



Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals



Tribes & Climate Change Newsletter

January 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.



Panoramic shot of Yucatania point and shallow Skagway river in Skagway, Alaska. Mountains and cloudy blue sky as a background. Adobe.stock

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

Laureen Lewis, Hopi/Havasupai, (She/Her)
Financial Oversight Analyst
Laureen.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. (International)
Ashley.Gries@nau.edu

Cara Corbin (She/Her)
Community Program Coordinator, Sr. (TCTAC)
Cara.Corbin@nau.edu

Kieren Daley Larsen (He/Him)
Community Program Coordinator, Sr. (TCTAC)
Kieren.Daley-larsen@nau.edu

Bazile Minogiizhigaabo Panek
Indigenous Consultant
Bazile.Panek@nau.edu

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



Arctic fox living in the arctic part of Norway, seen in autumn setting. Adobe.stock

Are you ever at a loss for words? On paper, in your head and verbally? I will admit that this has happened to me once or more times than I can remember. As someone who has ADHD, my brain is always going and sometimes, my mouth cannot keep up. Amongst, my circles, I allow myself to ask for grace and convey, more clearly, what I wanted to say. If I am serving as speaker at a conference, workshop, before leadership, etc., I often come up with scenarios of what I could say, could offer to the conversation, and how I could respond. I write down notes and I try to repeat them in my head, so I am not repeating myself or rambling taking up precious time from others who wish to speak. That I am very conscious of. Although one of my first mentors in college, who would help me obtain my Master's degree, taught me to not be afraid of speaking up even if that meant I would have to talk over someone. In my Navajo culture, it is frowned upon to interrupt or speak over someone and that is ingrained, BUT I understand that is how the game is played. It is not a game I like playing but I do it so I can be heard. My mother says I was always a talker whether it was to myself, to others including friends who were not visible to other humans. My parents and elders taught me to listen. My paternal grandmother taught me to be still and listen. Both scenarios are hard for someone who needs to be constantly moving and that has several screens on in her brain. The point is I know how and when to speak and listen. I know I don't always need to be heard so I listen. There are days I know I need to speak to make things happen.

Last week, I had the opportunity to meet a young Mexican and Navajo woman who answered some questions we had for her. Upon our initial meeting, she seemed quiet and soft spoken, but I was quickly proven wrong. As she warmed up, her voice and answers grew stronger. One of the questions asked referred to working in a team environment and her

answer stopped me. I stopped writing, the other screens in my head shut off and I asked her to say it again. All I could think about was her answer which was "Everyone has their own superpowers." I wish you could have heard her say this because it was profound, and she meant it. Perhaps it was because I am a firm believer in teamwork, and that no one could or should work alone. For someone who is navigating through the many chapters of her life, it was such a profound statement, that I still think of it and am writing about it.

There are many lessons we have learned and are still learning. In my much younger days, I learned was to never judge anyone based on one's appearance or initial mannerisms. For that and many other reasons, I give people several chances so I can get to know them beyond what is initially presented. On the other hand, people tell you who exactly who they are, and we should listen and take note. Let's continue to listen and speak about what is important to us. There is always darkness lurking and if we seek positivity, we may find ourselves at a loss for words and find people who bring smiles to our faces and thoughts. 1,460 = we got this, we can do it, we will do it. Remember our ancestors and do it for the next seven generations. Honor our ancestors and warriors who are still with us and are welcoming home.

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

In The News

[Loud, Angry, And Indigenous: Heavy Metal Takes On Colonialism And Climate Change](#)

The crowd sways like starlings in murmuration as we wait for the show to start. The relaxed vibe belies the pandemonium about to be unleashed. Metal concerts are like that. To an outsider, they appear violent, and they can be, but to fans like me they are a place of solace. I've been attending concerts since I was a teenager; the first was in a dusty parking lot and I never looked back. At the time, I gave no thought to what amplifiers cranked to 10 might do to my hearing, and it didn't help that I liked being close to the action. Tonight, in Denver, I've got earplugs, sensible sneakers, and, because it has been acting up, a brace on my knee. © Grist, 12/23/24

[Reviving Lost Relatives](#)

Indigenous farmers in the US Southwest are bringing back traditional crop varieties and finding new ways to protect them. On a morning in early May, a pale blue sky blends into boundless mesas about 70 miles north of Phoenix. Michael Kotutwa Johnson, wearing a wide-brimmed black hat and sunglasses, walks through rows of corn sprouting under a hot sun. As a light breeze ruffles the stalks, he bends to study each plant, then uses a hoe to scratch at the soil. "I don't like weeds on my field," he says. "There should be nothing but corn." © Earth Island Journal, Winter 2025

[A First Of Its Kind Missing and Murdered Indigenous People Database and Map for Arizona](#)

Arizona Luminaria is launching a new database dedicated to Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, Two-Spirit and Transgender People — the first of its kind in Arizona. To gather the data, over 100 public records requests were filed, mostly with law enforcement agencies across the state and some of which are still being processed. Currently, there are nearly 100 people included in the database, spanning almost 70 years. This ongoing work is also supported by the Data Driven Reporting Project. If you have a story you'd like to share, please contact Chelsea Curtis at ccurtis@azluminaria.org. © Arizona Luminaria, January 2025

[Biden extends oil and gas leasing ban in Alaska's Northern Bering Sea](#)

