



Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals



Tribes & Climate Change Newsletter

September/October 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.



Streaming Sun Autumn Sunrise - Dallas Divide near Ridgway Colorado. Adobe.stock

Meet the Climate Change Team

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Harvest Season. Photo Credit: Kelsey Jensen

Reflection. In the past few weeks, I have been reflecting on how busy I have been this past year and how I have been trying to regain balance and harmony. Since early 2023, when I was appointed co-director of ITEP, it has been a wonderful and interesting journey. As you know from my past narratives, I have been rather open about the significance of being okay with talking about our mental and physical health, which is important in any line of work that we are in. So, this past year, I have been busy considering my dual capacity at ITEP, and a couple of big projects due at the year's end.

Some of you may have been present at our National Tribal and Indigenous Climate Conference (NTICC) in Anchorage, Alaska. The preparations for the conference were extensive as this was our third convening but only our second in-person. Honestly, I didn't realize that so many people would be interested in attending the conference, but eventually I realized that the location was also a major attraction. The reason for choosing Anchorage as the location of the 2024 gathering was simple: we listened to our relatives from Alaska. Until this year, there hadn't been an ITEP conference hosted in Alaska, and we often heard that our Alaska-based relatives and colleagues traveled to the lower 49 states and that it was time we came to them. We are so glad we had the privilege and opportunity to travel to Dena'ina territory and be with our new and familiar colleagues. I wish I had more time to sit down and speak with people, but the opportunities I did have, those conversations, smiles, and laughter fed my soul and heart. The stories and experiences shared, although heartbreaking and daunting, the overarching outlook was positive and hopeful. We have to be right?

One of those moments I shared with relatives was when I took it upon myself to guide Elders up to the front of the lunch lines. They

were surprised when I explained what I was doing, and in turn, I was surprised when I received hugs and smiles, and even one young man called me an "angel" and hugged me. (Note: I refer to my Elders as young because they are. Age is just a number, and I do not always conform to society's definitions.) I made a mental note to reflect and remind you to acknowledge our young leaders and our Elders and Knowledge Holders. It's easier said than done, and I know that in my family, my son and I say hi or smile to almost everyone we come across. It is a small act that can make a difference in someone's day. Our Elders may need that acknowledgment because they have done so much to ensure the knowledges are passed on so the next seven generations continue to survive and thrive.

I was exhausted after the conference but I was happy and content. We have a great team to work with, but it was also great to see and hear from those of you who attended the conference, virtual and in-person. My point is to take care of yourself before you take care of others, and sometimes it is the small things and actions that can make a difference in our days.

Until next time, be in beauty! Hózhó ji!

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

[NDN Collective September/October Newsletter](#)

[Bad River Documentary](#)

[The Native Vote Dilemma](#)

Advisory Committee Members:

Tribal Representatives:

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In The News

[DOE Partners With 25 New Coastal, Remote, and Island Communities to Advance Local Energy Resilience Goals](#)

Today, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) welcomed 25 new coastal, remote, and island communities to the Energy Transitions Initiative Partnership Project (ETIPP) as the technical assistance program's fourth cohort. These types of geographically isolated communities face unique energy challenges, including issues with accessing reliable and affordable power and increasing energy resilience. ETIPP helps communities assess and advance the clean energy solutions that best meet their needs, with support from experts at DOE's national labs and a network of regional partner organizations. © DOE, 09/10/24

[This Coastal Tribe Has A Radical Vision For Fighting Sea-Level Rise In The Hamptons](#)

Next to some of the priciest real estate in the world, the Shinnecock Nation refuses to merely retreat from its vulnerable shoreline. There's a modest hill in Seneca Bowen's yard that gently slopes upward, away from an inlet that leads into southeastern Long Island's Shinnecock Bay and eventually into the Atlantic Ocean. In 2012, when Hurricane Sandy ripped through Long Island, those few feet of elevation were the only thing standing between the flood waters and Bowen's house. © VOX, 09/17/24

[Clingmans Dome Renamed Kuwohi in Honor of Cherokee People Who Consider the Mountain Sacred](#)

The highest point in Tennessee will once again be known as Kuwohi after the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians successfully lobbied the U.S. Board of Geographic Names. The federal board on Sept. 18 unanimously approved the renaming of Clingmans Dome, the observation tower-topped mountain in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians first settled the mountain, which they believed to be sacred, thousands of years ago. The name translates to "the mulberry place." © Knox News, 09/18/24

[A Really Old Potato and Indigenous Foods in Bears Ears](#)

Western scientists believe that corn, beans, and squash (a symbiotic crop combination known as the "three sisters") have been cultivated in the American Southwest for at least 4,000 years after being brought north

from Mesoamerica. But it turns out an even older sister — the Four Corners potato — was here first. Thanks to the spotlight on [Bears Ears National Monument](#), Western science is finally catching up to Indigenous traditional knowledge when it comes to the ancient tuber and its cultural history. [A new University of Utah study](#) of the potato validates what Indigenous peoples already knew: Bears Ears is connected to a much larger cultural landscape by traditional foodways. © Grand Canyon Trust, 09/18/24

