



# Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals



Tribes & Climate Change Newsletter

March 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.



Lost Dutchman State Park, snow, Arizona. Adobe.stock

## Meet the Climate Change Team

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Sunrise in Hawai'i. Photo credit: Ashkii Ahrens

In our Diné ways, most of us are taught that the Diné are meant to stay within the four sacred mountains, and if we are to go beyond their boundaries, we are to return as soon as we are able. Staying within the boundaries of the four sacred mountains ensures that we are close to our lands, non-human relatives, and deities. If we are to travel beyond the boundaries, we often have prayers and ceremonies conducted for protection and well-being before leaving and after returning. In the Diné way, after a child's umbilical cord falls off, the parents/guardians/caretakers bury it at the sheep/goat or horse corral, the local track field, or a place that they wish their child to gather strength from and maintain a connection to. My umbilical cord was buried at the sheep corral and I say that is why I turned out to be a shepherd and love to be outdoors. One of my sibling's cord was buried at the horse corral and they grew up to be an athlete and they love running. And just as importantly, I truly believe this is why I have such an innate, strong connection to the earth and I'm doing the work I am committed to.

I have colleagues who have traveled overseas with their families or by themselves. I realize people travel because they have an itch to do so, to explore and learn new things, or maybe it's for work. Anyhow, I never had a strong desire to travel, but as I am now in my forties, I finally feel the tug to travel. Maybe it's because my children are older and easier to take them along, and I am feeling more comfortable with the thought of traveling overseas

Anyhow, I am counting my recent visit to Hawai'i as an overseas (literally) trip, and I was so fortunate to be with family. As we explored the island, I was like a kid living in the moment and in awe of the plants, animals, people, and culture. I did not open my laptop once although I checked my emails on my phone to ensure I wasn't missing any

emails. When I go home to the rez I don't often work because I want to be with my family and not be distracted by work. When in Hawai'i, I took everything in because I didn't want to miss any moments with my kids. We hiked near an active volcano, in a tropical forest to a couple of waterfalls, swam with turtles, and before spending two days in the ocean, we offered corn pollen to the water in honor of changing woman or white shell woman. While we were there, we tried to learn as much as we could about the Native Hawaiians and their history. We told our children that they are Indigenous and have been navigating the lands and waters long before the visitors.

I would ask you to learn about our relatives who are not federally or state-recognized because whether they have that recognition, they are Indigenous. They must not be forgotten or left out. I hope we can engage more of our relatives so we honor their ancestors who survived so we could be here today. Whether you're traveling across the seas, over government-set boundaries, or to the next town, take the time to learn about the people, cultures, plants, and animals. Never stop learning and teaching. Always with respect.

P.S. If you spell Hawaii with a glottal stop between the 'i's', you will actively acknowledge the Native Hawaiians. And you should try to say it with a "v" – Ha-vai-ee - **Hawai'i**

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

# In The News

## [The “Doomsday” Seed Vault In Svalbard Just Added Thousands Of Climate-Hardy Crops](#)

Three times a year, a fortress within the remote mountainside of a Norwegian island opens its doors to a select few. Such infrequency is intentional. The Svalbard Global Seed Vault preserves more than 1.3 million samples in what is the world's most secure stash of seeds. Far above the Arctic Circle, tucked away in the permafrost, this underground “doomsday” facility is built to outlast everything from climate disasters to civil wars. The first vault opening of the year came Tuesday, when government officials and scientists, traveling great distances from countries like Brazil, Malawi, and the Philippines gathered to make a deposit. © Grist, 02/26/25

## [Building Bridges: A Transformative Visit to the San Carlos Apache Tribe](#)

Our visit began at Nalwoodi Denzhone Community Farm (NDC), a remarkable initiative that is revitalizing land, preserving culture, and fighting food insecurity through regenerative agriculture and community-led food systems. As one of the Indigenous Resilience Center (IRes) grantees through our work with the Waverley Street Foundation, NDC is making a profound impact. Nestled along Dripping Spring Sale Ring Rd. in San Carlos, the farm is dedicated to growing organic produce, raising pasture-fed poultry, and distributing highly nutritious, culturally significant foods to the local community. © Indigenous Resilience (IRes) Center, 03/3/25

