



# Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals



Tribal Wellbeing for Seven Generations Program Newsletter

June 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.



Photo Credit: Kelsey Jensen

## Meet the Climate Change Team

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Photo Credit: Kelsey Jensen

It has been two months since I last wrote a narrative, and we have had other items in place of my usual. In the past I have written about my tendency to be tardy, to procrastinate, or to start working on items at the 11th hour (not work items of course). I decided not to submit anything because I needed a break. I do enjoy writing and most often do it for myself. Not to fill space or hope that someone will read my words. I have never been someone who speaks to hear themselves speak. In fact, I prefer people read the rest of the newsletter because it's full of good information that may be relevant their work.

I have found that I missed writing the newsletter narratives as it became a part of my routine and that I realized I enjoyed. It reminded me of my upbringing when I was told to speak when asked to, to sit still and listen. I did both very well but as a result, it took a long time to gain confidence in my public speaking and in my writing. I felt that I had to get approval before I could proceed. These days, I do not ask for approval but for feedback and suggestions. I proceed with my work knowing I am not an expert but someone who has the experience to contribute and to learn. I have found this particularly useful when it comes to going into spaces that is not your own.

I believe my point in this narrative is to say that there are times when it is useful to be humble, and when the situation calls for it, be assertive. There are lyrics by the singer, Beyoncé, that refers to her being humble but her choosing not to be. In my professional and personal life, I have been privy to amazing knowledge holders who are able to embody both. I study people and I wonder if they are natural at balancing both or it is something they have learned. For myself, I consciously make the effort to be both. I know when to step back and let others take the stage, and I step in when needed. I guess listening to my Elders paid off. While I was sitting still and listening, I was also observing, absorbing and learning on how to be a good leader, and a good relative.

What advice do you have on being a good leader, colleague and relative?

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



# In The News

## [How Indigenous partnerships are restoring the Pacific Northwest](#)

When Jeanine Moy began restoring a plot of land, she didn't want to just restore an ecosystem. She wanted to build a deeper connection between people and nature. As the founder and director of Vesper Meadow, a nature preserve and education program based in the southern Cascades in the U.S. state of Oregon, Moy consulted an array of experts, did some baseline studies and pored over historical archives. Then, she found an old anecdote from an elder of the Indigenous Latgawa people: they would once come to this meadow in the summers to tend camas (Camassia) plants. "There is a human relationship between camas and humans," says Moy. "It's a beautiful purple lily plant that has a bulb. It's almost like the potatoes of our society today." © Think Landscape, 05/26/25

## [Sustainable Forestry Initiative and Intertribal Timber Council Partner to Launch New Tribal Forestry Career Guide - News Release](#)

The Intertribal Timber Council (ITC), the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI), and Project Learning Tree (PLT) are collaborating to develop Tribal Forestry & Wildland Fire Voices: A Career Guide, a resource aimed at promoting Tribal forestry and supporting workforce development. Featuring profiles of Tribal forestry professionals and workers across the United States, it will highlight pathways into forestry jobs, promote Tribal schools and educational programs, and include career fact sheets to showcase the various jobs available in the sector. The guide will serve as a valuable tool to inspire young people to explore the diverse and exciting career opportunities available in Tribal forestry. © Sustainable Forestry Initiative, 06/05/25

## [A surprise find in Michigan shows the extent of ancient Native American agriculture](#)

Archeologists studying a forested area in northern Michigan say they've uncovered what is likely the largest intact remains of an ancient Native American agricultural site in the eastern half of the United States. The researchers used a drone equipped with a laser instrument to fly over more than 300 acres, taking advantage of a brief period of time

after the winter snow had melted away but before the trees had put out their leaves. This allowed the drone to precisely map subtle features on the surface of the exposed ground, revealing parallel rows of earthen mounds. This is what's left of raised gardening beds that were used to grow crops like corn, beans, and squash by the ancestors of the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin, in the centuries before European colonizers arrived. © NPR, 06/06/25