[Blackfeet Indigenous Leaders Demand Seat at Climate Week NYC](#)

As Climate Week NYC kicks off today, leaders in government, business, science, and philanthropy from around the world are coming together to strategize the global fight against climate change. Since last year's gathering, the world has seen 12 straight months that hit or surpassed 1.5C in average warming. This grim threshold, one set by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), intended to avoid the worst impacts of climate change, underscores the urgency of the moment. As the clock ticks down on the time we have left to redirect our Earth toward a more sustainable future, it is now more important than ever that Indigenous Peoples have a bigger seat at the table. © Time, 09/22/24

[Why Aren't Tribal Nations Installing More Green Energy? Blame 'White Tape'](#)

This spring in Michigan, the Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Potawatomi, or Gun Lake Tribe, [received 4 million dollars](#) from the Bureau of Indian Affairs [Tribal Climate Resilience](#) program, an initiative that aims to help tribes prepare for climate change. The money will be used to buy a fleet of electric vehicles, help the nation manage a gray water system, and install a solar array that will cut the tribe's electricity bills by around 80 percent and make the nation more self-sufficient. Underneath the two-acre solar array will be gardens of native flowers like butterfly weed, purple prairie clover, and primrose to help with the tribe's prairie restoration efforts. © Grist, 09/23/24

[Where Fire Back Means Land Back](#)

After a 19th-century treaty left them landless, the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians are reclaiming their ancestral lands—and their traditional wildfire management practices. On his tribe's land, enveloped by the state of Oregon,

Jesse Jackson stood at the threshold between two ecosystems: On one side of him, an open canopy bathed grasses and white oak trees in sunlight; on the other, a thick cover of evergreen trees darkened the landscape. A forget-me-not wildflower bloomed in the clearing. This is where the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians have been restoring their oak savanna meadows, after decades of fire suppression and the removal of large, fire-adapted trees under federal management. © Yes! Magazine, 09/23/24

[Cherokee Avoided Helene's Worst: 'We Were Spared'](#)

At the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians' largest annual gathering, a grateful community reflects on the storm's impact across Western North Carolina. Hurricane or no, Lisa Frady was determined to get to work on Friday morning, September 27. Despite Hurricane Helene bearing down on Western North Carolina, the 112th Cherokee Indian Fair, scheduled to start October 1, was at the top of her mind. This was her first time as sole supervisor of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians' largest annual event, and she wanted it to be a success. "If you know me and my work ethic, I know what this means to people, so I've got to make it happen," she said. © The Assembly, 10/08/24

['In Order to Have Clean Energy, We Need Good Energy' Indigenous Youth Say](#)

Young and distinguished Indigenous leaders, representing almost every region of Canada, were summoned to Inuit territory last week, where the warming Arctic threatens the Inuit way of life. It's also where a key to transforming the future might exist. Participants — flying through misty clouds at high altitudes from Ottawa over northern Quebec and the Hudson Strait — held excited and nervous expressions on their faces before landing in the mossy and rocky city of Iqaluit. © The Narwhal, 10/10/24

Resources

[Conducting Research ‘In A Good Way’: Relationships as the Foundation of Research](#)

Indigenous Peoples across the world have a history of colonization that continues today. Additionally, Indigenous Peoples have experienced harm from research. This paper explores conducting research with Indigenous Peoples in a “good way.” Relationships built prior to and throughout the research process are foundational to conducting research in a good way, meaning it respects and recognized inherent sovereignty; is culturally centered; relational; participatory; asset based; anti-racist; decolonizing; trauma-informed; survivor-centered; and engages free, prior, and informed, consent and Indigenous methodologies

[Revitalizing Indigenous Matriarch Roles in Water Leadership](#)

The Indigenous Women’s Leadership Network (IWLN), launched by the Water & Tribes Initiative in 2022 is a leadership program that supports a group of multigenerational Indigenous women in the United States in the areas of water and natural resources environment who work on issues in the Colorado River Basin. This panel will highlight case studies of Indigenous women leaders, water policy challenges and feature women’s networks from North America, Asia, Oceania, South America, and/or Africa. The panel will discuss the role of Indigenous women’s leadership, traditional values of water in Indigenous communities, and share ideas on how women might advocate and work together to solve challenges.