## [Indigenous Food Reciprocity as a Model for Mutual Aid](#)

For centuries, Native communities have focused on the collective rather than the individual. Here's what we can learn from them. In the Arctic and Far North, where a successful hunt can mean the difference between feeding the village or scrounging to make ends meet, one might assume a scarcity mindset would take hold. Instead, reciprocity prevails. Examples of this sharing-focused approach abound. A recent documentary, *One With the Whale*, follows the hunting practices of an island community in the Bering Sea. In one scene, after a long period without finding game, a hunting crew harpoons a seal, which will allow them to feed some of the community. © Civil Eats, 03/03/25

## [California tribe enters first-of-its-kind agreement with the state to practice cultural burns](#)

Northern California's Karuk Tribe has for more than a century faced significant restrictions on cultural burning — the setting of intentional fires for both ceremonial and practical purposes, such as reducing brush to limit the risk of wildfires. That changed this week, thanks to legislation championed by the tribe and passed by the state last year that allows federally recognized tribes in California to burn freely once they reach agreements with the California Natural Resources Agency and local air quality officials. The tribe announced Thursday that it was the first to reach such an agreement with the agency. © 03/03/25

## [The Case for Returning U.S. Public Lands to Indigenous People](#)

Since the start of Trump's second term, his administration has fired thousands of federal workers across multiple public lands agencies, including the National Park Service, the Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The effects of this are vast: It's going to have a profoundly negative impact on the environment and the way millions of Americans enjoy public lands, cause immeasurable harm to America's wildest places, and devastate the economies built around them. After serving 12 years as a backcountry wilderness ranger for the U.S. Forest Service, I'm convinced there is an alternative: the U.S. needs to return its public lands to Native Americans. In fact, I believe that might be the only way to save our parks and forests from corporate privatization and destruction, as well as preserve public access to them. © TIME, 03/06/25

## [National Congress of American Indians \(NCAI\) Responds to Threatened BIA Office Closures](#)

A recent article highlights concerns from tribal leaders—including NCAI President Mark Macarro—regarding a proposal from U.S. President Donald Trump and Elon Musk to close more than 25 regional Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) offices. These closures threaten critical services and could violate the U.S. government's trust and treaty obligations to Tribal Nations. © 03/07/25

## [Two programs in Arizona offer opportunity for Tribal and other growers](#)

Friends of the Farm and Purchase

Local Arizona are two programs that offer farmers and ranchers in Arizona market prices for produce, eggs, and meat. The foods are then distributed to underserved communities across Arizona. Each program purchases from more than 100 local farms each year, putting money into the pockets of farmers and ranchers and good food in the hands of Arizonans.

## [Self-Determined: Climate Resilience Is Sacred](#)

As a tidal wave of authoritarianism crashes across the U.S., it may seem as if nothing is sacred. But in these moments of uncertainty, it is the sacred to which we must return. For the Indigenous peoples of Moananuiākea—across the water from our relatives on Turtle Island and around the globe—our fight for justice is rooted in our ancestral connection and kinship to the land, water, and earth. Our kūpuna (ancestors) have long practiced sustainable stewardship values, including mālama 'āina (care for the land) and kuleana (responsibility) to restore both our environment and our communities. Real climate justice work requires honoring Indigenous knowledge and empowering grassroots efforts to protect our sacred relationship with Mother Earth. © YES! Magazine, 03/17/25