The entire Northern Bering Sea is now off-limits to oil and gas leasing, under a presidential directive announced on Monday. President Joe Biden invoked his authority under a federal law to withdraw about 44 million acres of the Northern Bering Sea and other federal offshore areas from the Department of the Interior's oil and gas leasing program. An earlier action by President Barack Obama in 2016 established a Northern Bering Sea Climate Resilience Area, with protections that put about half of the region off-limits to oil and gas leasing. Biden's action under the Outer Continental Shelf Act added the rest of the designated climate resilience area to the no-leasing category. © Alaska Beacon, 01/07/25

[Biden-Harris Administration Announces \\$121 Million to Help Tribes Build Climate Resilience](#)

The Department of the Interior today announced a \$121 million investment from President Biden's Investing in America agenda to help Tribal communities prepare for the most severe climate-related environmental threats to their homelands. This is the largest amount of annual funding awarded to Tribes and Tribal organizations in the history of the Bureau of Indian Affairs' Tribal Community Resilience Annual Awards Program, with 96 Tribes and 10 Tribal organizations receiving funding for 124 projects. DOI Press Release, 01/08/25

[Resources for Native peoples in the Los Angeles wildfires](#)

Major wildfires in Los Angeles continue for a third day, leaving thousands displaced and killing five individuals so far. Many Native people on social media are sharing resources for those in the Los Angeles area regarding shelters, transportation, food, water, and more. Below is a collection of resources for Native, Alaska Natives, or Indigenous peoples in southern California. © ICT, 01/09/25

[Department of Interior Advances US Commitment to UN Declaration on Indigenous Rights](#)

The Implementation Project, a joint project of the Native American Rights Fund and the University of Colorado

Law School, has long encouraged the United States government to take measures to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Therefore, we are thrilled to see the Department of the Interior (DOI) issue an historic statement, Advancing the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (January 14, 2025), acknowledging the commitment of the United States "to take measures to achieve the ends of the Declaration." The statement reflects more than a decade of efforts, including the 2014 United Nations General Assembly's Resolution adopting the Outcome Document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples.

[Indian Affairs Announces \\$10 Million In Funding Opportunity For Ecosystem Restoration Of Previously Mined Tribal Lands](#)

The Office of the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs today announced that \$10 million from President Biden's Investing in America agenda will be made available to support the restoration of ecosystems located in previously mined Tribal lands. The funding advances the Biden-Harris administration's [America the Beautiful Initiative](#) and is part of the [Department's Restoration and Resilience Framework](#) guiding \$2 billion in investments from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act to restore lands and waters and advance community resilience to climate change. © DOI Press Release, 01/17/25

[Ecological Disaster in LA Highlights Indigenous Firekeeping](#)

After a decade of moving between the Bay Area, the Midwest, and Mexico, in August of last year, I finally moved back to the lively Boyle Heights neighborhood of Los Angeles. It has been special coming back to the community where I was born and raised, and last week, I finished a full draft of my dissertation entitled Oaxacan Knowledge Keepers, Earth Stewards, and Defenders of Indigenous Healing Systems of Care. My dissertation is a critical ethnography that explores the revitalization and mobilization of Oaxacan Indigenous healing practices across the U.S. Mexican borderlands. © Synapse, 01/21/25

Resources

NEW SECTION: [TCTAC TIDBIT](#)

Grant Writing Training Opportunity:

The free grant writing training with experts, available for Tribes and community-based organizations, Writing for Green is now open! The 12-week grant writing training, exclusive to organizations working with the TCTAC Network, includes a series of online learning modules designed to support applications for Thriving Communities grants, as well as special trainings and office hours. In each cohort, 25 participants will also be selected for coaching. There is a self-guided option as well, without the cohort component, and self-paced. Please email: kieren.daley-laursen@nau.edu or cara.corbin@nau.edu if interested!

Client Testimonial: *"In terms of building the capacity of emerging and established EJ organizations to more quickly and effectively raise funds to support their efforts, Writing for Green is the most practical and relevant training and coaching program in the country. The organization's services are targeted, fun, and engaging, and they are led by some of the most proven and results-driven individuals in the industry."*

- Margot Brown, PhD
Vice President, Justice and Equity,
The Environmental Defense Fund

[ITEP Features Tribal Profile: Bidii Baby Foods](#)

Across the 17.5-million-acre Navajo Nation, there are just 14 full-service grocery stores. In this food desert, where access to fresh, nutritious foods is incredibly limited, residents rely heavily on non-perishable, highly processed foods to avoid the time and travel costs associated with grocery shopping. These pre-packaged, energy dense foods are linked to higher rates of obesity, diabetes, heart disease, and other chronic illnesses, demonstrating a health justice issue on the Navajo Nation. Additional barriers to quality food include high food costs, which limit what residents can afford to consume, often leaving families to stretch their food budgets as much as possible. Additionally, there are fewer families maintaining large fields of crops or raising livestock than in the past, creating an even higher reliance on purchased and processed food. Residents relying on the cheapest food options means that labels like "organic" or "non-GMO" often get overlooked as that can signal high prices, and that traditional foods not sold at major grocery stores are inaccessible. But one family on the Navajo Nation is trying to change that.