[Bazile Panek Of Good Sky Guidance On Respectful Agricultural Learning And Collaboration With Indigenous Communities](#)

On this week’s podcast, we talk with Bazile Panek about what farmers can learn from Indigenous knowledge in agriculture. Panek, CEO of Good Sky Guidance, shares his work on Indigenous knowledge, cultural revitalization, and environmental initiatives. He discusses the importance of conserving wild rice and the threats it faces, adapting to changing weather patterns and the use of controlled burns in ecosystem management. Good Sky Guidance is a consulting firm specializing in the use of Indigenous Knowledges in environmental initiatives and advising institutions on respectful tribal community engagement. Bazile highlights the need for relationship building and explores Indigenous foodways and the benefits of local, sustainable agriculture, and suggests leveraging Indigenous authors and scholars

[Certificate in Tribal Relations- 2024-2025 program registration is Open](#)

The Certificate in Tribal Relations is offered by the Institute for Tribal Government and Center for Public Service in the Mark O. Hatfield School of Government. It is designed for local, state, and federal government agencies, non-profit and for-profit organizations, and trade associations that work regularly with tribal nations and native communities. Registration **Deadline: Wednesday, November 6, 2024.**

The program seeks to:

- Foster understanding of tribal perspectives
- Increase staff effectiveness and accountability when working in Indian Country
- Improve working relationships between participants and the tribal communities with whom they work

[Call for input for the UN report on Indigenous Peoples and International Solidarity](#)

Despite the adoption of the afore-mentioned Declaration, Indigenous Peoples around the world continue to be subjected to human rights violations, ranging from displacement and dispossession of their lands, territories and resources, often as a result of activities related to the extraction industry. The Independent Expert welcomes as much information as possible including concrete examples relating to the issues highlighted in the questionnaire (in the link). Information collected will be presented to the 59th session of the UN Human Rights Council in June 2025. **Deadline: November 1, 2024**

[Itep Tribal Profile: Wind River Indigenous Youth Culture and Climate Day Camps](#)

The Wind River Reservation is a 2.5 million acres of wild landscape, with a 138,000-acre roadless area home to buffalo, wolves, and other wildlife. But climate change is putting pressures on habitats, water availability, and foraging. In recent years, Wind River has seen rising temperatures and a 25% decrease in snowpack, and on top of that, there’s an acid rain problem in the area due to natural gas extraction and processing.

[2024 U.S. Global Climate Research Program - Climate Literacy Guide: Essential Principles for Understanding and Addressing Climate Change](#)

Climate Literacy: Essential Principles for Understanding and Addressing Climate Change presents information that is important for individuals and communities to know and understand about Earth’s climate, the impacts of climate change, and solutions. Principles in the guide can serve as discussion starters or launching points for learning about the climate crisis and what’s being done to address it across the world.

[NDN LIVE: Walk Against the Illegal Transportation of Uranium on the Navajo Nation](#)

On July 30, 2024 a uranium company named Energy Fuels hauled its materials through the Navajo Nation and was stopped and escorted off Navajo lands by the Navajo Police Department by order of Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren. A call was made by Navajo Nation First Lady Jasmine Blackwater-Nygren and Diné organizers on August 1, 2024 to walk in opposition to the illegal transport of uranium on Navajo land at Cameron, AZ. The assertion of sovereignty on Indigenous lands by Indigenous Peoples for the protection of land, water, life, and people is a major factor in this.

Job & Internship Opportunities

[Southeast Climate Adaptation Science Center - Postdoc Research Scholar to develop 500-year Climate Adaptation Plan with Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians](#)

This project will convene a working group of EBCI staff, EBCI- and Southeast CASC-affiliated researchers, and other federal and state agencies to develop a multi-generational adaptation plan. To build this plan, the project team will co-develop an understanding of community needs and priorities, how the availability of resources may change in the future, and the potential impacts of long-term climate change on valued resources. This understanding will come from multiple approaches, including community involvement through workshops and surveys, Indigenous research methodologies, and modeling scenarios of global warming, land-use change, and resource dynamics. **Application Deadline: ASAP**

[UW Climate Impacts Group Director](#)

Having recently published our [2024-2029 strategic plan](#), this role will focus on implementing that ambitious plan by: 1) providing strategic leadership; 2) driving fundraising and financial stewardship; 3) building relationships and maintaining an engagement plan focused on enhancing impact; and 4) providing internal management by promoting a positive work culture and supervising and mentoring key staff members. **Application deadline: October 14, 2024**

[Center for Native American Youth - Brave Heart Fellowship](#)

The 2025 cohort will be based in the Pacific Northwest and Alaska, and 10 youth will be selected to participate. Native youth ages 18-24 years old who self-identify as Native; live in Alaska, (Northern) California, Idaho, Oregon, or Washington; and are passionate about promoting equity in the fight for climate justice are encouraged to apply. **Application deadline: October 21, 2024**

[U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Tribal Partnership Program Manager](#)

The Tribal Program Manager is charged with leading the continued development and execution of the Corps Tribal Nations Program, encompassing all Tribal equities across the functional areas of the Civil Works program. In this role, the Tribal Program Manager provides a commensurate level of leadership and responsibility across the agency, highlighting the significance and importance of the Tribal trust relationships in the implementation of the Corps Civil program. **Application deadline: October 23, 2024**