## [How the Klamath Dams Came Down](#)

The story starts in 1974, when then-17-year-old Jeff Mitchell crashed his car on the way home to Klamath Falls, Oregon. As Hofschneider and Bittle write, “If not for the black ice that nearly killed him, Mitchell might never have helped launch one of the biggest victories for Indigenous rights and the contemporary environmental movement in North American history: the demolition of four hydroelectric dams on the Klamath River, a degraded 263-mile waterway that winds through Mitchell's ancestral homeland and that of four other Indigenous nations. He might never have witnessed the fruit of that victory, the largest dam removal in United States history, when nearly 1.5 million cubic yards of earth and concrete finally came down in October of last year, more than 100 years after the first dam was built. © Grist, 03/19/25



# Resources

## **ITEP Features Tribal Profile: [Reindeer Herders Association](#)**

Reindeer herding was introduced to Alaska by U.S. agencies in the early 1890s, but it wasn't until 1971 that the Reindeer Herders Association (RHA) was established. RHA is a program of Kawerak, Inc., a Tribal nonprofit corporation, and serves 21 reindeer herders across three regions of Western Alaska, where approximately 20,000 reindeer can be found on the open range. Given environmental changes in Arctic landscapes, reindeer herding has become essential to mitigate the impacts of food disaster declarations, which are becoming more common in rural Alaska. RHA is working to provide herders with critical supplies and modern technology used for herd management to better track herds and ensure that they can be relied on during inevitable future food crises.

## **ITEP Features Tribal Profile: [Red Cloud Renewable](#)**

Red Cloud Renewable, based on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota, offers training and education to Native people in solar installation, energy-efficient building practices, and weatherization techniques. Since 2008, more than 1,200 students have completed trainings at RCR. Through various programs, RCR aims to decrease energy costs on the Pine Ridge Reservation all while providing job opportunities to Native people across the nation. Currently, RCR is undertaking the most ambitious capital campaign project of their history - expanding their current 10-acre campus to 160-acres and working with Indigenous architects to construct a regional solar training center.

## **Advisory Opportunity: [California's Fifth Climate Change Assessment Requests Nominations for Tribal Advisory Group](#)**

The California Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation (LCI) is opening a request for nominations to expand the California's Fifth Climate Change Assessment's (Fifth Assessment) Tribal Advisory Group. We are seeking Tribal participation from the Los Angeles, Inland Deserts, Central Coast, and San Francisco Bay regions. The Tribal Advisory Group is a critical component of the Fifth Assessment that will help ensure Tribal expertise and Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) are respectfully and intentionally integrated into what has typically been a Western science dominated process.

**Please submit nominations by April 1, 2025**

## **Advisory Opportunity: [Oregon Department of Environmental Quality Equity Advisory Committee](#)**

The Equity Advisory Committee is a key partner for DEQ! The committee plays an important role in determining what types of projects are supported by community climate investments and where projects are located.

## **Course: [Managing For Climate Extremes: A Brief Introduction to Science](#)**

This is one of the many only courses offered by the South Central Climate Adaptation Science Center, providing an introduction and deeper dive into climate extremes, adapting to its impacts, and an overview of climate modeling. In A Brief Introduction to Science, expect to learn the basics of climate extremes, including and overview of natural and human-driven climate fluctuation, climate modeling, and climate projections. The course will begin on April 7th, through May 2nd, 2025. After the completion of the course, you will receive a personalized Certificate of Completion. **Registration deadline: April 11, 2025**

## **Call For Nominations: [2025 Ecotrust Indigenous Leadership Awards](#)**

The Indigenous Leadership Awards are a celebration of the determination, wisdom, and continuum of Indigenous leadership across the region. This Call for Nominations invites individuals, families, colleagues, tribes, First Nations, and Alaska Native villages and corporations to nominate Indigenous leaders making a difference in their

community and beyond. **Deadline for nominations: April 11, 2025**

## **Story Map: [Squaxin Island Tribe: Where the Tide Meets the Creek](#)**

The Squaxin Island Tribe story map is focused on future changes in streamflow and flood risk with regard to rising seas. The Squaxin Island Tribe funded this project through grants from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and the Northwest Climate Adaptation Science Center (CASC). The University of Washington Climate Impacts Group conducted the sea level rise analysis. The link below is to the updated URL for the story map.