[Reconciliation and Climate Adaption: Indigenous Solutions for a Sustainable Future with James Rattling Leaf](#)

In this keynote, James Rattling Leaf, a respected advocate and expert in Indigenous Knowledge and environmental stewardship, will explore the intersection of reconciliation and climate adaptation. He will discuss how Traditional Ecological Knowledge and indigenous practices offer valuable insights and solutions for addressing the pressing challenges of climate change. Through the lens of reconciliation, James will highlight the importance of respecting indigenous sovereignty, honoring sacred relationships with the land, and incorporating indigenous wisdom into modern climate strategies. This presentation will emphasize the need for collaboration and dialogue, fostering a deeper understanding of how indigenous communities are adapting to climate impacts and leading innovative, sustainable solutions. Attendees will leave with a renewed commitment to allyship and actionable steps to support indigenous-led climate initiatives, paving the way for a more resilient and just future for all.

[Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities \(BRIC\) Direct Technical Assistance Request Form](#)

Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Direct

Technical Assistance (BRIC DTA) provides non-financial support to communities, territories and Tribal Nations that may not have the resources to begin climate resilience planning and project design on their own. Through process-oriented, hand-in-hand assistance, BRIC DTA will partner with communities, territories and Tribal Nations interested in enhancing their capability and capacity to design holistic, equitable, hazard mitigation solutions that advance community-driven objectives. Through BRIC DTA, FEMA will offer support to recipients for wide-ranging activities including, but not limited to, climate risk assessments, community engagement, partnership building, and mitigation and climate adaptation planning. Support to BRIC DTA recipients can range from pre-application activities to grant closeout. **This form closes Friday, April 18, 2025**

[Community Navigators Initiative- U.S. Forest Service](#)

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) provides funding and technical assistance to support rural communities, Tribes, forest landowners, businesses, and others. However, many face barriers to accessing these resources. Through the Community Navigators initiative, the Forest Service partners with local organizations, assigns staff to guide communities, and collaborates with federal agencies to share best practices. To date, there are many non-profit organizations that have signed agreements to work with communities to help build capacity and share information about USFS services, programs, and funding opportunities. For more information on how Community Navigators can help you, connect with our partners or email [Forest Service Community Navigator](#).

[Tribal Water and Natural Resources Conservation Guide](#)

This guide offers Tribal environmental programs resources on federal assistance for protecting waters, air quality, wildlife, habitats, and lands, addressing climate change, and engaging Tribal communities. The 75-page guide includes an introduction for new Tribal staff, quick reference tables, Tribal case studies, and federal planning tools. A supplemental Excel inventory lists 150+ federal funding programs for Tribal conservation. Input was provided by 10 federal agencies.

[Call for Abstracts | Oral Presentations, Lightning Talks & Poster Presentations](#)

The Scientific Program Committee invites abstracts for the 11th World Conference on Ecological Restoration (SER2025). This conference focuses on turning global restoration commitments into action as part of the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration. SER2025 brings together experts across science, practice, policy, finance, and culture to advance efforts in sustaining biodiversity, building climate resilience, and reconnecting nature and culture. Submissions should align with one of the eight conference themes, with practitioners especially encouraged to share their work.

[Session One: Enhancing the Preparedness and Resilience of Communities before Disasters Strike: the Case of Texas, Florida, and Puerto Rico.](#)

In this session, the panelists will discuss different preparedness and resilience efforts that were rooted in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico and have expanded to other regions of the USA including Florida and Texas. We will explore insights on how to place communities at the heart of preparedness planning, with representatives from the Community Resilience Research Innovation and Advocacy Center (CCRIA), the Latino Resilience Hub Network, and community-based research groups in Puerto Rico.

Job & Internship Opportunities

[L.I.G.H.T. Foundation Indigenous Climate Change Internship Program](#)

Spend your summer working with Tribal organizations to address Indigenous environmental issues. The internships have a research, technical, educational or policy focus. We are offering up to 8 positions focused on climate change. You can apply for up to 5 positions with one application. The internship program provides each student intern with a \$8,000 stipend. There are travel and housing stipends for those who relocate for the internship. **Application deadline: January 31, 2025**

[Bureau of Indian Affairs - Plant Ecologist](#)

The Bureau of Indian Affairs' Branch of Tribal Climate Resilience (TCR) is excited to announce a Request for Statements of Interest (RSOI) to coordinate with a Plant Ecologist on Tribal coastal restoration. The Plant Ecologist position will be funded by TCR through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law's Ecosystem Restoration Program to assess the botanical/native seed and plant materials needs, and to provide technical support for Tribes who are relocating, retreating, expanding, or utilizing protect-in-place measures to address climate-induced erosion and similar impacts. Please reach out to Alyssa Morris (alyssa.morris@bia.gov) and John Mosley (john.mosley@bia.gov) for a position description and for any questions and to submit Statements of Interest. **Application deadline: January 31, 2025**

[2025 Summer Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission Internships](#)

The Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) is pleased to announce available internships for its 2025 GLIFWC Internship Program. Through this internship program, college students will work with a GLIFWC mentor within various divisions and learn about necessary coursework, college degrees, and trainings which result in gainful employment in a multitude of careers including natural resources and stewardship careers with tribes. Also, interns will participate in a multitude of traditional Anishinaabe cultural events and learn about the importance of treaty reserved rights to the Anishinaabe people, and their history in preserving these rights. **Application deadline: January 31, 2025.**

[Midwestern Regional Climate Center Summer Climatologist Intern](#)