[NCGrowth Program Manager](#)

The Program Manager will join a close partnership between NCGrowth and the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development (NCAIED), supporting the launch of a new tourism initiative that includes Native American, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian communities. The Program Manager will support the development and implementation of technical assistance activities. The Program Manager will also supervise graduate student analysts and coordinate with NCAIED's regional specialists to implement needs assessments and technical assistance activities. The new hire will participate in regional and national meetings, website content, creation and distribution of materials and reports, and grant reporting processes. **Application deadline: October 24, 2024**

[Climate Change Coordinator- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#)

As a Climate Change Coordinator your duties will include serving as national principal coordinator for climate change science within the NWRS to bring together planners, managers and scientists and those of other agencies and organizations, to develop collaborative science and management ventures and build support for the needs, interests, and programs of the NWRS as they relate to meeting its conservation mission in the face of climate change. **Application deadline: October 25, 2024**

[Native American Tribes Upholding Restoration and Education \(NATURE\) program- The Nature Conservancy Utah](#)

Cool job alert! The Nature Conservancy Utah is hiring for our Native

American Tribes Upholding Restoration and Education (NATURE) program. This position is temporary for one year, starting around January 2025, finishing up in December. The role is part-time during the academic year then full-time for 8-10 weeks during the program in the summer months. Experience working with tribal communities or with tribal students is a minimum qualification. This role will be remote during the academic year, so the candidate can be located anywhere in the United States. Travel, room and board are provided during the summer program. More info in the job posting at careers.nature.org job ID 55713. **Application deadline: November 14, 2024**

[Graduate Research Scholarship- Intertribal Timber Council](#)

ITC, in partnership with the USDA Forest Service Research and Development, is pleased to announce scholarship opportunities for Native American graduate students planning or conducting tribally relevant research on natural resource issues. The ITC Research Scholarship is designed to support tribally relevant, natural resource-based research conducted by Native American Scholars enrolled in a graduate program. **Application deadline: December 2, 2024**

[The Nature of Our Times - Call for Writing Submissions](#)

We are looking for poems that speak to the immense value of nature—for our children and future generations, for our own and the planet's well-being, and the resilience and survival of our communities. We are looking for poems that query our current practices and what needs to change in our consideration of the natural world, and that show new understandings of what it means to co-exist in it. **Application deadline: January 15, 2025**

[Blue Forest - Indigenous Partnerships Coordinator](#)

The Indigenous Partnerships Coordinator will establish and grow partnerships with Tribal Nations and organizations for Forest Resilience Bond (FRB) projects primarily in Northern California and Southern Oregon. Most projects will center around the restoration of lands within National Forests. Partnership development involves learning about a project to understand past Indigenous engagement and ensure current and future plans incorporate Indigenous values. It also involves learning about Indigenous partners' priorities and interests and identifying opportunities to support and expand Indigenous partnerships, which may include opportunities for Tribal workforce development, community or youth involvement, science and research collaboration, or capacity building to expand co-stewardship of public lands. **Applications deadline: open until filled**

[Clean Energy Group - Project Manager for Fossil Fuel Replacement Initiatives](#)

This position will engage with efforts to phase out fossil fuel peaker plants and educate the public about Hydrogen. Pay ranges from \$54,000 to \$60,000 a year. Applications remain open but are entering review. **Application deadline: open until filled**

[Indigenous Partnerships Coordinator](#)

The Indigenous Partnerships Coordinator will establish and grow partnerships with Tribal Nations and organizations for Forest Resilience Bond (FRB) projects primarily in Northern California and Southern Oregon. Most projects will center around the restoration of lands within National Forests. Partnership development involves learning about a project to understand past Indigenous engagement and ensure current and future plans incorporate Indigenous values. It also involves learning about Indigenous partners' priorities and interests and identifying opportunities to support and expand Indigenous partnerships, which may include opportunities for Tribal workforce development, community or youth involvement, science and research collaboration, or capacity building to expand co-stewardship of public lands. This role will also engage with Indigenous scientists and cultural practitioners to explore opportunities to support and engage with their work. Additionally, this role will support our science team in further engaging with Traditional Ecological Knowledge. **Applications 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/>

[BIA TCR 2024 Annual Awards Program Request for Proposals](#)

The 2024 Annual Awards Program request for proposals (RFP) is open to Federally-recognized Tribes and Tribal organizations as defined in 25 U.S.C. § 5304(l) (other entities may participate as sub-grantees). This program will provide approximately \$120 million (M) in funding in FY24 support for Tribal climate resiliency. Since 2020, TCR has funded 568 Tribal projects totaling \$194.3M – peaking in FY23 at \$120.8M (150 awards). FY24 marks the final year of increased available funding made possible through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act. **Application deadline: October 18, 2024**

