



Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals



Tribes & Climate Change Newsletter

April 2024

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



Photo Credit: Kelsey Jensen

Meet the Climate Change Team

Nikki Cooley, Diné (Asdzáá/She/Her)
Co-Director & Co-Manager
Nikki.Cooley@nau.edu

Karen Cozzetto (She/Her)
Co-Manager
Karen.Cozzetto@nau.edu

Kelsey Morales (She/Her)
Assistant Manager
Kelsey.Morales@nau.edu

Lauren Lewis, Hopi/Havasupai, (She/Her)
Administrative Assistant
Lauren.Lewis@nau.edu

Kim Shaw (She/Her)
Internship Coordinator
Kim.Shaw@nau.edu

Taryn Bell (They/Them)
Research Assistant
Taryn.Bell@nau.edu

Ashley Gries (She/Her)
Community Program Coordinator, Sr.
Ashley.Gries@nau.edu

Kelsey Jensen, Diné (She/Her)
Program Assistant
Kelsey.Jensen@nau.edu

Nicole Shirley (She/Her)
Program Assistant
Nicole.Shirley@nau.edu



Photo Credit: L. Kelsey Jensen

Earlier this year, my mother told me I have always been a talker. This is no surprise to anyone who is close to me, even though I am a self-proclaimed introvert. What was surprising to me was that the Elders in my family and the community gave me a Diné name which roughly translates to “the little girl who talks a lot”. One of my other names is “the girl who is always happy” and it was given to me by one of my grandfathers. As I grow into myself, I find myself accepting that I am just that, a talker. I enjoy speaking with people, getting to know them, checking to see if they need assistance or just someone to acknowledge them. I am not sure if that’s because I spent my first four years as an only child, primarily around adults and young teens (my aunts and uncles). I’m sure they let me chat away as much as wanted. Maybe it’s because I walked among and behind sheep and goats, and spent a lot of time on top of horses. I also spent a lot of time at the sheep and horse corrals. Remember, I did have a pet cow named Penny who used to let me sit on top of her while she grazed.

Whatever the reason, I am a talker and I have found myself a skill that has become useful in my job. I have now emceed a few conferences and spoke with and in front of hundreds of people. Don’t get me wrong. I still get nervous and whispers of insecurity creep in and try to convince me that I am an imposter. People tell me I am great at it and offer praise, and so far, no one has approached me with negative or constructive comments. Perhaps that is because I offer those to myself and no one feels the need to add.

One of the ways I shove these negative thoughts aside, is to make

a list of things I should and could say. I imagine myself as a member of the audience and what I would appreciate from an emcee or speaker. I remember that I am only a guest and it’s not about me, but rather about the invited speakers and knowledge holders. If I am an invited speaker to share knowledge, I write a list of things from my experience that contributes to the event theme. I try not to talk long so others may have the time and space to share, and sometimes I am unsuccessful because I have a lot to share or because I get nervous and start rambling. Or sometimes, I get excited about verbally dreaming up ideas with my work partner, Karen.

At ATNI’s National Tribal Climate Leadership Summit, my colleague and I were talking about their upcoming talk. I asked whether he was using notes or slides, and he quickly replied that he was all about the oral storytelling. Tradition. I love those types of reminders or affirmations that keep encouraging us to tell our stories in whatever way we can to reach others. So, as someone who likes to talk, I am simply practicing tradition. Perhaps we should all slow down and talk to each other to share and learn. Let’s be kind, patient and encouraging.

As always, live and be in beauty and be Tradish. Hózó jí!

With gratitude and respect, on behalf of the [climate warriors](#) at ITEP, Nikki Cooley

Advisory Committee Members:

Tribal Representatives:

Jerry Cain

Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indian

Jamie Donatuto

Swinomish Indian Tribal Community

Michael Durglo, Jr.

Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes (CSKT)

Shasta Gaughen

Pala Band of Mission Indians

Oxcenia O'Domin

Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium

Federal Agency Representatives:

Lisa Bacanskas

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Alicia Bell-Sheeter

U.S. Forest Service

Erica Bollerud

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Ashley Fortune Isham

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Alyssa Morris

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Crystal Keys

Bureau of Indian Affairs

John Mosley

Bureau of Indian Affairs

In The News

[The Complex Case Of Growing Native Plants](#)

Households across the West are increasingly ditching the smooth green lawns of the stereotypical American dream and attempting to grow native plants instead — a practice Indigenous communities mastered centuries ago to sustain themselves. The new approach to landscaping is championed by activists, government agencies and universities as a simple solution to water and climate woes. But the Indigenous farmers who originally cultivated and cared for some of these plants are often left out of the narrative sold to consumers. And the native plant movement could impact Indigenous communities unexpectedly by taking away resources like crops, seeds and income. © High Country News, 04/01/24

[Algal Blooms Threaten Traditional Shellfish Harvesting in Alaska](#)

Shellfish harvesting has sustained Alaska tribes for generations. But a recent study found this long-standing tradition is eroding as algal blooms—some of them carrying a deadly toxin that don't kill shellfish but can be fatal to those who eat them—extend beyond summer. The Sitka Tribe of Alaska collaborated with researchers from the University of Alabama at Birmingham and the University of California-San Francisco to conduct the research study, which involved interviewing 27 people involved in harvesting shellfish and testing for the toxin. All commercial harvesters must test for these toxins in shellfish such as clams and mollusks. However, shellfish harvested for non-commercial use is not tested, putting Native Alaskans who rely on subsistence foods at greater risk. © Native Science Report, 04/04/24

[America's Most Endangered Rivers® Of 2024 Spotlights Threats To Your Clean Water](#)

"Without this river, we would not be able to survive," says Vicente Fernandez, acequia mayordomo and community leader in New Mexico. New Mexico is the state hardest hit by a recent Supreme Court ruling that left virtually all of the state's streams and wetlands vulnerable to pollution. This federal action opens the door to potential harmful downstream impacts to the Rio Grande, Gila, San Juan, and Pecos rivers. It threatens Vicente's livelihood, and so many others across New Mexico. This is why the [Rivers of New Mexico](#) are #1 in [America's Most Endangered Rivers of 2024](#) – our annual report that amplifies local leaders calling for

solutions to urgent river threats. © American Rivers, 04/15/24

[Indigenous Advocates at the UN Say the Green Transition is Neither Clean Nor Just](#)

For years, Maureen Penjueli, who is Indigenous iTaukei from Fiji, has watched her home country survive devastating cyclones and flooding caused by unusually heavy rainfall. She watched as the coastal village of Vunidogoloa was forced to relocate inland to escape rising seas, and as the long-time head of the nongovernmental advocacy group Pacific Network on Globalization, Penjueli knows climate change will mean more extreme weather events for her Pacific island home. © Grist, 04/23/24

[Fire is Medicine: WFN Company Utilizes Prescribed Burns to Mitigate Wildfire Risks](#)

As wildfires worsen across the province, cikilaxwm (prescribed fire) is gaining more traction as a way to mitigate blazes before they begin, say experts at Westbank First Nation's (WFN) forest and resource management company. For the past 10 years, Ntityix Resources has treated more than 300 hectares of land in syilx Okanagan homelands through cultural burns and other wildfire mitigation projects. Last year, the band-owned company conducted their first cultural burn outside of ki?lawna? (Kelowna), treating grasslands and open forestry that had not seen fire in decades. © IndigiNews 04/24/24

[Assistant Secretary Newland Highlights Bison and Grasslands Restoration During New Mexico Visit](#)

Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Bryan Newland visited New Mexico this week, where he joined leaders from the Taos Pueblo for the release of 10 bison from Yellowstone National Park into their existing herd. During the visit, Assistant Secretary Newland highlighted the significant funding the Department has invested through President Biden's Investing in America Agenda to support the restoration of bison populations and grassland ecosystems in Tribal communities. © DOI Press, 04/26/24

[Wildlife Habitat And Tribal Cultures Threatened By Washington's Largest Wind Farm](#)

A massive wind and solar farm is moving ahead in eastern Washington despite opposition from tribes concerned about the threat it poses to tribal cultural resources. Last Wednesday, Washington state

officials voted to approve the heavily contested development, known as the Horse Heaven Hills project, just south of the Tri-Cities (Kennewick, Pasco and Richland). The project, which would combine wind turbines with solar panels and lithium-ion batteries, threatens traditional food-gathering sites, and its footprint overlaps with Yakama Nation ceremonial sites and monumental features central to cultural stories. © High Country News, 04/26/24

[Secretary Haaland, Department Leaders Highlight Biden-Harris Administration's Clean Energy Progress, Commitment to Indian Country in Arizona](#)

Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland visited Arizona this week, where she highlighted the Biden-Harris administration's all-of-government approach to developing a robust and sustainable [clean energy economy](#) and commitment to [strengthening Indian Country](#). In La Paz County, Secretary Haaland and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Director Tracy Stone-Manning joined local leaders to celebrate clean energy going into the grid from the newly completed [Ten West Link](#) transmission line. During the event, Secretary Haaland highlighted the Biden-Harris administration's broader efforts to accelerate transmission buildout that will lower consumers' energy costs, prevent power outages in the face of extreme weather and create good-paying union jobs. Earlier this month, the Department [announced](#) that the BLM has now permitted more than 25 gigawatts of clean energy projects, enough to power more than 12 million homes. This includes solar, wind and geothermal projects, as well as gen-tie lines on public lands that are essential for connecting clean electricity projects on both federal and non-federal land to the grid. © DOI Press, 04/26/24

Resources

[Tribal Resilience Action Database](#)

The Tribal Resilience Action Database is here to empower Tribal communities across North America to continue to build resilience. Created by a diverse coalition of Tribal communities, project partners, and advisors, this platform provides access to more than 5,000 climate adaptation actions and community examples tailored to Indigenous values and worldviews. In the face of increasing climate challenges, Indigenous communities have long been at the forefront of resilience and adaptation efforts. However, the wealth of knowledge and expertise within these communities often goes unrecognized or underutilized. The Tribal Resilience Action Database seeks to change that narrative by providing a platform where Indigenous wisdom can shine. At the core of this database are the voices and experiences of Tribal communities themselves. By showcasing their adaptation strategies and community examples, we hope to not only inform ongoing and new climate adaptation and resilience work but also celebrate the rich cultural heritage embedded within these approaches.

[Innovations Addressing Climate Anxiety](#)

Laura Schmidt (Good Grief Network) and Pim Sullivan-Tailyour (Force of Nature) share their strategies for helping communities process climate-related grief and turn their anxiety into action. This discussion was recorded during the “Innovations Addressing Climate Anxiety” session of S/GWI’s virtual event, The Innovation Station: Puerto Rico, on March 14, 2024, and is moderated by Dr. Aubrey Paris, S/GWI Senior Policy Advisor.

[Biden-Harris Administration Announces \\$320 Million for Tribal Domestic Water Infrastructure](#)

The Department of the Interior today announced that up to \$320 million is available under President Biden’s Investing in America agenda through the Bureau of Reclamation to assist federally recognized Tribes and Tribal organizations as they plan and construct domestic water infrastructure. “Investing in water infrastructure projects is crucial to ensuring the health, safety and prosperity of Indigenous communities,” said Secretary Deb Haaland. “Through President Biden’s Investing in America agenda, we are making targeted investments throughout Indian Country to repair and revitalize key infrastructure facilities, which will help support our trust responsibilities, advance economic opportunities and expand access to clean, reliable drinking water for Indigenous communities.”

[Funding Workbook for All California Tribes](#)

The Funding Workbook for All California Tribes (Funding Workbook) guides Tribal leaders and staff through the funding opportunities available within the California Climate Investments portfolio, helps assess which programs may work well for your Tribe’s needs and priorities, and identifies next steps your Tribe can take to pursue funding.

[Story Map- An Important Part of the Northwest Landscape and Culture](#)

Fruit-producing shrubs such as huckleberries, salal, Oregon grape, and beaked hazelnut are an important component of social history and traditional tribal diets in the Pacific Northwest. The fruits of these shrubs are also an important food source for foraging wildlife and

pollinators, and serve as the basis for both non-tribal harvesting and small-scale commercial operations. Land managers have a strong interest in preserving and restoring these culturally important plant species across the Pacific Northwest. To aid monitoring, management, and restoration plans, we created this story map to showcase information on the ranges and phenologies (timing of flowering, fruiting, and other periodic life cycle events) of these species.

[Managed Wildfire History and Use Factsheet](#)

“Managed wildfire” is a fire response strategy which allows naturally ignited wildfires to fulfill their fundamental role on the landscape under moderate burning conditions. The strategy accounts for firefighter safety and community protection while ensuring resource benefit and encouraging future forest resilience. A review of the literature suggests that managed wildfire must be a key element of any long-term land management tactic in the western U.S. You will learn about the current science and discussion guiding Managed Wildfire, including its use and benefits, barriers, and future application.