This position is designed to expose the intern to the range of activities performed by the MRCC. The intern will assist MRCC climatologists with outreach and education activities (e.g., social media, marketing of products and tools), in responding to data and information requests in the MRCC service office, and with applied research projects. **Application deadline: February 5, 2025.**

[2025 Native Youth Community Adaptation Leadership Congress](#)

Join students from across the country to discuss community adaptation and related environmental issues impacting Native peoples. The mission of the Native Youth Community Adaptation Leadership Congress (NYCALC) is to develop future conservation leaders with the skills, knowledge, and tools to address environmental change and conservation challenges to better serve their schools and home communities. In order to apply, students must be from Federally Recognized Tribes. **Application deadline: February 28, 2025**

[NOAA Coastal Resilience Fellowship](#)

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is pleased to announce the [Coastal Resilience Fellowship](#), which will place 33 fellows with [Climate Resilience Regional Challenge](#) projects and will be funded through the Inflation Reduction Act. This fellowship is a two-year opportunity (June 2025 to June 2027), offering a competitive salary of \$42,000 to \$56,000, depending on the cost of living in the fellowship location, plus medical benefits and travel and relocation expense reimbursement. **Application deadline: February 28, 2025**

[We Swim Together Scholarship Program](#)

A \$2,500 scholarship is available to empower and support our Native students on their educational journey. Let's rise together and honor our heritage through knowledge and opportunity. **Application deadline: May 14, 2025**

[Nez Perce Nimiipuu Solar Energy Manager](#)

Responsible for the day-to-day management, administering programs, projects, P&L, and business operations within Nimiipuu Energy.

Provides departmental, Tribal, and interagency coordination, develops departmental policy, present departmental recommendations to appropriate subcommittees, NPTEC, and Nez Perce Tribe Holding Company. Coordinates and communicates with other Program/Department Managers at the administrative level to implement Tribal and program policy and operations. **Application deadline: Open till filled.**

[Southwest CASC Communication Specialist](#)

The Southwest CASC is seeking an extended temporary employment Communication Specialist (Communications Specialist II) to develop and implement a communications program. The CS will work closely with the SW CASC Director and Assistant Director to facilitate communication that describe and promote the mission and science activities of the SW CASC. The CS will also coordinate outreach activities within the Southwest region and engage with National CASC activities. This position is on the University of Arizona, Tucson-campus. **Application deadline: accepted on a rolling basis**

[Director, Tribal Leadership Programs- Nation Wildlife Federation](#)

The Director of Tribal Leadership Programs is a joint position between the NWF and the Water & Tribes Initiative (WTI). The Indigenous Women's Leadership Network (IWLN) is a leadership program of the WTI. It was launched in 2021 and is a core component of WTI's portfolio to enhance Tribal capacity to manage water and engage in water policy discussion in the Colorado River Basin. NWF launched the Colorado River Indigenous Youth Advisory Council (CRIYAC) in 2024 as a mentorship and leadership program for youth and young adults (ages 18-25) who desire to protect the Colorado River and serve young adults in their journeys towards connecting, learning about, and being a voice for the Colorado River and their Tribal communities. **Application deadline: reviewed on a rolling basis**

[Upper Mokelumne River Watershed Authority's \(UMRWA\) Tribal Liaison](#)

UMRWA is seeking a Tribal Liaison to establish and foster beneficial relationships with Tribes having an interest in forest stewardship activities in the Upper Mokelumne River watershed. This position will serve as UMRWA's main point of contact with the Tribes within the region to promote and facilitate Tribal input on forest planning and project implementation activities within the Eldorado and Stanislaus National Forests. The successful candidate will be one who demonstrates the ability to establish and maintain constructive relationships with multiple Tribal communities and the capacity to assist Tribal representatives to engage and communicate their interests in forest-related initiatives. **Application deadline: positions open until filled**

[Buffalo Nations Grasslands Alliance - Several Open Positions](#)

Buffalo Nations Grasslands Alliance is uniquely positioned to connect Native leaders with technical support, to increase access to federal and private funding sources, and to enhance support for healthy grasslands through collective action. Open positions include: Program Director, Grants Manager, Outreach & Engagement Program Officer, Grasslands Specialist. **Application deadline: positions open until filled**

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

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

[Intertribal Buffalo Council - Executive Director](#)

The InterTribal Buffalo Council Executive Director will provide strategic, financial and operational leadership for ITBC. They will oversee the day-to-day organizational management to including supervision of ITBC staff in line with the mission and vision of ITBC. The Executive Director is hired by the ITBC Board of Directors and works closely with the ITBC president and legal counsel on a variety of issues and is required to provide reports to the ITBC Board of Directors quarterly and ITBC membership annually. **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/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/>

Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Program

This program provides grants for surface transportation infrastructure projects with significant local or regional impact. The eligibility requirements of RAISE allow project sponsors, including state and local governments, counties, Tribal governments, transit agencies, and port authorities, to pursue multi-modal and multi-jurisdictional projects that are more difficult to fund through other grant programs. **Application deadline: January 31, 2025**

Restoring Fish Passage through Barrier Removal Grants

Selected partners will use these funds to implement locally-led removals of dams and other in-stream barriers. Selected projects will assist in sustaining our nation's fisheries and contributing to the recovery of threatened and endangered species. They may also provide community and economic benefits, such as jobs and climate resilience. **Application deadline: February 10, 2025**