## **Toolkit: [The Web of Living Relations: Climate Justice for Missing & Murdered Indigenous Peoples](#)**

This toolkit disrupts popular narrative of violence by centering Indigenous perspectives and community-led efforts that resist further colonial suppression. It captures the dangerous reality of mass resource extraction, an accelerator of climate change, and a producer of violence against Indigenous communities. The toolkit also offers a policy and research lens that explores why data collection and jurisdiction are barriers to solving the issue.

## **[Cultural Survival Quarterly Magazine: Resilience Rising: Indigenous Wisdom in Disaster Response and Climate Crisis Management](#)**

Highlights how Indigenous Peoples' deep connections to land and nature offer solutions to the world's biggest environmental challenges. hashtag#IndigenousLed conservation efforts protect 36% of the world's intact forests and vast carbon reserves. Governments must recognize Indigenous land rights and sovereignty to secure a sustainable future. (March 2025)

## **[We All Live Together In A Good Way with Manoomin Stewardship Guide](#)**

This Stewardship Guide describes how Manoomin is a teacher of life. They offer their gifts of seed to nurture many relatives, both human and non-human, resident and migratory, to sustain the web of life. Manoomin beds provide shelter for winged-ones, fish and other non-human relatives. Because they are foundational for this biodiversity, Manoomin are a keystone species. The lessons that collaborators learn through this effort will be insightful for guiding future collaborations in caring for other non-human relatives. In the face of climate change and accelerating environmental degradation, we need to use the strengths of both ways of knowing —Traditional Knowledge and Western science—to nurture a path that is both practically effective and ethically just.

## **[Recognizing Indigenous Rights in Environmental Data](#)**

Every day across the globe, environmental scientists are collecting approximately 274 terabytes of data, a number that is growing thanks to advancements in science and technology. The data, which ranges from soil composition to streamflows, is often collected or sampled from ecosystems that are stewarded by Indigenous peoples. In a new [Perspectives piece in Nature Communications](#), a group of researchers called the Earth Data Relations Working Group provide recommendations for how research practices can improve the governance of Indigenous data. (February 14, 2025)

## **[Revitalizing Indigenous food systems through research and knowledge-sharing](#)**

This inaugural column by the Indigenous Food Sovereignty Editorial Circle (IFSEC) in the Journal of Agriculture, Food Systems, and Community Development (JAFSCD) introduces a dedicated section of articles on Indigenous food sovereignty in partnership with First Nations Development Institute (FNDI). An Indigenous-led editorial circle as part of JAFSCD, IFSEC uplifts Indigenous values and community food system aspirations in academic publishing. (January 2025)

# Job & Internship Opportunities

## Resilience Reporter Intern- Desert Research Institute Native Resilience

Desert Research Institute's Native Resilience project seeks two college, graduate, or recently graduated students for a 10-week summer internship in multimedia storytelling. Interns will report on what "resilience" looks like for Indigenous peoples in their regions under changing environmental conditions, telling stories that build connections between traditional knowledge, Indigenous practices, and Western scientific data. The Resilience Reporter Summer Internship Program aims to build awareness nationally about resilience initiatives on Native American lands, and build communication, journalism, and multimedia storytelling skills useful to interns as they move forward in their careers. Interns will practice telling stories using photography, audio, video, writing, artwork, poetry, and/or other creative medium of their choice.