Job & Internship Opportunities

[Arctic Rivers Project Internship](#)

The Arctic Rivers Project is an NSF-Navigating the New Arctic funded project that is a collaboration between scientists at the University of Colorado Boulder, Southwest CASC, National Center for Atmospheric Research, Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council, and the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals. Researchers will work directly with community members from at least three Alaska Native Villages to weave their knowledge of and experiences with climate change impacts together with climate projections from a newly developed regional climate model for the state of Alaska. **Application deadline: May 3, 2024**

[Grand Canyon Trust - LeaderShift](#)

LeaderShift is an immersive environmental justice and advocacy training program for college-age students. LeaderShift examines the legacy of energy extraction, its impacts on local communities, and paths toward a just and equitable future. Participants see firsthand how Native communities are transitioning away from fossil fuels toward healthy economies. We'll explore strategies for change at personal, community, and political levels, alongside experienced activists, storytellers, artists, and scientists. Topics, field trips, workshops, and program structure vary from year to year. **Application deadline: May 31st or until all 12 spots are filled**

[ITEP Tribal Waste & Response Steering Committee](#)

Applications are being accepted from Tribal professionals who are interested in serving on the Tribal Waste & Response Steering Committee. The TWAR SC is composed of people working on the front lines for Tribes, Nations, and Alaska Native Villages in the fields of Superfund, emergency response, solid waste, USTs, and brownfields. They produce a bi-annual Priorities Document that is used by senior management in EPA, the National Tribal Caucus, and even other Tribal Partnership Groups. They serve as mentors to their colleagues at other Nations and Tribes, assist us at ITEP with the Tribal Lands and Environment Forum and other special projects, and meet with federal staff throughout the year to advance Tribal concerns and challenges. **Application deadline: May 31, 2024**

[ESA Southwest Chapter Travel Award 2024](#)

The ESA Southwestern Chapter is offering four awards in 2024 to help graduate student members attend the annual meeting in Long Beach, CA. Travel funding (\$500) will be awarded to two students whose work is related to ecosystems in the Southwestern US and who have shown commitment to justice, equity, diversity and inclusion (JEDI) within the field of ecology. The goal of this award is to cover some of the travel expenses for graduate students to attend the annual meeting, showcase the work of early-career scientists, and highlight/encourage JEDI work occurring within ecology. **Application deadline: May 31, 2024**

[Association on American Indian Affairs Scholarship](#)

Calling all Native students in STEM and Native Studies! We are awarding fifteen \$2,000 scholarships in partnership with CBIKS at UMass Amherst. Connect with Indigenous Knowledges to tackle climate challenges and more! **Application deadline: May 31, 2024**

[Program Officer- Stewarding Native Lands- First Nations Development Institute](#)

First Nations Development Institute (First Nations) is a 44-year-old Native American controlled nonprofit organization whose mission is to uplift and sustain the lifeways and economies of Native Communities through advocacy, financial support, and knowledge sharing. The Program Officer will be assigned to the Stewarding Native Lands program. The Stewarding Native Lands program believes that the world will be more sustainable and prosperous when Native knowledge is centered in the stewardship of lands. The Stewarding Native Lands program supports Tribes and Native nonprofits across four strategic initiatives: Community Pathways, Ecological Stewardship, Environmental Sovereignty & Justice, and Climate. **Application deadline: open until filled**

[Education & Training Manager](#)

Indigenous Climate Action (ICA) is looking for someone who is ambitious, personable and passionately committed to true Indigenous Climate Justice to serve as its Education and Training Manager. This position requires a deep understanding of the intersectional approaches of climate justice and Indigenous rights in application to education and training contexts. The Education and Training Manager you will work with ICA Leadership to coordinate educational resources, develop and oversee the delivery of training on climate justice through a variety of ICA's programs such as, but not limited to, Climate Leadership, Just Transition, and Divestment. **Application deadline: open until filled**

[Program Associate- Stewarding Native Lands- First Nations Development Institute](#)

The Program Associate's primary responsibility is to assist and support program officers and the Director of Programs in the administration and implementation of First Nations' Stewarding Native Lands projects. Additional responsibilities include thoughtful contributions to Indigenous land stewardship and environmental justice conversations; coordination of technical assistance and training; participation in onsite visits, grantee communications, and grant management; and monitoring of consultant work. **Application deadline: open until filled**

[Tohono O'odham Nation - Environmental Specialist](#)