2025 Competitive State Wildlife Grant-U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The Competitive State Wildlife Grant (C-SWG) Program provides Federal cost sharing awards to help the State, Territory, and District of Columbia fish and wildlife agencies and their associations design and

implement proactive conservation programs benefiting wildlife and their habitats. Eligible activities include conservation planning and implementation. Planning activities include strategic enhancements to a State or Territory Wildlife Action Plan (Plan) that address best practices identified in this announcement. **Application deadline: February 25, 2025**

DOE's Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations - Energy Improvements in Rural or Remote Areas

This Energy Improvements in Rural or Remote Areas (ERA) funding opportunity provides support for rural and remote communities to build clean energy projects that benefit their communities. The goals of the program are to: 1) Deliver measurable and sustained benefits to people who live in rural or remote areas; 2) Demonstrate effective rural or remote energy system approaches; 3) Build clean energy knowledge, experience, capacity, and self-reliance in rural and remote parts of America. **Concept papers due by February 27, 2025**

Climate Smart Communities Initiative

The grants can help communities at any step in the planning process, and include funding, as well as training and technical support. The funding, anticipated at \$100,000 per award, can be used over a twelve-month period to advance activities ranging from risk assessments and community engagement to project prioritization and initial implementation. To be eligible for consideration, the community must be located in the United States and facing significant climate-related challenges, based on environmental as well as socioeconomic considerations. The application and the work must also be done as a collaboration between a community-based organization; a local, regional or Tribal government partner; and a climate adaptation professional. **Application deadline: March 3, 2025**

Transformational Habitat Restoration and Coastal Resilience Grants

Projects selected through this funding opportunity will have a transformative impact for coastal communities and tribes across the country. They will help sustain our nation's fisheries, make significant strides in the recovery of threatened and endangered species, and help protect coastal communities and ecosystems from the impacts of climate change. They will support efforts such as reconnecting rivers to their historic floodplains, outplanting corals to rebuild reefs, building living shorelines that protect coasts from erosion and sea level rise, and more. **Application deadline: April 16, 2025**

Fiscal Year 2024 Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)

The BRIC grant program provides federal funds to states, territories, tribal governments, and local governments for hazard mitigation activities to address climate change risks. It focuses on building resilience to extreme weather events and chronic stressors, which are increasing in intensity and frequency. Key principles include capacity-building, fostering innovation such as multi-hazard resilience and nature-based solutions, promoting partnerships, enabling large-scale projects, and maintaining flexibility. These efforts help communities understand disaster risks, plan for resilience, and design and implement transformational hazard mitigation projects and programs. **Application deadline: April 18, 2025**

Fiscal Year 2024 Flood Mitigation Assistance

The Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA) grant program makes federal funds available to states, U.S. territories, federally recognized tribal governments,¹ and local governments to reduce or eliminate the risk of repetitive flood damage to buildings and structures insured under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), and within NFIP-participating communities. It does so with a recognition of the growing flood hazards associated with climate change,² and of the need for flood hazard risk mitigation activities that promote climate adaptation, equity, and resilience with respect to flooding. These include both acute extreme weather events and chronic stressors which have been observed and are expected to increase in intensity and frequency in the future. **Application deadline: April 18, 2025**

Coastal Habitat Restoration and Resilience Grants for Tribes and Underserved Communities

Through this funding, NOAA will help support community-driven habitat restoration and build the capacity of tribes and underserved communities to more fully participate in restoration activities. Tribes, applicants that can demonstrate status as a tribal entity, an underserved community, or entities that partner with tribes, tribal entities, and/or underserved communities such as institutions of higher education, non-profit organizations, commercial (for profit) organizations, U.S. territories, and state, local, and Native American and Alaska Native tribal governments. As part of their applications, applicants must demonstrate their status as, or connection to, a tribe, tribal entity, and/or an underserved community. **Application deadline: May 12, 2025**

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>

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.

Expo: February 7, Oklahoma City, OK

[2025 OK Environmental Education EXPO](#)

The 2025 Oklahoma Environmental Education Expo will bring together educators, community leaders, and environmental advocates to explore how environmental education can strengthen community connections and foster collective action. Participants will engage in interactive workshops, panel discussions, and networking opportunities designed to share best practices, build partnerships, and inspire local initiatives. Themes will include collaborative sustainability projects, engaging underserved communities, and practical tools for integrating environmental education into community programs. The event will highlight success stories and provide actionable steps for creating greener, more connected communities.

Workshop: February 10-11, 2025, Astoria, Oregon

[Navigating Coastal Hazards Workshop](#)

Join Pacific Northwest coastal leaders, Tribal partners, planners, emergency managers, consultants, and researchers in our second Navigating Coastal Hazards workshop in Astoria, Oregon.

Hosted by the Cascadia CoPes Hub and partners, participants from Washington, Oregon, California, and British Columbia will continue to build on connecting the dots between current coastal needs and new research activities through roundtable discussions, posters, and panels. Registration coming soon!

Conference: February 24-27, Tucson, Arizona

[2025 National Native Seed Conference](#)

The National Native Seed Conference connects Research, Industry, Land Management, and Restoration professionals, providing the premier opportunity to develop relationships and share information about the collection, research and development, production, and use of native plant materials. The 2025 National Native Seed Conference is dedicated to the science, practice, and policy of producing and effectively using native seed. The conference supports the America the Beautiful Executive Order, National Seed Strategy for Rehabilitation and Restoration, and the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration.