**Application deadline: March 31, 2024**

## Lost Species Fellow- RAY Fellowship Program

The Lost Species Fellow will play a pivotal role in advancing Re:wild's mission to rediscover and protect species thought to be lost to science, contributing to the global conservation community. Through a combination of research, database management, expedition support, and outreach, the Fellow will help ensure that lost species efforts are informed, impactful, and well-communicated to partners, donors, and the public. **Application deadline: March 31, 2025**

## Curriculum Writer: Youth Innovators Empowering Agriculture Across America (YEA) Climate Curriculum Project- Oregon State University

The purpose of this curriculum is to center Indigenous and Pacific Islander knowledge with multi-disciplinary studies and understanding of the intersections between climate systems, agriculture and forestry, and community well-being and connection to land. Curriculum writers will attend an initial virtual lesson writing onboarding and training session to help co-create an adaptive lesson plan template and contribute to the development of a curriculum map, including lesson topics. Indigenous and Pacific Islander culture and stories will be centered, and this is a curriculum that is intended to be used by all youth from any background or culture. **Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis but review will begin on Marh 10, 2025.**

## Mid-Atlantic Indigenous Fellow- National Parks Conversation Association (NPCA)

NPCA's Mid-Atlantic Regional Office seeks an individual passionate about indigenous engagement and supporting tribal sovereignty through policy and advocacy in National Parks. The right candidate will be able to participate in in-person/virtual events and meetings in the Washington, DC/Virginia/Maryland area as well as working virtually. This position will support the Mid-Atlantic region's initiatives to deepen indigenous engagement with tribal nations and National Parks. In addition, this person will support campaign work that includes researching current department initiatives supporting tribal sovereignty, reaching out to local tribal nations, and participating in meetings with internal and external stakeholders. **Application deadline: open until filled**

## FREE Colorado RiverTrip for Indigenous Young Leaders and Knowledge Holders

The Grand Canyon holds many stories of creation and resilience. On this trip, Indigenous youth will learn traditions, narratives, and histories of the canyon from cultural knowledge-holders of tribes who call this place home. As we travel downriver, adult and youth participants on the trip will determine the cultural sites we visit and the content of discussions and workshops. We expect to share ecological knowledge of the Southwest, ethnographic knowledge of plants and foods, regional astronomy, and intergenerational perspectives of connection to place, among other cultural teachings. The Grand Canyon RIISE river trip has space for 18 youth participants and four adult knowledge holders. **Application deadline: April 14, 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**

## Indigenous Youth Media Workshop

Calling all Indigenous high school trailblazers, aspiring storytellers, and media makers! This 11-day comprehensive, hands-on, immersive media production workshop is your ticket to mastering multimedia broadcast journalism and unleashing your storytelling talent. Join us this summer from June 15 to June 25, 2025 for the Indigenous Youth Media Workshop at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, Arizona! Open to students currently in grades 9-12, with special consideration for Indigenous high-schoolers.

## Renewable Energy Manager- La Jolla Band of Luiseño Indians

The manager will lead renewable energy initiatives within the La Jolla Climate Pollution Reduction Grant project and broader energy program development. This role is ideal for someone with expertise in renewable energy, project management, and grant administration who is passionate about advancing sustainable energy solutions. The candidate will spearhead community energy strategies, focusing on conservation, electrification, onsite generation, storage, and infrastructure resilience. Responsibilities include ensuring compliance with federal funding requirements, managing grants and budgets, coordinating with sub-awardees, and overseeing project planning and feasibility studies. **Application deadline: open until filled**

## Applied Climate Scientist

The University of Minnesota Climate Adaptation Partnership (MCAP) is seeking a full-time applied climate scientist to draw on a range of weather and climate data to connect how our climate is changing with hazards and impacts on natural and agricultural systems, the built environment, and human health. The scientist will work with the MCAP team to co-produce climate data analyses, decision-support tools, and research syntheses, and engage with partners to inform the planning and implementation of climate resilience strategies in Minnesota and the Midwest region. Job ID: 367011. **Application deadline: position open until filled**