[Rooting Resilience Request for Applications: Tribes & Tribal Organizations](#)

River Network is excited to announce a funding opportunity for Federally Recognized Tribes and Tribal organizations for planning and implementing small community forestry projects in disadvantaged communities. Free technical assistance is available during both

the application process and the grant period, through River Network and our Rooting Resilience partners at Anthropocene Alliance and Native Americans in Philanthropy, to support organizations who are new to federal funding and may need additional help applying for or managing this grant. Grants will range from \$75,000 to \$200,000 over a 1-3 year period, dependent upon the project, its activities, and grantee capacity. **Application deadline: October 23, 2024**

[Tribal Tourism Grant Program](#)

The Department of Interior's Office of Indian Economic Development offers [this program](#) to support tribal economic development and fulfill the mission of the [NATIVE Act](#) by providing funding for tribes to conduct [feasibility studies](#) to help them make informed decisions about potential tourism projects. **Application deadline: October 25, 2024**

[WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grants \(round two\)](#)

This Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) provides funding for projects that result in quantifiable water savings and wider sustainability goals. These projects will need to conserve and use water more efficiently, mitigate conflict risk in areas at a high risk of future water conflict, and accomplish other benefits that contribute to sustainability in the Western United States. These grants are available to local and regional governments, Federally recognized Native American Tribal Governments, and irrigation or water districts. **Application deadline: October 30, 2024**

[Bipartisan Infrastructure Law \(BIL\): Tribal Engagement in Regional Ocean Partnership Priorities](#)

NOAA announced a funding opportunity support tribal activities aligned with ROP (i.e. West Coast Ocean Alliance) priorities, including identification of ocean and coastal priorities. Up to \$400K over 2 years is available. **Application deadline: October 31, 2024**

[NDN Collective Community Action Fund](#)

Community Action Fund (CAF) grants support direct actions and organizing efforts that are often urgent and time sensitive. CAF prioritizes frontline, grassroots and community-based efforts that defend Indigenous peoples rights, communities and nations, including responses to climate disasters. The average grant is \$15,000 but can range up to \$40,000. **Application**

deadline: Open on a monthly basis until October 31, 2024

[Forested Community Schoolyards Funding Opportunity](#)

Trust for Public Land is working alongside the U.S. Forest Service to increase tree planting in schools. Recognizing the opportunity in Tribal and Indigenous Communities, we are directing funds to Tribal nations, Tribal schools, and Indigenous communities to transform vacant schoolyards into culturally relevant green spaces that redress disparities in mental and physical health, climate vulnerability, and outdoor learning, while celebrating Indigenous lifeways. Trust for Public Land seeks to fund community-led efforts to reimagine how school grounds across Tribal and Indigenous communities are designed, maintained, and stewarded for student learning and community use. **Application deadline: November 8, 2024**

[FY 2024 Competitive Funding Opportunity: Tribal Transit Program](#)

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) announces the opportunity to apply for \$9,169,076 in competitive grants for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Public Transportation on Indian Reservations (Tribal Transit) Program under Assistance Listing Number 20.509. **Application deadline: November 13, 2024**

[WaterSMART Grants: Water and Energy Efficiency Grants for Fiscal Year 2024](#)

This Water and Energy Efficiency Grants Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) provides funding for projects that result in quantifiable water savings, implement renewable energy components, and support broader sustainability benefits. These projects conserve and use water more efficiently; increase the production of renewable energy; mitigate conflict risk in areas at a high risk of future water conflict; and accomplish other benefits that contribute to sustainability in the Western United States. **Application deadline: November 13, 2024**

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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>

October

Conference: October 16, Anchorage, AK
[Native American Fish & Wildlife Society Alaska Regional Conference](#)

NAFWS is providing travel scholarships available to attend the 2024 Alaska Regional Conference. Scholarship are up to \$2000 reimbursable for travel, hotel, and per diem. Registration is not included. Priority given to Tribes, Tribal organizations, and Tribal students with a focus on Alaska Natives and Alaska residents. Recipients must attend the entire conference. Call for abstracts is currently open!

Conference: October 16-17, Spokane, WA
[2024 Tribal Exchange Network Conference](#)

The Tribal Exchange Network Group (TXG) and the [Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals](#) (ITEP) host this FREE event for Tribal staff and other partners working with environmental data, particularly those seeking to leverage information technology solutions to streamline their work and enhance data management capacity. Others who may benefit from attending include those serving in Tribal leadership roles, Tribal staff developing and/or supporting information technology (IT) tools or systems, and other collaborators.

Webinar Series: October 17, Virtual Collaborative of Native Nations for Climate Transformation and Stewardship (CNNCTS): "Living Labs"

The Living Labs session in the Community Conversations webinar series will highlight the CNNCTS "Translate Knowledges to Practice" area of focus. This session will feature speakers from natural reserves and programs that provide university students and community members with hands-on learning and opportunities to test adaptation strategies. Hear from reserve managers about the ongoing projects and research at key sites, bridging knowledge and practice for environmental stewardship.

