working with tribal communities, many now turn to Bazile Minogizhigaabo Panek. His consultancy, Good Sky Guidance, has generated over \$100,000 by solving a problem most didn't even realize they had. "Organizations often approach tribal communities with good intentions but they make mistakes along the way," Panek explains from his office filled with both academic certificates, awards, and Native American Studies books. "They miss cultural protocols, historical context, and relationship dynamics. That's where I step in." © USAWIRE, 05/25/25

## **Young Professionals 2025: Zane Jacobs, Events Coordinator at the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals at NAU and President of Flagstaff Pride**

He has volunteered with the Shadows Foundation for nearly a decade -- joining their board in 2019 -- and has been an integral part of Flagstaff Pride for the past 19 years. His long-standing leadership and vision helped evolve Flagstaff Pride into a more inclusive, education-focused organization that uplifts Indigenous and other historically marginalized voices. In 2023, Zane joined Northern Arizona University's (NAU) Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP), where he now serves as Events Coordinator. In this role, he's brought his unique experience in nonprofit event planning to the forefront, coordinating major national gatherings and collaborative cultural programming. © AZ Daily Sun, 06/28/25

## **'The Everglades is our home': Native leaders, activists pushback on 'Alligator Alcatraz'**

RAPID CITY, South Dakota – A new proposed immigration detention center nicknamed "Alligator Alcatraz" has led to outrages amongst Indigenous people and allies in Florida. "It hurts," said Cheyenne Kippenberger, citizen of the Seminole Tribe of Florida and former Miss Indian World 2019-2021. "It hurts because that's our home." The proposed detention center deep within the Florida Everglades would threaten tribal sovereignty, leaders said, and is a great risk to tribes

that have called the Everglades home since time immemorial. "The Everglades is our home, and it has been our home for generations, long before it was a National Preserve, long before Florida ever even existed," Kippenberger said. "It is a fragile, beautiful, essential ecosystem that has provided our people with sustenance and safety." © ICT, 06/30/25

## **Farmworkers Heal Climate-Scarred Land With Native Seeds**

Irma Quiroz pulled her bandana over her face, lowered her hat, and flicked a switch. A towering seed-cleaning machine roared to life, sending a cloud of dust and residue into the air. Quiroz shoveled native grass seeds into the machine as her husband, Juan Gómez, held out a palm to inspect the stream of cleaned seeds, looking for any that were empty or underdeveloped, as they cascaded out of the machine into white sacks. They were now ready for restoration sites across California. © Civil Eats, 07/07/25

## **Wild rice being affected by climate change**

To the Ojibwe, manoomin is more than a plant: It's a sacred relative. However, as lakes warm and waters rise, their ancient bond is being tested by climate change. Manoomin is the Ojibwe word for wild rice, an aquatic plant sacred to the Ojibwe people, said Bazile Minogizhigaabo Panek, the chief executive officer of Good Sky Guidance. Good Sky Guidance is a consulting firm in Ashland, Wisconsin, that advises public institutions on how to create "impactful but culturally respectful outcomes when engaging with tribal communities," according to its website. "When the Ojibwe began their migration from the East Coast to where we are now, it was actually a prophecy we would find manoomin here in the Great Lakes region, and this plant being would be essential for generations to come," said Minogizhigaabo Panek. © Great Lakes Echo, 07/07/25

## **Young indigenous kayakers about to complete historic river journey, after 'largest dam removal in US history'**

Ruby Williams' birthday was not your average 18th. She celebrated it on the Klamath River, with a group of young people making a historic journey paddling from the river's

headwaters in southern Oregon to its mouth in the Pacific Ocean, just south of Crescent City, California. It marked the first time in a century that the descent has been possible, after the recent removal of four dams allowed the river to flow freely. Williams, together with fellow paddler Keeya Wiki, 17, spoke to CNN on day 15 of their month-long journey, which they are due to complete on Friday. © CNN, 07/10/25

## **'Devastating' spill in salmon habitat near Port Angeles: What to know**

Hundreds of dead juvenile fish. An oily sheen. The overpowering smell of gasoline. These were the scenes over the weekend near where a fuel tanker truck crashed Friday off Highway 101, spilling some 3,000 gallons of fossil fuels into Indian Creek and prompting a "do not drink" order for Port Angeles tap water that ended Sunday evening. Indian Creek is a major tributary to the Elwha River, the city's main source for drinking water. It's also possibly the Elwha's most productive and diverse salmon habitat. Tens of thousands of juvenile salmon leave this system and head to sea. And it's home to one of the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe's inland village sites, tiʔtiʔá. ©seattletimes, 07/20/25