## [Navajo Nation, Crow Tribe Among 24 States Getting Federal Grants To Reclaim Abandoned Coal Mines](#)

The Interior Department announced Wednesday more than \$119 million meant to aid communities reclaiming abandoned coal mines — part of President Donald Trump's agenda to achieve American energy dominance. Two tribes were named as grant recipients. The Navajo Nation and Crow Tribe of Montana are among 24 coal-producing states getting federal dollars, including Wyoming, Utah, Colorado and New Mexico. Between the pair of tribes, they tallied \$607,376 in federal funding stemming from the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977. The Crow Tribe got \$148,721, while the Navajo Nation secured \$458,655. © KJZZ, 06/06/25

## [Cherokee cyclists retrace the Trail of Tears to remember — and reclaim — their history](#)

It's just after 7 a.m. on a muggy June morning, but there's already a buzz of activity in the parking lot of Joelton's First Baptist Church. Eighteen bike riders — plus support staff — are busy stretching, lathering on sunscreen, filling water bottles and checking bike tires. The group is about to embark on the fifth leg of a 950-mile trek following the Northern Route of the Trail of Tears. The destination of the "Remember the Removal" ride is Tahlequah, Okla., the Cherokee Nation's present-day capital. The journey begins in New Echota, Ga., which was the capital of the Cherokee Nation from 1825 to 1830, as well as the site of a contentious treaty signing that provided the legal basis for the forced removal of the Cherokee people. © WPNL News, 06/11/25

## [Tomaquag Museum's Annual Strawberry Thanksgiving Brings Family, Community Together](#)

On a rainy Saturday afternoon at Ninigret Park, pops of red stood out against the overcast sky. Strawberries in lemonade and on shortcake, along with beaded and fabric fruit sewn onto clothes, marked a special Indigenous event: Strawberry Thanksgiving. This Thanksgiving is one of 13 celebrations held with each moon of the year, said Lorén Spears, executive director of the Tomaquag Museum and a member of the Narragansett Indian Tribe. The museum has hosted the event for many years, but the tradition itself goes back much further. The most recent iteration of Strawberry Thanksgiving included themed food, Indigenous art booths, dancing, and talks from tribal citizens and other community members. ©ecori, 06/13/25

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

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

## [Op-ed: There Is No Future Where the Lakota and the Buffalo Don't Exist Together](#)

We as Lakota people came from the center of the earth, out of what is called Wind Cave, in He Sapa, the Black Hills, the heart of everything and the center of our universe. There are multiple iterations of our creation story, but in one, when we first emerged from the Earth, it was clear there was going to be a lot of hardship, that our people would starve and would not be able to live in this new world. As a sacrifice, the last woman out of the cave transformed into a Buffalo, giving herself to feed the people. From that moment on, our people committed ourselves to honor the Buffalo in gratitude; we had an understanding that we would always take care of each other.

# Resources

## **CALL FOR REVIEWERS AND ASSOCIATE EDITORS: California's Climate Assessment**

The California Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation (LCI) in partnership with the California Natural Resources Agency, California Energy Commission, and California Strategic Growth Council seek Reviewers and Associate Editors to participate in the review and editing process for [California's Fifth Climate Change Assessment](#) research portfolio. Reviewers and Associate Editors will receive honoraria. **Applications will be reviewed starting Monday, July 7 and on a rolling basis** thereafter until all positions are filled. Reviewers and Associate Editors will be selected based on alignment between their demonstrated expertise and the research scope of each relevant Fifth Assessment report. Experts of diverse disciplines, geographies, communities, lived experiences, and perspectives within and outside of California are encouraged to apply, including but not limited to those affiliated with academic institutions, Tribal nations, government entities, community organizations, and private institutions.