Convention: October 27 - November 1, Las Vegas NV
[NCAI 81st Annual Convention and Marketplace](#)

Join the National Congress of American Indians at the iconic MGM Grand Las Vegas, celebrating more than eight decades of defending tribal sovereignty and advancing the rights of Tribal Nations. With the 2024 presidential election on the horizon, this convention is an essential moment for Indian Country to unite, amplify voices, and shape a powerful collective future. Tribal leaders, NCAI members, Native youth, and allies

from across Indian Country will gather to tackle critical issues, strategize for the future, and strengthen nation-to-nation relationships.

November 2024

Summit: November 6-7, 2024, Pala Casino, Spa & Resort
[2024 Tribal Climate & Health Adaptation Summit](#)

Guided by the theme "Taking Action to Protect Health from Wildfire, Drought, and Heat Disasters," the Summit will focus on arming Tribal-serving professionals with the knowledge and skills needed to act on the unique climate and health vulnerabilities of the Tribes they serve. Throughout this two-day training, Tribal-serving professionals working at the intersection of climate change, health, and community wellbeing will participate in interactive instruction and peer-to-peer learning activities that will build knowledge and about developing, implementing, and evaluating adaptation plan strategies that safeguard Tribal health and are rooted in traditional knowledge and values.

Summit: November 18-20, 2024
Tulalip Resort Casino
[Affiliated Tribes and Northwest Indians Natural Resources Summit](#)

The ATNI Natural Resources Summit will engage Tribal leaders, citizens, and staff in conversations and modern approaches to environmental stewardship, while fostering a space where natural resources professionals can convene to create community with others conducting similar work in their prospective environmental fields.

Webinar: November 19, Virtual CNNCTS: Community Conversations Webinar Series - Demonstration Projects

The Demonstration Projects session in the Community Conversations series will focus on the "Put Adaptation Into Action" area of focus. This session will highlight community-led stewardship projects that foster co-stewardship and intertribal collaboration. Learn how established projects are supported and scaled to build resilience, promote environmental stewardship, and advance climate adaptation strategies through hands-on initiatives.

December 2024

Webinar: December 3, Virtual CNNCTS: Community Conversations Webinar Series - Stewardship Pathways

In the Stewardship Pathways session of the Community Conversations series, the focus will be on "Expanding Landscape Stewardship Pathways". This area of focus emphasizes workforce development

through training in plant propagation, fire and fuels management, GIS, and climate monitoring. The session will also cover train-the-trainer programs, regional hubs, and focus groups on coastal and fire stewardship, aimed at growing partnerships and expanding stewardship efforts across the region.

Conference: December 10-12, Palms Casino Resort Las Vegas, NV
[2024 Intertribal Agriculture Conference](#)

This signature event brings together Tribal leaders, farmers, ranchers, youth, and entrepreneurs to explore new markets and collaborate with key partners. Over three days, participants will gain access to resources that drive economic growth and increase sustainable practices across Indian Country. Our food systems have long been disregarded despite deep-rooted traditions that form the foundation of sustainable, ecologically grounded agricultural practices. This conference offers a unique platform to explore opportunities that rebuild food systems to align with our cultural teachings and values.

January 2025

Webinar: January 7, Virtual CNNCTS: Community Conversations Webinar Series - Stewardship Pathways

The Entrepreneurship session of the Community Conversations series will highlight how CNNCTS is "Supporting Social Entrepreneurship". This session will delve into how promoting social entrepreneurship contributes to building a climate-resilient economy by supporting Indigenous-led businesses. Learn about the expansion of entrepreneurial training opportunities for Tribal partners and how evaluating market opportunities fosters economic growth for Indigenous Fire, Forestry, and Fuels Crews.

February 2025

Conference: February 3-7, Anchorage, Alaska
[Alaska Forum on the Environment](#)

The Alaska Forum on the Environment (AFE) is Alaska's largest statewide gathering of environmental professionals providing an opportunity for government agencies, non-profit and for-profit businesses, community leaders, Alaska's youth, conservationists, biologists and community elders to come together and discuss the latest projects, processes, and issues that affect the environment in Alaska. The diversity of attendees and comprehensive agenda sets this conference apart from any other of its kind.