## **The fight for Tribal citizens' exercise of Shinnecock Nation aboriginal fishing rights in Long Island waters**

Shinnecock Tribal citizens are asserting aboriginal fishing rights in court, seeking a decision that would confirm their right to continue their ancestral fishing practices in Shinnecock Bay in Long Island, New York. In support, several Tribal organizations and others filed amici curiae briefs in *Silva v. Farrish*, a case in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York, explaining the importance and legal underpinnings of the fishers' aboriginal rights claims. The National Congress of American Indians and Shinnecock Kelp Farmers, and the United Southern and Eastern Tribes Sovereignty Protection Fund (USET SPF) filed amicus briefs on May 15, 2025. © Native American Rights Fund, 07/17/25

# Resources

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## [Grand Canyon Speaks Podcasts - Brooke Damon Speaks \( Season 1, Episode 14\)](#)

Grand Canyon National Park and Grand Canyon Conservancy are proud to present Grand Canyon Speaks! This podcast is centered around the voices of the 11 Grand Canyon tribal communities. In this episode, Ranger Dawn spoke with Brooke Damon, who was an intern with the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals. She shares what it was like working with Grand Canyon and emphasizing the importance of traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) and first voices through her work in environmental science.

## [Indigenous Climate Indicators: Reading the Land Beyond Western Metrics](#)

In the face of accelerating climate change, many scientific institutions rely on advanced technologies like satellite imagery, weather models, and big data to monitor environmental shifts. Yet, for thousands of years, Indigenous Peoples have observed and interpreted climate changes through finely tuned systems of relational knowledge, deeply embedded in land-based practices and generational memory. These Indigenous climate indicators are not just data points—they are stories, teachings, and warnings, passed down through time and rooted in the interdependence of human and ecological systems. They reflect a worldview where the land, water, sky, and all beings above, among and below are living relatives—each communicating shifts in the Earth's balance.

## [Introducing a Native Self-Determination Program](#)

MacArthur today introduced a program on Native self-determination as a step forward in our ongoing commitment to the strength and well-being of Native communities. Guided by the voices and leadership of Indigenous Peoples, this program will increase resources and deepen relationships in ways that reflect mutual respect and long-term partnership, while building on the Foundation's past support for Indigenous communities. In the process of deciding to develop a program, MacArthur's Staff and Board spent over two years listening to and learning from Native leaders. This time was taken to build relationships, so the Foundation could begin to more deeply understand the priorities of Native communities and reflect on how philanthropy can show up as a more respectful and accountable partner.

## [Navigating Coastal Hazards 2 Workshop Report](#)

Cascadia has a complex, dynamically evolving landscape, shaped by natural forces that bring both beauty and risk. This dynamic region faces a complex array of coastal hazards, including rising sea levels, flooding, erosion, mega-earthquakes from a Cascadia Subduction zone event, tsunamis, and landslides. These challenges highlight the ongoing need for proactive research, planning, and preparation. In response to this need, the first Navigating Coastal Hazards workshop convened in 2024 (NCH) brought together voices from across Cascadia coastal communities and sectors to chart a path forward on collaborative research to strengthen resilience across Cascadia. Over the past year, that momentum has grown. Key achievements include new connections and collaborations on coastal inundation modeling, coastal hazard management, improved guidance on implementing nature-based solutions for shoreline protection, and increased awareness of coastal resilience projects in Cascadia.

## [Tribal Funding Registry](#)

The Tribal Funding Registry is a FREE searchable grants database designed for Tribes and Native-led nonprofits built by a Native-led nonprofit.

## [ATNI Climate Program Partnerships and Resources](#)

The Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians has been developing a resource to track and organize ATNI Climate Change Program Partnerships and Resources. This document includes updates to a number of federally-funded programs, including the Northwest Climate Resilience Collaborative and the Northwest Climate Adaptation Science Center. ATNI is working to develop a Task Force with the ATNI Climate Resilience Committee to develop a strategy for addressing all of these changes and impacts. If folks are interested in joining the task force, please email [climate@atnitribes.org](mailto:climate@atnitribes.org) or [patrickfreeland@atnitribes.org](mailto:patrickfreeland@atnitribes.org).