## **Tribal Funding Registry**

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

## **ATNI Climate Program Partnerships and Resources**

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

## **Proposed Sell-Off of Public Lands Threatens Tribal Homelands and Sovereignty**

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

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

The U.S. Geological Survey Southwest Biological Science Center (SBSC) is uniquely positioned in the Colorado River Basin to provide sound information, specialized expertise, and innovative tools to support the management and sustained use of natural resources on public and Tribal lands in the Southwest U.S. [The Southwest Biological Science Center \(SBSC\)](#) and its two branches, the Terrestrial Drylands Ecology (TDE) and River Ecosystem Science - Grand Canyon Monitoring and Research Center (GCMRC), [provide information to the Department of Interior \(DOI\)](#) and other federal, state and

[Tribal](#) departments and agencies that is used to manage, conserve, and rehabilitate rivers and lands to ensure their productivity for the benefit of the American people. (June 10, 2025)

## **Climate Data Portal for US Native Lands**

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

## **North American Traditional Indigenous Food Systems - Resources**

In collaboration with the national organizations like USDA and Minnesota Department of Education, the NATIFS team has put together a series of recipes and resources that utilize commodity products available through the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPRI), as well as regional foraged ingredients. When you think of North American cuisine, do Indigenous foods come to mind? Chef Sean Sherman serves up an essential history lesson that explains the absence of Native American culinary traditions across the continent, highlighting why revitalizing Indigenous education sits at the center of a better diet and healthier relationship with the planet.

## **The Good, the Bad, the Ugly: How Wildfires Reshape Landscapes**

Wildfires reshape landscapes, both to the benefit and detriment of impacted areas. After the smoke clears, they can continue to cause hazards like flooding and erosion, while also promoting ecosystem renewal. With an impartial lens, USGS researchers study postfire landscape response and apply our expertise to help mitigate risk and protect people and property. Wildfires have long played a crucial role in reshaping and rejuvenating landscapes. They can clear out dead vegetation, return nutrients to the soil, and promote the growth of diverse plant species. However, the aftermath of wildfires also brings significant changes to the environment, some of which pose challenges to ecosystems and dangers to local communities. The USGS conducts extensive research to understand these changes and to develop strategies for hazard mitigation and recovery in fire-prone communities.

## **Training Needs To Build Internal Capacity For Tribes Working On Climate Adaptation**

The Climate Adaptation Barriers and Needs Experienced by Northwest Coastal Tribes report highlighted that "insufficient technical assistance in the form of climate and other relevant expertise, services and data remains a significant barrier to climate adaptation for Northwest coastal Tribes." In particular, Tribes identified the need for resources (e.g., funding and/or training) to build technical expertise and staff capacity internally within Tribal governments and citizens, to ensure continuity of institutional knowledge and long-term capacity for resilience work. To help address this need, the UW Climate Impacts Group is conducting a survey to better understand Tribes' technical assistance needs around climate adaptation.

# Job & Internship Opportunities

## [Tribal Renewable Energy Coordinator](#)

The Tribal Renewable Energy Coordinator is a contract position that reports to the Director of Community Education and Outreach. This role is primarily responsible for advancing Sovereign Energy's renewable energy education initiatives by supporting Tribal-focused outreach, stakeholder engagement, and workforce development. The Coordinator will help implement educational programs, strengthen partnerships, and ensure that Tribal communities are equipped with the knowledge and resources needed to participate in and lead clean energy efforts. This position is located in New Mexico. We are looking for people with connections in New Mexico. Interested applicants should send a letter of interest and resume to [mayane@sovereignenergy.org](mailto:mayane@sovereignenergy.org) with the subject line: Tribal Renewable Energy Coordinator.

**Application deadline: June 30, 2025**

## [Iliiitchik: Indigenous Correspondents Program](#)

The Iliiitchik: Indigenous Correspondents Program is a year-long opportunity for 10–12 Indigenous students to build storytelling, media, and communication skills through mentorship from Indigenous professionals in environmental journalism, science, and the arts. A collaboration between Planet Forward, the University of Arizona's AIR Education Initiatives, IRes, and the Native FEWS Alliance, the program centers Indigenous voices in environmental storytelling. "Iliiitchik" means "to speak good words" in Crow, reflecting the program's mission to uplift stories that inspire positive change. **Application deadline: July 11, 2025**