March 2025

Virtual Symposium: March 11-12, Online

[2025 Northeast Invasive Species and Climate Change Symposium](#)

Registration link coming soon

April 2025

Conference: April 28-29, New Orleans, LA

[Native American Finance Officers Association Conference](#)

The NAFOA Conference gathers semiannually in the Spring for our Annual Conference and the Fall for the Fall Finance & Tribal Economies Conference to discuss the current trends in tribal economic development and share resources with tribal financial professionals.

May 2025

SAVE THE DATE! Conference: May 6-8, Ventura, CA

[2025 SW Tribal Climate Change Summit](#)

Save the date for the 2025 Southwestern Tribal Climate Change Summit! More information coming soon. Subscribe to our Newsletter to receive updates as they are announced.

Conference: May 20-21, Tucson, Arizona

[WRRC 2025 Annual Conference - Shared Borders, Shared Waters: Working Together in Times of Scarcity](#)

The conference program will focus on the challenges and successes of collaborations across borders, with a primary focus on Arizona and the Colorado River Basin. Discussions will cover collaboration on waters shared by the United States and Mexico, as well as cooperation across borders shared with sovereign Tribal Nations, interstate borders, and borders within Arizona.

Conference, May 26-28, 2025 - Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada

[Indigenous Centre for Cumulative Effects \(ICCE\) National Conference](#)

This year's conference theme is "Honouring All Our Relations: Embracing Indigenous Perspectives on Cumulative Effects", and will feature speakers on interconnectedness and interdependence, Indigenous Knowledge and western science, environmental stewardship, cultural resilience, valuable partnerships and more. The call for proposals is open until September 16, 2024.

International Indigenous News & Resources

In the News

[UN Publishes landmark guidelines to combat human rights abuses in conservation](#)

The UN Environment Programme guidelines were prompted by repeated revelations that big conservation corporations are responsible for grave human rights abuses against Indigenous peoples whose lands have been taken for Protected Areas. John H. Knox, a former UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment, was instrumental in shaping the principles, which represent a milestone in the fight to decolonize conservation. The new “Core Human Rights Principles for Private Conservation Organizations and Funders” list minimum standards by which conservation corporations should abide. ©Survival International, 12/09/2024

[The Philippines is going all-in on transition minerals and endangering Indigenous lands](#)

A new report from Global Witness, an international human rights advocacy group, says that increasing demand for transition minerals necessary for green energy are putting Indigenous peoples, like the Lumad, as well as critical biodiversity in the Philippines at risk. More than a quarter of lands in the Philippines identified for mineral mining overlap with biodiversity hotspots, while nearly half of all mining permits issued by the state “clash” with important ecological zones. Since 2010, Global Witness estimates that nearly 800 miles of critical forestlands have been lost to mining — an area around three times the size of New York City. ©Grist, 12/09/2024

[This Indigenous attorney is fighting for climate justice in the world's highest court](#)

The International Court of Justice, or ICJ, normally hears disputes over lands and waters between countries, but sometimes it takes on cases of broader global resonance. This was one of them: Aguon was arguing on behalf of Pacific island nations thousands of miles away that hope to hold accountable the countries most responsible for climate change. The 42-year-old attorney from Guam spent five years working toward this moment, along with his co-counsel, Margaretha Wewerinke-Singh. The case before the ICJ, led by Aguon's law firm, Blue Ocean Law, hopes to establish legal consequences for nations that have driven climate change and illuminate what obligations those countries owe to people harmed. ©Grist, 12/16/2024

[Krahô women lead Indigenous guard to protect territory in Brazil](#)

Indigenous women from Krahô communities in Brazil's Tocantins state have formed a surveillance group to protect their ancestral territory from invaders. The thirteen Krahô Warriors received training in surveillance and carry out operations for 15 days each month. They plan and implement territorial protection actions based on Krahô traditions and ways of life. The Kraolândia Indigenous Land (TI) is under pressure from loggers, hunters, charcoal factories, and agribusinesses that surround the territory. ©Mongabay, 01/14/2025

[Plans for bauxite mine in Suriname reignite Indigenous land rights debate](#)

A bauxite mine run by Chinese corporation Chinalco could begin operating next year, endangering a 280,000-hectare (about 692,000 acres) area of western Suriname inhabited by Indigenous communities. The mine will require refurbishing and expanding infrastructure for a harbor and railroad built in the 1970s, and gives the company “priority

right” to use the Corantijn river for dredging. Indigenous groups said they weren't properly consulted about the project and that the government is unfairly labeling their territory as public domain. ©Mongabay, 01/16/2025

[The Intersection of Indigenous Languages and Climate Change Insights from the Pastoralist Maasai of Tanzania](#)

The Maasai language, Maa, is more than a means of communication. It is a repository of environmental wisdom that integrates with livelihood systems that have mutual relationships with land management and the environment. Many concepts and terminologies in Maa are deeply tied to the environment, animals, weather, and landscapes. The Maasai have various terms describing types of grasses, soil, water sources, and animal behaviors that signal weather changes. This linguistic diversity reflects a long-standing understanding of ecological systems, enabling the Maasai to adapt to fluctuating environmental conditions. Their language, traditions, and practices provide valuable lessons on resilience and adaptation in the face of climate change. ©Cultural Survival, 12/17/2024