## [Proposed Sell-Off of Public Lands Threatens Tribal Homelands and Sovereignty](#)

The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee has introduced a sweeping proposal that mandates the sale of 2–3 million acres of public land managed by the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management across 11 western states. Many of these lands are ancestral homelands of numerous Tribal Nations and Indigenous communities, including places of deep religious, ecological, cultural, and historical importance. While Montana is exempt from the current proposal, the threat extends far beyond state boundaries. Indigenous People's connections to land are not confined by colonial lines—many of the places listed for disposal are part of the sacred geographies of Indigenous Peoples across the West. (June 2025)

## [Providing Unbiased Actionable Science & Information to Support Natural Resource Management Needs of the U.S. & Department of Interior Priorities](#)

The U.S. Geological Survey Southwest Biological Science Center (SBSC) is uniquely positioned in the Colorado River Basin to provide sound information, specialized expertise, and innovative tools to support the management and sustained use of natural resources on public and Tribal lands in the Southwest U.S. [The Southwest Biological Science Center \(SBSC\)](#) and its two branches, the Terrestrial Drylands Ecology (TDE) and River Ecosystem Science - Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center (GCMRC), [provide information to the Department of Interior \(DOI\)](#) and other federal, state and Tribal departments and agencies that is used to manage, conserve, and rehabilitate rivers and lands to ensure their productivity for the benefit of the American people. (June 10, 2025)

## [Climate Data Portal for US Native Lands](#)

This Climate Data Portal is thoughtfully designed to align with the non-linear, holistic approach tribes take when addressing climate adaptation. Drawing inspiration from the teachings of indigenous world views, which emphasize that the five basic needs of life—food, fire, water, shelter, and earth—are essential for all species to thrive, we've applied this wisdom as an analogy for climate stewardship. Just as these needs are critical for human well-being, the climate must be treated with care and attention to ensure the health and resilience of all beings. This portal is organized into five thematic categories—Air, Earth, Fire, Water, and Life.

# Job & Internship Opportunities

## Lac Vieux Desert Energy Manager

The Lac Vieux Desert Energy Manager is a grant-funded position responsible for developing the Tribe's energy assessments, plans, and projects to reduce costs and improve efficiency. This role includes conducting energy audits, analyzing consumption data, and preparing the community for climate impacts. The Energy Manager will also lead renewable energy efforts, support environmental justice initiatives, coordinate with partners, and assist with grant writing and administration. Strong knowledge of energy systems, Tribal sovereignty, and environmental issues in Indian Country is essential. **Application deadline: July 31, 2025 or open until filled.**

## Senior Officer, Environment Management Support (Strategic Writing) - PEW

The Senior Officer, Environment Management Support, plays a key role in advancing the strategic direction and coordination of Pew's global environment portfolio. This position works closely with leadership to align a wide range of conservation projects focused on protecting biodiversity, land, and marine ecosystems. The senior officer helps manage internal initiatives, supports special projects, and ensures consistency and accountability across teams. By fostering collaboration and providing operational guidance, this role helps strengthen the impact and effectiveness of Pew's science-based, nonpartisan approach to environmental policy and conservation. Based in Washington, D.C., the position follows a hybrid schedule with required in-office days. **Application deadline: open until filled**

## Solid Waste and Air Quality Program Manager- Cher-Ae Heights Indian Community Of The Trinidad Rancheria

Reporting to the Natural Resources Department Director, the Program Manager oversees the development, implementation, and management of grant-funded solid waste and air quality projects. Key duties include securing funding, coordinating program activities, managing budgets and resources, and ensuring compliance with grant and regulatory requirements. The role involves project planning, data collection and analysis, reporting, and collaboration with Tribal staff, community members, and outside partners. This position supports the Tribe's environmental goals and will take on leadership responsibilities as the program grows. **Application deadline: open until filled**