## [2025 IWLN Co-Chair Application](#)

The Indigenous Women's Leadership Network (IWLN), a project of the Water & Tribes Initiative - Colorado River Basin, is seeking a new Co-Chair to join our intergenerational leadership circle. This role is open to Native women—broadly defined to include cisgender, transgender, femme-identifying, genderqueer, and nonbinary individuals—who are enrolled members of one of the 30 federally recognized Colorado River Basin tribes. Co-Chairs guide IWLN programming, build relationships across the Basin, and support the next generation of Indigenous women leaders working on water and environmental issues. The position includes a four-year term, monthly virtual meetings, a \$3,000 annual honorarium for professional development, and a \$1,200 annual travel stipend. We are especially seeking someone who brings strong community ties, experience in leadership (formal or informal), and a commitment to cultural connection, collaboration, and Indigenous values. If you would like to nominate someone, please send contact information to Terri Bissonette at [bissonettet@nwf.org](mailto:bissonettet@nwf.org) by June 26, 2025. **Application deadline: July 26, 2025**

## [Indigenous Engagement and Relations Specialist-Ocean Wise Conservation Association](#)

Reporting to the Social Justice Manager, you will lead the implementation, maintenance and review of an organizational Indigenous Engagement Strategy. You will guide the partnership development processes, promote the prioritization of reciprocal engagement, ensure mutually beneficial collaborations, equip team members, and implement inclusive, accessible, and culturally relevant outreach efforts which respect and uphold cultural and traditional protocols. You will bring expertise in ensuring best practices are implemented with respect to developing and stewarding relations with Indigenous communities and/or Indigenous-led organizations. This position is ideally suited for candidates located in British Columbia or the West Coast region but is considered remote. We strongly encourage applicants that self-identify as Indigenous within Canada to apply. **Application deadline: ASAP**

## [Campaign Manager- Indigenous Climate Action](#)

Under the guidance of the Director of Communications and Engagement, and in close collaboration with the Inform + Connect pod and Leadership Team, the Campaign Manager will focus on developing and executing campaigns that align with ICA programming and uplift grassroots initiatives and opposition to extractive projects, harmful government policies, and other initiatives that support and build on ICA's existing work.

**Application deadline: ASAP**

## [Associate Director- American Rivers](#)

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

**Application deadline: ASAP**

## [Native American Internships in Habitat Restoration using TEK: Elderberry Wisdom Farm Fall 2025](#)

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

## [Conservation Manager-Audubon Great Lakes](#)

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

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

The Kurt Grinnell Aquaculture Scholarship Foundation 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**



# 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/>

## 2025-2026 Native Agriculture & Food Systems Scholarship

The Native Agriculture and Food Systems Investments (NAFSI) Scholarship program supports Native American, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian college students to enter agriculture and food systems fields so that they can better assist their communities with their food systems efforts. First Nations will award 20 to 25 scholarships at the amount of \$1,000 to \$1,500 for the 2025-2026 academic school year to Native college or university students majoring in agriculture and agriculture-related fields, including but not limited to agribusiness management, agri-science technologies, agronomy, animal husbandry, aquaponics, environmental studies, fisheries and wildlife, food production and safety, food-related policy and legislation, food science and technology, horticulture, irrigation science, and sustainable agriculture or food systems programs. **Applications due: July 11, 2025.**

## Indigenous Tomorrows Fund (ITF)

ITF is a participatory grantmaking initiative led by Native Americans in

Philanthropy (NAP) that supports Indigenous youth leadership and communitydefined solutions. Through a youth-led review process, ITF will fund projects that strengthen cultural continuity and sustainable futures. In its 2025 pilot year, ITF will award up to 24 grants of \$30,000 each for a 12-month term, focused on supporting Indigenous approaches to health, well-being, and community wellness—especially those that address the root causes of inequity and strengthen long-term healing. **Applications due: July 18th, 2025.**

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

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

## Direct Action and Organizing Grants, NDN Collective

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

## Tribal Electric Boats Program

The Tribal Electric Boats Program (TEBP), funded by the Climate Commitment Act, is awarding \$5 million to tribes to support the electrification and hybridization of marine propulsion power for tribal fishing