International Indigenous News & Resources

In the News

[For the First Time, Part of the Ocean Has Been Granted Legal Personhood](#)

The Brazilian city of Linhares has legally recognized its waves as living beings, marking the first known time part of the ocean has been granted legal personhood. In early August 2024, the coastal municipality passed a new law that gives the waves at the mouth of the Doce River, which runs to Brazil's Atlantic coast, the intrinsic right to existence, regeneration, and restoration. This means the waves should continue to form naturally and their water must be clean. The new law requires the city to protect the physical shape of the river, the ecological cycles that make the waves unique, and the water's finely balanced chemical makeup through public policies and funding. It also codifies respect for the waves' cultural and economic role in the community. Linhares has also appointed guardians to watch over the waves and act as their representatives in public decision-making. ©Hakai Magazine, 09/06/2024

[Developing Countries Say Their Access Difficulties at Bonn Climate Talks Show Justice Issues Obstruct Climate Progress](#)

This year's annual United Nations climate talks in Bonn started the way COP28 in Dubai ended last December, with some representatives from developing countries in the Global South feeling excluded from the process and even unwanted. Bonn talks are held each year in June to prepare for the full-blown COP climate summits held every year in November/December. The Bonn meetings are smaller and more technical, which can give developing countries a chance to have more influence. "By the time COP happens, most decisions have already been made in Bonn. If you can't access that, that is a violation of your rights," said Proscovier Nnanyonjo Vikman, co-director of Climate Change Action East Africa. ©Inside Climate News, 09/19/2024

[The African Commission sets a significant precedent for Indigenous Peoples' land rights in the context of conservation](#)

Following a decades long legal battle, the Commission found that the DRC government violated multiple human rights protected by the African Charter of Human and Peoples Rights (The African Charter), in a land rights case that dates back to the 1970s. The case relates to the Kahuzi-Biega National Park (PNKB, by its French acronym) in eastern DRC. The Batwa were expelled from their ancestral land in the 1970s to create the park. The Indigenous People were given no compensation and no other land to live on. They have been campaigning for the DRC to return their land to them ever since. This decision from the African Commission recognises for the first time not only that the DRC violated the Batwa's rights when establishing the PNKB, but also that 'fortress conservation' - a conservation model based on creating strict protected areas that exclude people - failed to achieve environmental objectives. This decision from the African Commission opens the door to other, better conservation practices. ©Forest Peoples Programme, 08/05/2024. (See full decision here)

[Civil society statement on the publication of the UN Secretary-General's Panel on Critical Energy Transition Minerals report](#)

Declaring that "resourcing the energy transition requires a new paradigm rooted in equity and justice," the Panel has laid out principles and recommendations to create urgently necessary change in mineral supply chains; signatories call for anchoring human rights and Indigenous People's rights in mineral supply chains, protecting planetary

integrity, and to discourage fragmented bilateral trade and investment agreements. ©Publish What You Pay, 09/11/2024

[Indigenous Peoples in Suriname Join Forces to Demand Access to their Fundamental Human Rights](#)

Suriname's First National Indigenous Congress, held on August 7th, 2024, gathered representatives of the country's Indigenous Peoples – Kari'na (Caribs), Lokono (Arawaks), Trio (Tiriyo, Tarëno), and Wayana – to discuss pressing matters that hinder access to their fundamental rights. In 2015, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights issued a significant ruling, known as the Kalifia and Lokono decision, which ordered the Surinamese government to grant Indigenous Peoples collective land rights over the lands and territories they have traditionally occupied. Before this ruling, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights had already ruled in 2007 that the Surinamese government must stop awarding logging and mining concessions in the Saamaka People's territory and recognize their land rights. ©Nia Terro, 09/17/2024

[Ahead of COP16, groups warn of rights abuses linked to '30x30' goal](#)

The 30 by 30 goal, which calls for 30% of Earth's land and sea to be conserved by 2030, continues to be criticized by several human rights organizations who say its lack of clarity on where and how to expand protected areas may result in human rights abuses and forced evictions. In a new report by the Oakland Institute, researchers highlighted some of the implications of protected area expansion on the Batwa Indigenous community in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), including abuses by rangers and soldiers. Advocates say the COP16 discussions should include clear indicators to track respect of human rights and integrate locally led conservation initiatives that fit within the sociocultural context of each country, rather than top-down approaches. ©Mongabay, 09/18/2024

[For the First Time, Part of the Ocean Has Been Granted Legal Personhood](#)

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[Invisible Trauma](#)

Environmental activists are struggling with paranoia, panic attacks, and depression. Now, a growing network of mental health shelters in South America hopes to fill a void in care. ©Grist, 09/18/2024

['We empower ourselves': the women cleaning up Bolivia's Lake Uru Uru](#)

Once clean enough to drink, the Andean lake was poisoned by mining pollution and urban waste. But now Indigenous women are using giant reeds to revive the vital ecosystem. People living around the lake, situated 3,686 metres above sea level with a surface area of 214 sq km, used it for drinking water, fished in it, irrigated their crops with it and watered their cattle, says Blanco. This is no longer possible and many of the community have been forced to migrate. Fed up with the ever-increasing

International Indigenous Resources & Events

pollution, the sisters and other young women formed the Uru Uru Team in 2019. ©The Guardian, 09/18/2024

[The Amazon's Ashaninka tribe restored their territory. Now they aim to change the region.](#)