Under general supervision, this position protects the land, natural resources, and eco-system conditions of the Tohono O'odham Nation by assessing environmental impacts of past, present and future operations. Conducts tests and field investigations to obtain data for use in determining sources and methods of controlling pollutants in air, water, and land. **Application deadline: open until filled**

Funding Opportunities



Additional Sources for More Opportunities:

- 1) More Funding Opportunities can be found at the Tribes & Climate Change website: <http://www7.nau.edu/itcp/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. www.grants.gov/applicants/find_grant_opportunities.jsp
- 4) Conservation Innovation Grants (USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service) <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/>

[Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program: Implementation Grants Competition for Tribes & Territories](#)

This notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) announces the availability of up to \$300 million for competitive grants to eligible applicants to implement GHG reduction programs, policies, projects, and measures identified in a PCAP developed under a CPRG planning grant. This competition is exclusively for tribes and territories. Lead organizations for tribes and territories must submit their PCAPs to EPA by the deadline of April 1, 2024, in order for lead organizations and other eligible applicants under this announcement to submit grant applications to fund measures contained in those plans. EPA anticipates awarding approximately 25 to 100 grants ranging between \$1 million and \$25 million under this tribes and territories competition. **Application deadline: May 1, 2024**

[LUCÉ Indigenous Knowledge Fellowship](#)

First Nations will award 10 fellowships of \$75,000 each outstanding Native knowledge

holders and knowledge makers engaged in meaningful work that benefits Indigenous people and communities in either reservation and/or urban settings. These fellowships support the work of Native knowledge holders and knowledge makers as they significantly advance their work and spark transformative change in their communities. In this sense, community is broadly defined and can include your Native community, knowledge community, etc. **Application deadline: May 7, 2024**

[National Endowment for the Humanities - Cultural and Community Resilience](#)

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Division of Preservation and Access is accepting applications for the Cultural and Community Resilience program. This program supports community-based efforts to address the impacts of climate change and COVID-19 by safeguarding cultural resources and fostering cultural resilience through identifying, documenting, and/or collecting cultural heritage and community experiences. The program prioritizes projects from disadvantaged communities in the United States or its jurisdictions, and NEH encourages applications that employ inclusive methodologies. **Application deadline: May 21, 2024**

[First Nations Development Institute: Advancing Tribal Nature-Based Solutions Grant](#)

To support climate action that addresses adaptation and disaster preparation First Nations established the second project under its newly created Climate Initiative, Advancing Tribal Nature-Based Solutions. This project is designed to provide tribes and Native nonprofits with resources to support climate action that addresses adaptation and disaster preparation (e.g., wildfires, flooding, drought) through the application of nature-based solutions based on Native knowledge. **Application deadline: May 22, 2024**

[2024 Community Marine Debris Removal Program](#)

The University of Alaska - Fairbanks expects to award up to \$200,000 per project, and the projects will be administered by Alaska Sea Grant. The projects will conduct onshore or boat-based removal of marine debris, such as derelict fishing gear or consumer debris. Removal locations may include bays, marshes, and beaches, as well as upstream sources such as coastal adjacent streams, rivers, ponds, and shorelines. Eligible applicants include Alaska-based municipal and borough governments, Tribal governments and organizations,

non-profit organizations, K-12 educational institutions, private businesses, and individuals. Regional entities may apply on behalf of multiple communities. **Application deadline: May 28, 2024**

[Bank of America Charitable Foundation Philanthropic Strategy](#)

The current environment has underscored the importance of safe, decent housing for an individual's overall well-being, including health, educational success and future employment opportunities. Yet for many, access to affordable housing has become further out of reach while others struggle with the possibility of eviction, foreclosure and homelessness. That's why we support the efforts of organizations working to preserve and increase access to a mix of affordable housing options as well as other essential assistance. **Application period: May 27 - June 21, 2024**

[Department of Energy - Funding for Tribal Clean Energy Projects](#)

DOE's Office of Indian Energy is soliciting applications for \$25 million in funding for Indian Tribes, which include Alaska Native Regional Corporations and Village Corporations, Intertribal Organizations, and Tribal Energy Development Organizations, to install clean energy technology on Tribal lands. **Applications deadline: May 30, 2024, at 2pm PT/5pm ET.**

[Department of Energy - Funding for Transformative Clean Energy Projects](#)