## Community Knowledge Coordinator - Kuskokwim River Inter-tribal Fish Commission

The Community Knowledge Coordinator works to develop, manage, and expand community-based, social scientific fisheries research initiatives with and for Kuskokwim Tribal communities. These initiatives include ongoing and new projects to meet KRITFC's strategic initiatives to Document Traditional Knowledge and expand salmon monitoring. This position is by nature interdisciplinary and seeks a candidate with a co-production of knowledge mindset who can balance, navigate, and bridge both Traditional and modern/Western knowledge systems and research protocols. Location based in Bethel, AK, or other Kuskokwim River community preferred but not required. Alaska-based required unless special exceptions exist. Remote work is possible. Send a resume, cover letter explaining interest in this position, and 2 professional references to [terese@kritfc.org](mailto:terese@kritfc.org) and [kevinwhitworth@kritfc.org](mailto:kevinwhitworth@kritfc.org). **Application deadline: ASAP**

## Indigenous Engagement and Relations Specialist- Ocean Wise Conservation Association

Reporting to the Social Justice Manager, you will lead the implementation, maintenance and review of an organizational Indigenous Engagement Strategy. You will guide the partnership development processes, promote the prioritization of reciprocal engagement, ensure mutually beneficial collaborations, equip team members, and implement inclusive, accessible, and culturally relevant outreach efforts which respect and uphold

cultural and traditional protocols. You will bring expertise in ensuring best practices are implemented with respect to developing and stewarding relations with Indigenous communities and/or Indigenous-led organizations. This position is ideally suited for candidates located in British Columbia or the West Coast region but is considered remote. We strongly encourage applicants that self-identify as Indigenous within Canada to apply. **Application deadline: ASAP**

## Climate Leadership Coordinator - Indigenous Climate Action

Indigenous Climate Action is seeking an outgoing and motivated individual to fill the role of Climate Leadership Coordinator. Under the guidance of the Education and Training Manager, the Climate Leadership Coordinator will primarily focus on Climate Leadership trainings, and supporting the growth of the Climate Leadership Program (CLP). The Program Coordinator will be responsible for assisting in the coordination and facilitation of ICA's CLP. The CLP is an online and in-person training that aims to support Indigenous peoples to be climate change leaders, support the development of regionally and effective climate action, and build a network of Indigenous climate leaders. **Application deadline: open until filled**

## Associate Director- American Rivers

The Associate Director, California Central Valley River Restoration, will help American Rivers develop and implement projects to protect and restore critical rivers and floodplains in the Central Valley to increase resiliency to climate change, support natural biodiversity, increase nature access and flood safety among vulnerable communities, and promote a river stewardship ethic among California decision makers. We are seeking up to three team members who are capable of developing and managing on-the-ground restoration projects from conception to implementation—including securing funding; managing budgets and schedules for state and federal grants; and coordinating with multiple agencies, partners, and consultants in the Central Valley. **Application deadline: ASAP**

## Native American Internships in Habitat Restoration using TEK: Elderberry Wisdom Farm Fall 2025

The Native American nonprofit, Elderberry Wisdom Farm is currently recruiting Native American and other Interns of Color who are pursuing conservation career pathways. This paid opportunity provides an opportunity for culturally tailored habitat restoration training, experiential service learning, and mentoring which integrates Traditional Ecological Knowledge into local restoration practices, including urban forestry and native plant nursery development in the mid-Willamette Valley. The wide range of service-learning activities will help to strengthen biodiversity and sustainability at our work sites at Elderberry Wisdom Farm's four-acre native plant nursery and greenhouse south of Salem, OR and other mid-Willamette Valley ecosystems, including Oregon white oak woodlands and prairie, plus urban forests and working lands. **Application deadline: ASAP**

## Conservation Manager-Audubon Great Lakes

The Conservation Manager is an integral member of the Audubon Great Lakes team. They are responsible for building partnerships, engaging the network, and implementing conservation projects that realize Audubon's ambitious goals for the region. Working closely with local landowners (e.g. state agencies, park districts, land trusts, utility companies, etc.), other public agencies, tribes, NGO partners, and Audubon's network of chapters and volunteers, the Conservation Manager will restore habitat for birds and people while building a diverse constituency that stewards habitat and builds strong public policy across the five-state Great Lakes region. **Application deadline: ASAP**



# Funding Opportunities



## Additional Sources for More Opportunities:

- 1) More Funding Opportunities can be found at the Tribes & Climate Change website: <http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/tcc/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) Conservation Innovation Grants (USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service) <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/cig/>