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

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

## Emergency Community Water Assistance Grants

USDA is accepting applications on a rolling basis for up to \$1M for projects that help eligible communities (including Federally recognized Tribes) prepare, or recover from, an emergency that threatens the availability of safe, reliable drinking water. Projects may include: Constructing water transmission line or extension; Repairing breaks or leaks in existing water distribution line; Addressing related maintenance necessary to replenish the water supply; Construction of new wells, reservoirs, transmission lines, treatment plants, and/or other sources of water (water source up to and including the treatment plant). **Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis**

## Water is Life Fund

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

# Upcoming Events

NOTE: Updated info on events can be found at the Tribes & Climate Change website:

<http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/tcc/Home/Events>

## July

### **July 23-24, Oklahoma City, OK** [Climate Resilience for Tribal Water Resources](#)

The South Central Climate Adaptation Science Center, Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma and the Wyandotte Nation have collaborated to bring you this opportunity. The training will be held July 23 - 24, 2025 at the First American's Museum: 659 American Indian Blvd, Oklahoma City, OK 73129. This training is focused on climate resilience for water resources. It is tribally focused for tribes in Oklahoma, New Mexico, Texas, and Louisiana.

### **Summit: July 23-25, 2025 - Anchorage, AK**

[Alaska Youth Regional Summit](#)  
Hosted by the Intertribal Agriculture Council's Youth Program, this two-day event brings together Native youth from across the Alaska region to connect and learn about agriculture. Topics include traditional knowledge, food sovereignty, regenerative practices, and career paths in agriculture and natural resources.

### **Conference: July 29-31 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin** [Women are Sacred Conference](#)

Women Are Sacred Conference is a cornerstone in the movement to end violence against Native women and children. This powerful event brings together advocates, survivors, Tribal domestic and sexual violence programs, Tribal leadership, law enforcement, and Tribal court personnel—all united in the shared mission of creating safer, stronger Tribal communities.

## August

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

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

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

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

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

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

## September

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

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

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

The 2025 Tribal Climate Camp (TCC) will bring together Tribal delegations

from across Minnesota and the upper Midwest for a week of collaborative learning, hands-on planning, and connection. This unique program supports the development of Tribal climate vulnerability assessments (VAs) and adaptation plans (APs) in a culturally grounded and supportive environment. Tribal Climate Camp is a five-day intensive workshop grounded in culture and tradition. Each Tribal delegation focuses on a climate-related project and develops a clear plan for climate action.  
[Apply by July 15, 2025](#)

### **Conference: September 30-October 4, Denver, CO** [The 11th World Conference on Ecological Restoration \(SER2025\)](#)

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

## October

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

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

# International Indigenous News & Resources

## In the News

### Indigenous guards: The shield of Colombia's Amazon

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

### First congress of forest basin leaders result in call for direct financing

Community-led organizations are scaling up and creating their own funding mechanisms to directly access financing for climate, biodiversity and environmental protection. Little funding goes directly to Indigenous peoples and local communities, for reasons that span lack of community capacity and donor trust to financial requirements. In the run-up to the U.N. climate conference, COP30, in November 2025, organizations are calling for funding pledges to include community forest conservation. © Mongabay, 06/24/2025

### Indigenous divers on Chile's island restore seabed to protect seafood sources

Intensive harvesting of the mollusk known as "loco" and salmon farming are damaging the seabed and reducing the biodiversity of the Guaitecas Archipelago, in northern Chilean Patagonia. To restore it, divers are transporting shellfish and rocks that serve as food and shelter for the loco and other commercially valuable species. The Pu Wapi Indigenous community is also working to enhance marine protection by requesting a Coastal Marine Area for Indigenous peoples. © Mongabay, 06/24/2025