Under the new Local Government Energy Program, Communities Sparking Investments in Transformative Energy (C-SITE) will award approximately \$18 million to implement municipally- or Tribal-led, high-impact clean energy projects in disadvantaged communities, energy communities, small- and medium-sized cities and towns, and Tribal communities. The program focuses on delivering funding to support projects and programs at the local level that reduce energy use, create local jobs, and focus on benefits to disadvantaged communities. **Application deadline: May 31, 2024 at 2pm PT/5pm ET**

[Tribal Wildlife Grant Program](#)

USFS offers competitive funding for Federally recognized Tribal governments to develop and implement programs for the benefit of wildlife and their habitat, including species of Native American cultural or traditional importance and species that are not hunted or fished. **Application Deadline: June 21, 2024**

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>

May 2024

Workshop: May 6-8, 2024, Boulder, Colorado **[12th Annual Rising Voices Workshop](#)**

Rising Voices is pleased to announce the 12th Annual Rising Voices Center for Indigenous and Earth Sciences Workshop, which will be a hybrid gathering, held both virtually and in-person at the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colorado, from Monday, May 6 – Wednesday, May 8, 2023. This workshop will bring participants together to work on proposed pathways and guidelines for intercultural collaborations for co-created, place-based Earth systems science research, policy, practice and action.

Forum: May 6-9, 2024, Harrah Cherokee Casino & Resort, North Carolina **[Nation Tribal Forum of Air Quality](#)**

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. Our attendees seek usable information from real-world examples that discuss practical ideas and solutions, and provide insight into current trends, data, and research impacting tribes working to protect their lands and people.

SAVE THE DATE! Symposium: May-6, 2024, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington **[12th Annual "Living Breath of wələbʔaltxw" Indigenous Foods Symposium](#)**

This symposium fosters dialogue and builds collaborative networks as we, Native peoples, strive to sustain our cultural food practices and preserve our healthy relationships with the land, water, and all living things. The 2024 theme is "Growing Food Sovereignty and Nourishing Seeds of Hope." Calling for presenters! All presentations, panels, and workshop abstracts that align with

our larger themes of Indigenous food sovereignty/security; traditional/first foods, plants, & medicines; environmental & climate justice as they relate to Indigenous food sovereignty/security; and health & wellness will be considered

Conference: May-13-16, 2024, St. Paul, Minnesota **[Native American Fish & Wildlife Society National Conference](#)**

Natural resource professionals and college students are invited to submit abstracts focused on research or projects related to: natural resource management, fish/wildlife biology, forestry, ecology, Indigenous Traditional Knowledge / Traditional Ecological Knowledge, conservation biology, human-dimensions, environmental law, conservation law, watershed science and etc. Abstract submission components: 250 words or less abstract (any word after will not be considered), abstract title, abstract keywords.

Conference: May-14-16, 2024, St. Paul, Minnesota **[National Adaptation Forum](#)**

The National Adaptation Forum is a bi-annual 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.

Tribal Engagement Session, May 15, Online **[Marine Carbon Dioxide Removal](#)**

The White House Office of Science & Technology Policy is developing a plan for marine carbon dioxide removal. The first 30 minutes of each Engagement Session will consist of an overview of marine CDR and FTAC efforts, and the following 90 minutes will be reserved for Tribal and Indigenous community input.

Tribal Engagement Session, May 17, Online **[Marine Carbon Dioxide Removal](#)**

The White House Office of Science & Technology Policy is developing a plan for marine carbon dioxide removal. The first 30 minutes of each Engagement Session will consist of an overview of marine CDR and FTAC efforts, and the following 90 minutes will be reserved for Tribal and Indigenous community input.

Workshop: May 20-22, 2024, Sulphur, OK **[Climate Change Adaptation for Tribes and Tribal Partners Workshop](#)**

This workshop is co-sponsored by the South Central CASC and will be held May 20 – 22 at the Chickasaw Retreat and Conference Center in Sulphur, OK. Participants are encouraged to register with teams (3-5 people) of relevant collaboration. (e.g. Tribal staff and partners on a project). Participants will work with these teams to conduct group work to integrate climate adaptation into an existing project. **The registration deadline is April 22.**

Tribal Engagement Session, May 21, Online **[Marine Carbon Dioxide Removal](#)**

The White House Office of Science & Technology Policy is developing a plan for marine carbon dioxide removal. The first 30 minutes of each Engagement Session will consist of an overview of marine CDR and FTAC efforts, and the following 90 minutes will be reserved for Tribal and Indigenous community input.