[International Court of Justice Hears Climate Pleas Ahead of Issuing on Advisory Opinion](#)

Developing countries are asking 15 international judges to clarify the legal obligations of rich nations whose high emissions have driven the greatest warming. The International Court of Justice started hearing statements from more than 100 countries and organizations on the topic of states' legal obligations to one another regarding climate change, the planet seemed to be hurtling toward a different, but no less deadly human-caused catastrophe. By some estimates, the climate crisis could kill up to 14.5 million people by 2050. Since many smaller developing countries are bearing the brunt of climate damages that they did little to cause, the United Nations General Assembly in March 2023 asked the ICJ to issue an advisory opinion clarifying what obligations U.N. member countries have to protect the climate system from damaging greenhouse gas pollution. ©Inside Climate News, 12/17/2024

[Wetlands revival in Australia supports Indigenous youth](#)

Jacob Cassady, a Nywaigi elder, has led the restoration of Mungalla wetlands, once decimated by invasive species and poor farming practices. The revitalized wetlands now support 229 bird species, fish nurseries and filter runoff that benefits the Great Barrier Reef. The project provides training in land management, tourism and hospitality for Indigenous youth to improve employment prospects. ©Environmental Health News, 12/20/2024.

[Indigenous Women are still not on the global agenda at the Commission on the Status of Women \(CSW\)](#)

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. Every year, representatives of UN Member States, civil society organizations and UN entities gather at a two-week session to take stock of the status of women around the world, discuss the progress and regress of the situation, and agree on necessary next steps. Although continuously pushing for their rights, Indigenous women still suffer from an acute lack of visibility at the Commission and are not given the space to impactfully exert their leadership. ©IWGIA, 01/06/2025.

International Indigenous Resources

Women from the Yanomami Indigenous Land create a Human Rights booklet

Twenty-four Yanomami (Yanomam, Yanomami, Sanöma and Ninam) and Ye'kwana women created a Human Rights booklet for the women of the largest Indigenous land in Brazil, the Yanomami Indigenous Land. The publication is the result of a workshop on Human Rights, held the last week of November 2024. Those responsible for the booklet represented the 10 Indigenous associations in the territory, which in an unprecedented move nominated only women for their respective representations. The document reflects the lessons learned in combating violence against women, in addition to addressing cultural aspects of Yanomami coexistence. ©Socioambiental, 12/10/2024.

Call for Input

Call for Inputs: Study on "Indigenous Peoples right to data, including data collection and disaggregation"

In accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 33/25, the purpose of the annual study is to analyze the status of the rights of Indigenous Peoples worldwide in the achievement of the ends of the Declaration, focusing on one or more interrelated articles of the Declaration. The purpose of this study is to highlight the significant value of data to Indigenous Peoples while analyzing the right to data, including through collection and disaggregation. It draws on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), in accordance with Articles 3, 4, 5, 15(i), 18, 19, 20(i), 23, 31, 32, 33, 38, and 42, which reaffirm the rights of Indigenous Peoples to control data regarding their peoples, lands, and resources. **Deadline: January 31, 2025**

Call for Inputs: Human Rights in the life cycle of Renewable Energy and Critical Minerals

In her upcoming report to the UN General Assembly, the Special Rapporteur seeks to synthesise and analyse a varied body of evidence (from across the natural and social sciences, including Indigenous science and other knowledge systems) of the positive and negative human rights impacts of different sources, scales and stages to renewable energy development, throughout their full life cycle, including the extraction and re-use of critical minerals. On that basis, the report will seek to clarify States' international human rights obligations, individually and as part of international cooperation, as well as business responsibility, to support a just transition while enhancing the protection of everyone's human right to a healthy environment and the prevention of foreseeable negative human rights impacts of certain climate mitigation approaches. **Deadline: April 30, 2025**

Job & Internship Opportunities

Online Course Opportunity: Open call for applications: Advocating for Indigenous Women's Rights through the UN System

Developed in collaboration between Land is Life and the University of Arizona, this course provides a learning opportunity for Indigenous women from across the seven socio-cultural regions to gain hands-on experience in engaging with and navigating the United Nations' human rights system. Students will learn from high-level guest speakers, including UN Special Rapporteurs, Indigenous leaders, and distinguished scholars. The course will be conducted online, featuring weekly content, guest lectures, group activities, and individual projects. It will provide a virtual platform where participants can access relevant materials, engage in group and individual assignments,

and develop their projects collaboratively. **Application deadline: February 10, 2025.**

Job: Arctic Council - Executive Secretary of the Indigenous Peoples' Secretariat (IPS)

The Arctic Council was established in 1996 as a high-level intergovernmental forum to promote cooperation, coordination, and interaction among the eight Arctic states (Canada, the Kingdom of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, the Russian Federation, Sweden and the United States) with the involvement of six international Indigenous peoples' organizations as Permanent Participants (Aleut International Association, Arctic Athabaskan Council, Inuit Circumpolar Council, Gwich'in Council International, Russian Association of Indigenous Peoples of the North, Saami Council). The Indigenous Peoples' Secretariat (IPS) was established in 1994 as an institution supporting the Indigenous Peoples' Organizations under the Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy. The Executive Secretary of IPS is responsible for the daily management of the Secretariat, including the supervision of the IPS Advisor. **Application deadline: March 5, 2025.**