## Washington Coastal Resilience and Adaptation Funding for Tribes (WA-CRAFT)

The UW Climate Impacts Group has launched a small-grants program to support Washington coastal Tribes in building resilience to climate change. This initiative is a direct response to feedback gathered during the Tribal listening sessions that informed the recent report, Climate Adaptation Barriers and Needs Experienced by Northwest Coastal Tribes. Tribal input highlighted significant barriers to accessing funding for climate resilience projects. This program aims to address two key needs identified in the report:

- More generalized and flexible sources of funding to maximize Tribal autonomy and responsiveness in allocating funds and reduce administrative burdens.
- Funding that is better aligned with Tribal priorities, rather than the priorities of funding entities, to support community-driven priorities and the incorporation of Indigenous Knowledges.
- In implementing this new program, we are committed to advancing a trust-based funding model that honors Tribal self-determination.

**Application deadline: August 11, 2025**

## National Forest Foundation. Standard grants - 2025 Collaborative Capacity Program

The National Forest Foundation's Collaborative Capacity Program financial awards provide resources to support collaborative activities that increase wildfire resilience, recreation opportunities, forest health, and rural economies. Eligible efforts must describe how investments in collaboration will support a long-term strategy for achieving stewardship outcomes and how these outcomes benefit National Forest System lands. Standard grants award between \$10,001 and \$75,000. **Application deadline: August 22, 2025**

## Exploring Equitable Futures - Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

The purpose of this Exploring Equitable Futures call for proposals (CFP) is to support projects that seed new and unconventional ideas that could radically advance health equity for generations to come. We aim to fund projects that: Explore the future by researching and experimenting with ideas that are ahead of the curve or at the edge of our collective imagination; Shine a light on the emerging trends and forces that are shaping our future for better or worse—and suggest ways to navigate them to mitigate harm and advance health equity; Dream big and challenge conventional wisdom to surface possibilities and uncover new paths to dismantle structural racism and build a more equitable future. **Application Deadline: October 15, 2025**

## Direct Action and Organizing Grants. NDN Collective

Available to Indigenous individuals or an Indigenous-led group working to defend Indigenous rights, communities, Nations, and Mother Earth. The purpose of the Community Action Fund is to financially support Indigenous frontline organizers, protectors, and movement mobilizers throughout the U.S., Canada, Mexico, and Island Nations of Borikén/Puerto Rico, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the US Virgin Islands, up to \$20,000 USD. **Deadline: October 17, 2025**

## Tribal Electric Boats Program

The Tribal Electric Boats Program (TEBP), funded by the Climate Commitment Act, is awarding \$5 million to tribes to support

the electrification and hybridization of marine propulsion power for tribal fishing vessels, including boats for research and patrol activities. Grants include marine charging equipment needed to power the boats. The program upholds tribal sovereignty, advances tribal goals for air quality improvement and climate change resilience, and supports decarbonization of marine vessels for federally recognized tribal governments and tribal enterprises.

- **Request for Applications (RFA) will be announced in June 2025.**
- **Applications are due 60-90 days after the RFA announcement.**
- **An evaluator panel is scheduled for September 23-October 15, 2025 (may be subject to change)**

## 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**

## 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. **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>

## August

**August 4-8, Ely, Minnesota**  
**[Tribal Youth Natural Resource Management Career Camp: Seeking Knowledge in the Woods and Place of Water](#)**

Camp Nenda – Gikendan Noopiming gaye Nibiing is a free, week-long overnight summer camp for youth, hosted by the 1854 Treaty Authority. All lodging, meals, and camp activities are fully covered for participants. Camp will take place at the beautiful Hubachek Wilderness Research Center in Ely, Minnesota. Applications due: July 7th, 2025

**Summit: August 10-16, 2025, Olympia, Washington**  
**[2025 Tribal Youth Water Summit & Journeys in Creativity Pre-College Residency](#)**

The 2025 Changing Currents Tribal Youth Water Summit & Journeys in Creativity Pre-College Residency will take place at The Evergreen State College from August 10-16, 2025. This event will empower Indigenous youth by providing them with professional development tools and opportunities to amplify their voices on tribal water issues. By fostering creativity and leadership, this youth event will support the next generation of Indigenous leaders in advocating for the health and sustainability of their communities' water resources.