What was once a gathering to commemorate the Ashaninka has evolved into a showcase of what they have done: the village's self-sufficiency, which comes from growing crops and protecting its forest, is now a model for an ambitious project to help 12 Indigenous territories in western Amazon, amounting to 640,000 hectares (1.6 million acres), about the size of the U.S. state of Delaware. In November, the Organization of Indigenous People of the Jurua River, known by the Portuguese acronym OPIRJ, secured \$6.8 million in support from the Amazon Fund, the world's largest initiative to combat rainforest deforestation. With Apiwtxa as the model, the grant is geared toward improving Indigenous land management with an emphasis on food production, cultural strengthening and forest surveillance. ©Associated Press, 09/12/2024

Call for Input

[Call for input for the UN report on human rights defenders working in remote and rural areas](#)

It is widely recognized that human rights defenders working in remote or isolated areas are vital to the realization and enjoyment of human rights. Such areas can frequently only count on a weak presence of the state, are often neglected by human rights monitoring agencies, have fewer civil society support structures in place and receive less media attention. Human rights defenders in these areas also play a key role in ensuring the functioning and legitimacy of public institutions, processes and the rule of law. Information collected will inform the Special Rapporteur's report on human rights defenders working in remote and rural areas, to be presented to the 58th session of the UN Human Rights Council in March 2025. **Deadline: October 31, 2024**

[Consultation on the HLPE-FSN report on Indigenous Peoples' food and knowledge systems](#)

During its 51st plenary session (23-27 October 2023), the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) adopted its four-year Programme of Work (MYPOW 2024-2027), which includes a request to its High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition (HLPE-FSN) to produce a report on "Preserving, strengthening and promoting Indigenous Peoples' food and knowledge systems and traditional practices for sustainable food systems" to be presented at the 54th plenary session of the CFS in October 2026. Consultations on this scope and on the development of the full report will be held with a comprehensive range of rights-holders and stakeholders. Beneficiaries of the report will be Indigenous Peoples and the wider global community, through the CFS. **Deadline: December 16, 2024**

Job & Internship Opportunities

[!! UN CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES](#)

In view of the resignation of the current mandate holder, the secretariat of the UN Human Rights Council is currently accepting applications for the vacancy of an independent United Nations expert to be appointed by the Council to the position of Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. **Application Deadline: October 29, 2024 at 12pm (Geneva, Switzerland time)**

[Global Alliance of Territorial Communities \(GATC\) - Regional Consultancies](#)

The Global Alliance of Territorial Communities is a political platform that brings together Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities with the aim of defending Mother Earth for the present and future benefit of all humanity. As part of a global project, GATC is seeking regional consultants to conduct literature reviews and identify case studies on traditional food and forest management with Indigenous Peoples and Local communities across its five regions: Mesóamerica, the Amazon Basin, Brazil, the Congo Basin, and Indonesia. Findings will be highlighted as part of policy proposals during key climate and diversity fora. **Application deadline: ASAP**

Resources & Funding Opportunities

Funding Opportunity: [Indigenous Youth Wellness Honorarium](#) (Canada)

Indigenous Climate Action (ICA) is committed to lifting up young Indigenous Peoples who are doing the hard work of climate justice organizing and engaging with frontlines that oppose extractive industries in order to protect our homelands. This honorarium is intended to help relieve some of the financial stress that can often be a barrier to seeking help in maintaining a healthy balance when doing organizing work. Open to youth in Canada; No application date set.

Resource: [UN Rapporteur Explores Access to Climate Change, Human Rights Information](#)

Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change, Elisa Morgera, has developed a report on access to information on climate change and human rights. The UN General Assembly (UNGA) will consider the report at its 79th session. The report seeks to inform the interpretation and application of the Paris Agreement on climate change, and includes an outline of potential and actual negative impacts of climate change on human rights.

International Events

Meeting, October 21 - November 1, 2024, Cali, Colombia [UN Convention on Biological Diversity \(COP 16\)](#)

The Sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 16) will work to develop the monitoring framework and advance resource mobilization for the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (adopted at COP 15, December 2022 in Montreal, Canada). COP 16 will also aim to finalize and operationalize the multilateral mechanism on fair and equitable sharing of benefits from the use of digital sequence information on genetic resources.

Conference, October 29-31, 2024- Harare, Zimbabwe [Climate and Health Africa Conference](#)

This conference aims to address the urgent need to tackle the detrimental health impacts of climate change on health and wellbeing in Africa and will incorporate research into the understanding of climate-health mechanisms, health impacts, effective adaptation and mitigation intervention strategies, equitable climate research, and discuss how to effectively translate research into policy.

Conference: November 11-22, 2024 - Baku, Azerbaijan [United Nations Climate Change Conference \(UNFCCC COP 29\)](#)

The meeting comprises the 29th session of the Conference of the Parties, the 19th session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP 19), and the 6th session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA 6).