Job: Tenure Facility - Programme officer for the carbon & biodiversity finance initiative

The International Land and Forest Tenure Facility works to secure land and forest rights for Indigenous Peoples and local communities. As the first financial mechanism focused solely on this goal, we drive development, reduce conflict, improve human rights, and mitigate climate change. Tenure Facility has secured funding to begin implementing CBF in Africa, with a particular focus on the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, and Liberia, and is currently exploring options to expand to other regions. We are now seeking a programme officer to support the implementation of CBF in these countries. This position will be based in Tenure Facility's office in DRC, or remotely in Kenya or Liberia. **Application deadline: Immediately**

Job: Indigenous Climate Action - Communications Manager

ICA is seeking a Communications Manager to develop, organize and manage ICA communications and public relations internally and externally while maintaining online platforms. Reporting to the Director of Communications and Engagement and works closely with the Engagement Manager, as well as overseeing and supervising communications coordinators. In addition, the Communications Manager will be required to develop communications plans for initiatives from other areas of ICA, including the Development and Funding team and the Programs and Education team. **Application deadline: Open until filled.**

Leadership Role: Women in Water Diplomacy Network - Global Leadership Council

The Women in Water Diplomacy Network's Global Leadership Council will serve as an integral part of the Network's governance structure - providing strategic oversight towards the implementation of the Network's Global Strategy and drive the Network's mission to advance gender equity in transboundary water governance on behalf of and in collaboration with the broader Network community. The Global Leadership Council members will include a diverse representation of the Network including geography, experience, water diplomacy related areas of specialization and expertise, age, and community. **Nominations open until February 3, 2025.**

International Indigenous Events

Resources & Funding

Grant Opportunity: [Re:wild Fonseca Species Conservation Fund \(FSCF\) - Americas & Caribbean](#)

The Fonseca Species Conservation Fund (FSCF) is for early career conservationists 35 years of age and younger in GEF-recipient countries to either start or progress their careers. The fund provides grants of up to \$25,000 to support conservation efforts for five threatened species groups — amphibians, freshwater fish, primates, small mammals, tortoises and freshwater turtles — in urgent need of intervention and conservation action. **Application deadline: March 30, 2025.**

Resource: [Summary Notes on the 23rd Session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues \(UNPFII\) \(2024\)](#)

The Indigenous Peoples' Centre for Documentation, Research, and Information (DOCIP) has created a summary of their notes taken during the 23rd Session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (15-26.04.24) and the statements collected by Docip services, available here. The discussions summarized in this document relate to all sessions open to the public.

Resource: [Indigenous Peoples Principles and Protocols for Just Transition Outcomes Document](#)

From October 8-10, 2024, 95 Indigenous Peoples' representatives from all 7 socio-cultural regions met in Geneva, Switzerland, for the Indigenous Peoples' Perspectives, Knowledge, and Lived Experiences Summit on Just Transition. "During the Summit, we shared knowledge, lived experiences, concerns, and struggles related to the imposition in our homelands of development projects promoted by States and corporations as "green/clean energy", supporting transition to a "green economy" and climate change mitigation. These include mining and extraction of "transition" and related minerals, and any other resources sought, that displace Indigenous Peoples and contaminate our lands, air, ice and waters where Indigenous Peoples are no longer able to live or gather foods due to this new form of land grabbing and water grabbing in the name of investment and conservation."

Recording: [Recordings of the Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change \(UNFCCC COP 29\) can be viewed here](#)

Recording: [Recordings of the U.N. Conference of the Parties to the Convention of Biological Diversity \(COP16 UNCBD\) can be viewed here](#)

Events

Conference, February 18-20, 2025 - Naivasha, Kenya [International Funders for Indigenous Peoples Global Conference](#)

The in-person Global Conference themed "Global Impact, Local Solutions: Funding Indigenous Self-Determination and Leadership" from 18-21 February 2025 in Naivasha, Kenya. With a focus on promoting Indigenous self-determination, the conference will provide a platform for dialogue, knowledge-sharing, and partnership-building among Indigenous communities, funders, and stakeholders. This will include reflecting on donor practices and strategies that need to change to better align with Indigenous values and the 5Rs of Indigenous Philanthropy - Respect, Reciprocity, Responsibility, and Relationship and Redistribution.

Session, February 25 - 27, 2025 - Rome, Italy [Second resumed session of the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity](#)

Resumed sessions of the sixteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol and fifth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Nagoya Protocol.

Forum, April 21 - May 2, 2025 - UN Headquarters, New York, New York [United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues](#)

2025's theme is "Implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples within United Nations Member States and the United Nations system, including identifying good practices and addressing challenges".

Conference, May 26-28, 2025 - Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada [Indigenous Centre for Cumulative Effects \(ICCE\) National Conference](#)

This year's conference theme is "Honouring All Our Relations: Embracing Indigenous Perspectives on Cumulative Effects", and will feature speakers on interconnectedness and interdependence, Indigenous Knowledge and western science, environmental stewardship, cultural resilience, valuable partnerships and more.

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. The theme for 2025 is Water for Climate Action. **Proposal/Abstract deadline: February 20, 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 13-16, 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. **Proposal/Abstract deadline: February 25, 2025.**