**Forum: August 18-21, Minneapolis, MN**  
**[Tribal Lands and Environment Forum](#)**

The Tribal Lands and Environment Forum (TLEF) is a joint effort between the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP), the Tribal Waste and Response Steering Committee (TWAR SC), and US EPA's Office of Land and Emergency Management (OLEM).

## September

**Summit: September 3-5, Snoqualmie, WA**  
**[ATNI Energy Sovereignty Summit](#)**

This year's summit is dedicated to advancing Tribal Energy Sovereignty. Hosted by ATNI's Energy Program, the event is aimed at bringing together Tribal leaders, staff, young professionals, and key partners to

identify challenges, funding options, workforce development, and new opportunities that may be addressed through strategic planning with partners who support Tribal Energy Sovereignty. The ATNI Energy Program goal is to share information, explore potential partnerships, and encourage collaboration to build a strong and sustainable future.

**Conference: September 7 - 12, Phoenix, AZ**  
**[National Tribal Health Conference](#)**

The NIH National Tribal Health Conference is a week-long event that serves American Indian and Alaska Native Tribes in the space of health - behavioral and public health. The conference will showcase the interconnectedness of policy, advocacy, and Indian health best practices. Programming includes tribal listening and consultation sessions, hands-on training opportunities, plenary sessions, and workshops that cover timely topics such as funding for Indian Health, the business of medicine, health equity, Indigenous determinants of health, Tribal public health, behavioral health, culture, environmental health, and climate change.

**September 21-26, Waubun, Minnesota**  
**[White Earth Nation - Tribal Climate Camp](#)**

The 2025 Tribal Climate Camp (TCC) will bring together Tribal delegations from across Minnesota and the upper Midwest for a week of collaborative learning, hands-on planning, and connection. This unique program supports the development of Tribal climate vulnerability assessments (VAs) and adaptation plans (APs) in a culturally grounded and supportive environment. Tribal Climate Camp is a five-day intensive workshop grounded in culture and tradition. Each Tribal delegation focuses on a climate-related project and develops a clear plan for climate action.

**Apply by July 15, 2025**

**September 29-October 1, Cove, OR**  
**[Carbon & Culture Symposium](#)**

Hosted by the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation Department of Natural Resources First Foods Policy Program. 3 Day gathering to learn about Indigenous land stewardship and carbon management, hosted at the Ascension School in Cove, Oregon. More information coming soon!

**Conference: September 30-October 4, Denver, CO**

**[The 11th World Conference on Ecological Restoration \(SER2025\)](#)**

SER's World Conference is an exciting and inspiring biennial gathering of global experts in ecological restoration, making the 11th World Conference on Ecological Restoration (SER2025) the premier venue for those interested in being active members of the global restoration community.

## October

**Conference: October 20-22, Milwaukee, WI**  
**[2025 Midwest Climate Resilience Conference](#)**

The Midwest Climate Resilience Conference, hosted by the University of Minnesota Climate Adaptation Partnership, is the leading event dedicated to climate adaptation and resilience in the Midwest and Great Lakes region. It aims to advance community and ecosystem resilience through critical discussions and action on key climate issues. The conference fosters collaboration among adaptation practitioners, promotes knowledge sharing, and encourages an inclusive approach that bridges sectors, disciplines, and communities. Beyond the event, it seeks to drive ongoing, coordinated efforts to strengthen climate resilience across the region.

# International Indigenous News & Resources

## In the News

### [UN experts hail landmark Inter-American Court opinion on States' extensive duties to protect the climate](#)

UN human rights experts welcomed the Inter-American Court of Human Rights' historic Advisory Opinion on the Climate Emergency and Human Rights, and its detailed clarifications on "reinforced" human rights obligations to address climate change and protect life-supporting systems on earth. "We welcome the Court's recognition of the climate emergency as an existential risk to humanity, severely impacting the human rights of present and future generations, and exacerbating poverty, discrimination and vulnerabilities," the experts said. © United Nations Human Rights OHCHR, 07/11/2025.