### Melanesian Leaders Announce World's Largest Indigenous-Led Marine Reserve

At the UN Ocean Conference, the governments of Solomon Islands and Vanuatu announced their intention to create the Melanesian Ocean Reserve to safeguard the ancestral waters, homelands, and peoples of the southwestern Pacific. The area is one of the world's most biodiverse marine regions. Protecting it will secure the economic and cultural vitality of hundreds of distinct Indigenous Peoples while furthering global climate, biodiversity, and ocean goals. The Melanesian Ocean Reserve will be the first Indigenous-led multi-national ocean reserve on Earth. When complete, it will span at least 6 million square kilometres of ocean and islands—an area as vast as the Amazon rainforest. ©PR Newswire, 06/12/2025

### Blog/Opinion: What the Inter-American Court's Climate Opinion Could Mean for Human Rights and Climate Justice

In the coming weeks, it will issue a landmark opinion elaborating what human rights law requires of States in the face of the climate emergency. Its pronouncement could not come at a more important moment for putting human rights and human rights defenders at the center of responses to the climate crisis, for reasserting the rule of international law and the legal basis for climate justice, or for holding fossil fuel companies and other corporate polluters driving the crisis to account. ©Center for International Environmental Law, 06/23/2025

### Kainai Nation ignites the first Indigenous fire guardians program in Canada

In early May, four agencies came together over four days for a knowledge exchange on cultural fire, training on how to responsibly set fires and, finally, putting fire directly back on the land. In a small circle under the afternoon sun, the gathered firefighters and land guardians each held a small piece of tobacco while Kainai Elders Calvin Williams and Dennis Chief Calf led a prayer. Supported by the Kainai fire department, Waterton Lakes National Park and members of Blackfeet fire management in Montana, fire has come back to the land not to destroy, but to heal. ©The Narwhal, 06/12/2025

## Call for Input & Nominations

### Call for Nominations of Participants: Workshop on IPBES Methods for Working with Indigenous and Local Knowledge

The IPBES task force on Indigenous and local knowledge is organizing a workshop on IPBES methods for working with Indigenous and local knowledge. This will include a focus on support for and participation of assessment authors who are members of Indigenous Peoples and local communities. This workshop will be organized in response to the findings of the Review of Indigenous and Local Knowledge in IPBES that was completed in 2023 and extended in 2024. **Deadline: July 15, 2025.**

**Accreditation requests: New organizations from Indigenous Peoples for the first meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Article 8(j) and Other Provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity Related to Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (SB8J-1)**  
**Deadline: July 7, 2025.**

**Call for Registration: 18th Session of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**  
**Deadline: July 7, 2025.**

## Job & Internship Opportunities

### Job: Indigenous Climate Action Executive Director (Full-Time, Remote)

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

### Internship: Capacity Building Program internship (Cultural Survival)

Cultural Survival is accepting applications for an upcoming remote internship opportunity for Fall 2025 within the Capacity Building Program. The selected intern will report to the Capacity Building Program Manager, and the internship length is for 3 months. The Capacity Building program aims to increase and strengthen the leadership,



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technical, organizational, advocacy, and sustainability capacities of Indigenous communities to exercise their rights to freedom of expression, self-determination, and ways of life, and elevate their cultures and languages.

**Deadline: July 18th, 2025.**

**Job: [Keepers of the Earth Program Coordinator - Preferred Countries: Namibia, South Africa & Botswana](#)** (*Cultural Survival*)

Cultural Survival is an Indigenous-led NGO and U.S.-registered nonprofit that advocates for Indigenous Peoples' rights and has supported Indigenous communities' self-determination, cultures, and political resilience since 1972. The Keepers of the Earth Program Coordinator is a key team member who supports the strategic implementation and management of grants and youth fellowships aimed at strengthening Indigenous Communities. This person will serve as a liaison between partner organizations and both the Advocacy and Communications teams at Cultural Survival. They will also support partners by accompanying them to international events such as COPs, the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII), and regional Indigenous summits. **Deadline: July 18th, 2025.**

**Job: [SIRGE Coalition - Assistant](#)** (Full-time, remote)  
The SIRGE Coalition Assistant is an essential part of the SIRGE Coalition Secretariat. The Assistant is responsible for operational and administrative support to the Secretariat including but not limited to setting up meetings, logistical organizing, note taking, translating written documents, occasionally interpreting for relevant meetings, assisting with travel arrangements and expense reports, facilitating a work and information flow among the secretariat, Executive Committee, Steering Committee, and the SIRGE Coalition work streams (support to communities, policy advocacy, corporate engagement and advocacy, communications, and research priorities). **Deadline: ASAP**