International Indigenous News and Event

In the News

[UN Puts Spotlight On Attacks Against Indigenous Land Defenders](#)

(Mongabay, 04/18/2024)

At the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII), experts called attention to the criminalization of Indigenous Peoples worldwide, exacerbated by intersecting interests in extractive industries, conservation, and climate mitigation.

[Cross-Border Indigenous Efforts In Peru & Brazil Aim To Protect Isolated Groups](#)

(Mongabay, 04/18/2024)

Indigenous organizations in Peru and Brazil are joining forces to push their respective governments to safeguard the Yavari-Tapiche Territorial Corridor, which covers 16 million hectares (39.5 acres) across both countries. The cross-border initiative aims to protect the ancestral territories of Indigenous peoples in isolation and initial contact who travel freely across both borders and are threatened by those who engage in illegal activity in or near their territories. The Indigenous organizations plan to create a commission, made up of groups from both sides of the border, to exchange knowledge and define cross-border Indigenous policies for the protection of isolated peoples, such as measures to prevent territorial invasions and collaborate on health matters.

Resources

[Indigenous World 2024](#)

(IWGIA, 04/2024)

Indigenous World is a collaborative effort between Indigenous and non-Indigenous activists and scholars who voluntarily document and report on the situation of Indigenous Peoples' rights. It's published as a documentation tool, and this year's overview focuses on Indigenous Peoples' rights to lands, territories and resources. 2023 witnessed an increasing number of attacks against Indigenous Peoples' Human Rights Defenders and environmental defenders who are paying a high price for protecting much of the remaining rich and biodiverse ecosystems left in the world. In this struggle, Indigenous women are disproportionately affected due to systematic discrimination and their roles as caregivers and managers of resources in their communities.

[For our future: Indigenous resilience report \(CANADA\)](#)

This Indigenous-led report draws on Indigenous knowledge, perspectives and experiences and explores the multidimensional and intersecting aspects of climate change impacts and adaptation. The report is structured around five key messages that were identified and developed collaboratively to find commonality across experiences. The five messages include: Indigenous Peoples have unique strengths for responding to environmental and climate changes; Climate change is one of many crises that First Nations, Inuit and Métis face; Indigenous Knowledge Systems and lived experiences are essential components of climate action; The food, water and energy nexus is central to First Nation, Inuit and Métis climate leadership; and Self-determination is critical to Indigenous-led climate action.

[Path to Scale Tool](#)

From: Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI) and Rainforest Foundation Norway (REN)

"Path to Scale dashboard is the first online tool developed to track all funding for Indigenous Peoples, local communities and Afro-descendant people's forest stewardship and land tenure. It's already highlighted several trends, including that disbursements globally have averaged \$517 million per year between 2020 and 2023, up from 36% from the preceding four years, but with no evidence of increased direct funding to community-led organizations. Although information gaps exist based on what's publicly available, Indigenous leaders say the tool will be useful to track progress and setbacks on funding pledges, as well as hold donors and organizations accountable." (Mongabay, 04/11/2024)

Events

Conference: May 6-9, 2024, Gran Melia Arusha, Arusha, Tanzania (in-person only)

[CBA18: Local Solutions Inspiring Global Action](#)

CBA18 brings together practitioners, grassroots representatives, local and national government planners, policymakers and donors working at all levels and scales to discuss how we can drive ambition for a climate resilient future. CBA is a space for the adaptation community to share learning on community-based and locally led adaptation systems, and to explore how to put the principles for locally led adaptation (LLA) into practice, recognising the complexities, innovations and challenges that must be overcome.

Conference: May 15-16, 2024, University of Bergen, Bergen, Norway (in-person only)

[Conference on Human Geographies of Climate Change Adaptation](#)

The Centre for Climate and Energy Transformation brings together climate change practitioners from across the globe working on research through a human geography lens. Themes include Adaptation in the Arctic, Adaptation limits, Political economies of adaptation, Methodologies for adaptation, Adaptation metrics and assessments, and Adaptation practice.

Congress: May 29-June 3, 2024, Bodø, Norway (in-person only)

[Arctic Congress](#)

The Arctic Congress combines three conferences together: the International Congress of Arctic Social Sciences, UArctic Congress, and the High North Dialogue. The congress includes high-level plenary sessions and parallel sessions with opportunities for researchers, policymakers, businesses, and students to increase connectivity and knowledge exchange on Arctic issues.