### [UNESCO appoints Indigenous co-chairs to protect languages and knowledge amid climate crisis](#)

For more than 30 years, the United Nations has helped support research positions at universities to delve into the most pressing issues facing humanity: climate change, sustainable development, peace, and human rights. Nearly 1,000 UNESCO chair positions have been established in universities across 120 countries, but only a handful of them - fewer than 10 - have been explicitly dedicated to issues facing indigenous peoples. © GRIST, 06/25/2025

### [Indigenous guards: The shield of Colombia's Amazon](#)

For years, using organization and collaboration, unarmed guards in Colombia have acted as protective barriers of territories, the environment and communities. These days, the guards combine their traditional knowledge with monitoring technology, such as GPS and satellite imagery, so the data can be used by government entities. Working to protect their territory has put them in danger: between 2014 and 2024, at least 70 Indigenous guardians have been killed in Colombia. © Mongabay, 06/26/2025

### [HRC President: Indigenous Peoples' participation in UN processes is vital to advancing their rights](#)

Delivered by: Ambassador Jürg Lauber, President of the United Nations Human Rights Council at the 18th session of the United Nations Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. "In this context, I reaffirm the importance of Indigenous Peoples being heard at the Human Rights Council and across the broader United Nations system. Their voices carry unique perspectives on self-determination, climate justice, cultural preservation, linguistic rights, access to land and natural resources, and sustainable development. Ensuring that their voices are included in the work of UN bodies is not only a matter of inclusion, but of justice, equity, and respect for the rights affirmed in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples." © United Nations Human Rights Council, 7/14/2025.

### [Nigeria: Two million Abuja Indigenous People face extinction, Chriced tells UN body](#)

The Resource Centre for Human Rights & Civic Education (CHRICED) has warned that over two million indigenous people of Nigeria's Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja, face the risk of extinction due to systematic exclusion, land dispossession, political disenfranchisement, and cultural erasure. The alarming revelation was made on Monday during the 18th Session of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, held at the Palais des

Nations in Geneva, Switzerland. Dr Ibrahim Zikirullahi, Executive Director of CHRICED, delivered a statement highlighting the dire plight of Abuja's Original Inhabitants (OIs), who comprise nine tribes and seventeen chiefdoms. © Vanguard, 07/15/2025

### [Staying in place: Takaeang, Aranuka residents demonstrate climate resistance on Kiribati](#)

Communities in Kiribati have shown a strong commitment to 'staying in place' despite having to consistently tackle environmental challenges. Takaeang residents on Aranuka, a remote coral atoll in Kiribati, some 4,000 kilometres northeast of Aotearoa/New Zealand, remain committed to staying in Takaeang. A mix of descendants from Aranuka and migrants from drought-prone southern islands in Kiribati, they have strong connections to their place. Professor Underhill-Sem says they consistently and innovatively tackle environmental challenges, engaging in traditional collective decision-making to 'stay in place'. © National Indigenous Times, 07/11/2025

### [Statement by the International Indigenous Peoples' Forum on World Heritage \(IIPFWH\)](#)

In the statement, the IIPFWH calls on UNESCO and the World Heritage Committee to: Ensure Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) becomes standard practice in nominations, governance, and monitoring; Revise the Operational Guidelines to reflect Indigenous Peoples' rights and participation; Fully implement the UNESCO Policy on Engaging with Indigenous Peoples and the World Heritage Sustainable Development Policy; Align the Convention's implementation with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). © International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs, 07/18/2025

## Call for Input & Nominations

### [Survey: Survey for Indigenous Peoples on pesticides use and the right to Free, Prior and Informed Consent \(from Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Health Organization\)](#)

Purpose This instrument is a space to ensure Indigenous Peoples' views, concerns and considerations on pesticides management are included in the process to amend the International Code of Conduct on Pesticides Management (ICCPM). The decision to amend the ICCPM was adopted by governments at the FAO Committee on Agriculture (COAG 29), following a request from the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, and seeks to ensure Indigenous Peoples' rights to free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) and protection from harmful pesticide practices are respected and upheld. More information on the process: <https://www.fao.org/pest-and-pesticide-management/news/detail/en/c/1733850/>

### [Call for Registration: 27th Meeting of Subsidiary Body on Scientific, Technical and Technological Advice and First meeting of Subsidiary Body on Article 8\(j\) and Other Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity Related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities](#)

From the Convention on Biological Diversity- meetings will be hosted by the Government of Panama, and the provisional agenda for these meetings are made available at: <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/SBSTAA-27> and <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/SB8J-01>. The designation of



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representatives to attend the SBSTTA--27 and/or the SB8J-1 meetings should be submitted through an official letter of nomination addressed to the CBD Executive Secretary, sent as a scanned e-mail attachment to: [secretariat@cbd.int](mailto:secretariat@cbd.int). **Deadline to register: August 31, 2025**