**[Indigenous Engagement and Relations Specialist-Ocean Wise Conservation Association](#)**

Reporting to the Social Justice Manager, you will lead the implementation, maintenance and review of an organizational Indigenous Engagement Strategy. You will guide the partnership development processes, promote the prioritization of reciprocal engagement, ensure mutually beneficial collaborations, equip team members, and implement inclusive, accessible, and culturally relevant outreach efforts which respect and uphold cultural and traditional protocols. You will bring expertise in ensuring best practices are implemented with respect to developing and stewarding relations with Indigenous communities and/or Indigenous-led organizations. This position is ideally suited for candidates located in British Columbia or the West Coast region but is considered remote. We strongly encourage applicants that self-identify as Indigenous within Canada to apply. **Application deadline: ASAP**

## Resources & Funding

**Webinar: [Indigenous Nationally Determined Contributions for Climate Justice in the Amazon Basin](#)**

This timely and highly relevant webinar will explore the proposal of Indigenous Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), put forward by the Articulation of Indigenous Peoples of Brazil (APIB) during the 21st edition of the Free Land Camp (ATL). The proposal has

also been supported by authorities and Indigenous leaders from the nine countries of the Amazon Basin and from all biomes across Brazil. Date: July 17, 2025.

**Training: [Indigenous Peoples & the UNESCO World Heritage Committee](#)**

Join Docip, IWGIA, and Nia Tero for an intensive virtual training to learn more about how Indigenous Peoples can more effectively engage in the Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage and the UNESCO World Heritage Committee ahead of the 47th session of the Committee in Paris (July 2025). Dates: June 26th & July 3rd, 2025

**Funding: [Youth Wellness Honorarium \(Indigenous Climate Action\)](#)**

Honorariums are intended for Indigenous Youth engaged in frontline activism and/or climate justice organizing. At ICA we know that financial and mental health barriers often impact Indigenous Peoples when engaging in climate justice work. By creating this fund, Indigenous Climate Action hopes to remove some of those barriers that come up when upholding our sacred responsibilities. The fund can be used to pay for counseling sessions, provide an honorarium to an elder for their teachings, pay for an art or yoga class, or for gas to get out on the land if you live elsewhere. **Deadline: ongoing.**

## Events

**Session: June 16- July 4, 2025 - Geneva, Switzerland**  
**[91st Session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women \(CEDAW\)](#)**

**Meeting: July 9, 2025 - New York, New York**  
**[2026 United Nations Water Conference Meeting of the President and Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue](#)**

The President of the United Nations General Assembly will convene a one-day meeting on Wednesday, 9 July 2025 in the General Assembly Hall to promote the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 6 and to agree on the themes of interactive dialogues for the Conference. A multi-stakeholder dialogue session will also be held on the same day. (Open to accredited NGOs and stakeholders, application deadline is June 20, 2025).

**Session: July 14-18, 2025 - Geneva, Switzerland**  
**[18th Session of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#)**

At its seventeenth session, the Expert Mechanism decided to conduct its next annual study on the status of the rights of Indigenous Peoples worldwide in the achievement of the ends of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, as mandated by the Human Rights Council in paragraph 2 (a) of its resolution 33/25, on the right of Indigenous Peoples to data, including data collection and disaggregation.

**Summit: August 9, 2025 - Virtual**  
**[Global Indigenous Youth Summit on Climate Change \(GIYSCC\)](#)**

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

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**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.

**Conference: September 9-11, 2025 - Virtual; CALL FOR PROPOSALS OPEN**

[Land and Youth Digital Conference](#)

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

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

[IUCN World Conservation Congress](#)

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

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

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

**Conference, October 13-16, 2025 - Ōtautahi Christchurch, New Zealand**

[Adaptation Futures 2025](#)

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