## Job & Internship Opportunities

### **Job: [Indigenous Climate Action - Executive Director](#)**

Founded in 2015, Indigenous Climate Action (ICA) is an Indigenous-led, values-driven organization operating at the intersection of Indigenous sovereignty and climate justice. ICA is seeking a visionary, values-driven, and relationally attuned Executive Director to lead this powerful organization through its next chapter of growth and transformation. **Deadline: ASAP**

### **Job: [Indigenous Climate Action - Climate Leadership Coordinator](#)**

Indigenous Climate Action is seeking an outgoing and motivated individual to fill the role of Climate Leadership Coordinator. Under the guidance of the Education and Training Manager, the Climate Leadership Coordinator will primarily focus on Climate Leadership trainings, and supporting the growth of the Climate Leadership Program (CLP). The Program Coordinator will be responsible for assisting in the coordination and facilitation of ICA's CLP. **Deadline: ASAP**

## Resources & Funding

### **Funding: [Climate Change and Health Adaptation Program](#)**

(Government of Canada)

The Climate Change and Health Adaptation Program funds the efforts of First nations and Inuit communities to identify, assess, and respond to the health impacts of climate change. **Deadline: September 12, 2025**

### **Funding: [Liberated Capital: Decolonizing Wealth Project](#)**

(Indigenous Earth Fund)

This opportunity is open to Indigenous-led organizations and Tribes working to build political power, movements, and lead campaigns to drive Indigenous solutions around climate change and conservation issues in the United States. **Deadline: August 19, 2025**

### **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

### **Summit: August 9, 2025 - Virtual**

#### **[Global Indigenous Youth Summit on Climate Change \(GIYSCC\)](#)**

This "virtual dialogue by, for and among Indigenous youth with global inclusion" builds on GIYSCC-2024 and GIYSCC-2023, which were hosted by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), involving 2100+ registrants from 136 nations and representing nearly 290 languages in the first two years during this International Decade of Indigenous Languages 2022-2032.

### **Conference: August 24-28, 2025 - Stockholm, Sweden** **[World Water Week](#)**

World Water Week remains as a unique meeting place that unites research, industry, and civil society, contributing to knowledge and policy development in the fields of water and climate. As before, the event is centred around a specific theme, providing diverse perspectives on the critical role of water in solving global challenges.

### **Conference: September 9-11, 2025 - Virtual**

#### **[Land and Youth Digital Conference](#)**

The upcoming Land & Youth Digital Conference is seeking dynamic, youth-led session proposals that spark global dialogue, action, and innovation. The 2025 Land & Youth Digital Conference is a free global event amplifying youth voices in land and climate. It will work as a space for young groups to articulate the ideas they want to champion leading up to, during, and beyond COP 30 in Brazil. The objective is to put youth priorities at the center of global decisions on land and climate action. **Deadline: 07/18/2025**

### **Conference, October 9-15, 2025 - Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates**

#### **[IUCN World Conservation Congress](#)**

"IUCN's 1400+ government, civil society and Indigenous peoples' Member organisations vote on major issues to help guide humanity's relationship with our planet." Proposal/Abstract deadline: February 7, 2025.

### **Conference, October 13-14, 2025 - Colombo, Sri Lanka** **[Regional Climate Change Conference \(RCCC\) 2025](#)**

This year's theme is "The Intersection of Climate Science, Adaptation, and Climate Financing: Focus on the Global South and Inclusivity."

### **Conference, October 13-16, 2025 - Ōtautahi Christchurch, New Zealand** **[Adaptation Futures 2025](#)**

Adaptation Futures is the flagship event of the United Nations World Adaptation Science Programme (WASP). The premier international climate change adaptation conference series enables practitioners, policymakers, researchers, and academics from across the world to gather to network, collaborate, learn, and inspire.

### **Conference, October 16-18, 2025 - Reykjavík, Iceland** **[2025 Arctic Circle Assembly](#)**

The annual Arctic Circle Assembly brings together governments, organizations, corporations, universities, think tanks, environmental associations, Indigenous communities, citizens and others for a comprehensive and democratic Arctic dialogue. The Assembly is the largest gathering on Arctic affairs. It is a place for international engagement, cooperation, and celebration.