## Community Program Coordinator

The team at Hopi Tutskwa seeks an energetic, self-motivated, and friendly individual to join our crew. I. We are seeking a creative individual who thrives in self-directed autonomous work, brings innovation to an established shared leadership team, is capable of building good relationships with our community, and has integrity and passion to strengthen and commit to Hopi Tutskwa Permaculture's mission and vision. The Coordinator will collaborate with community leaders, stakeholders, and partners to develop, promote, and evaluate high-quality programs that support the Hopi Tutskwa Permaculture's mission and vision. **Application deadline: positions open until filled**

## 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/>

## 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**

## 2025 Indigenous Communities Fellowship

Indigenous innovation is as diverse and expansive as Indigenous communities, with entrepreneurs harnessing traditional knowledge systems, values, and teachings to reimagine and renew what is possible in their communities and beyond. Across the past seven years of the Fellowship, Indigenous innovators spanning the United States and Canada have demonstrated a long legacy of ingenuity, self-determination, and community-first organizing. Whether working in the fields to deploy food sovereignty programming, or behind a computer developing algorithms for community benefit—at the core of the Fellows' work is the intersection of tech-enabled and culturally grounded solutions. **Application deadline: April 17, 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,<sup>1</sup> 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,<sup>2</sup> 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**

## Lorraine Loomis Memorial Scholarship

Lorraine, an elder in the Swinomish Tribe, passed away in August 2021, ending a decades-long career advocating for Indigenous fishing rights at their intersection with salmon conservation. She served on the PSC Fraser River Panel since its inception in 1985, with several terms as Panel Chair and Vice Chair. Lorraine was also one of the first women to play an active role in fisheries policy and management, rising to prominence at the tribal, state, national, and international level. Her achievements and consensus building led to her replacing the esteemed Billy Frank Jr. as chair of the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission upon his passing, receiving the inaugural PSC Larry Rutter Award for Pacific Salmon Conservation, and other accolades. The new PSC scholarship seeks to honor Lorraine's legacy and her many contributions to the fisheries community, with a view to inspiring and enabling future leaders like her. **Application deadline: April 30, 2025**

## Native American Agriculture Fund 2025

The Native American Agriculture Fund (NAAF) supports Native farmers and ranchers

through grants in business assistance, agricultural education, technical support, and advocacy. The 2025 Request for Applications (RFA) includes:

- 2025 RFA General – Open to 501(c)(3) organizations, educational institutions, CDFIs, and tribal governments.
  - General Focus: Business assistance, agricultural education, technical support, and advocacy.
  - General Focus (CDFIs only): Loan capital, re-granting capital, and business/technical assistance.
  - Special Focus (All Eligible Entities): Infrastructure and climate resilience.
- 2025 RFA Youth – Funding for youth-focused initiatives across all eligible entity types.

**Application Deadline: May 1, 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**

## Sovereign Equity Fund: Green Horizons Project to Advance Sustainable Agriculture

The Sovereign Equity Fund (SEF) is proud to announce the launch of the Green Horizons Project in partnership with the Native American Agriculture Fund (NAAF). This initiative is designed to provide capital and capacity-building resources to support environmental sustainability in Native agricultural and food systems. Through this collaboration, SEF and NAAF aim to accelerate efforts that empower Tribal agricultural producers to implement sustainable practices on their farms and ranches. The Green Horizons Project will provide \$40,000 in funding over a 12-month period to Tribal governments, helping them assist Tribal producers in implementing sustainable agricultural practices. This opportunity is open to state and federally recognized Tribes in the United States and is best suited for those with existing agricultural programs looking to expand their impact with additional resources. **Application deadline: June 15, 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>

## April

### **April 8-11, 2025, Stevenson, WA** **[National Association of Wetland Managers 2025 Annual State/Tribal/Federal Coordination](#)**

The purpose of this annual meeting is to support state and Tribal wetland program managers, and other wetland professionals as they respond to challenges in the coming year. A limited number of scholarships are available to U.S. state and Tribal agency staff to assist those in need to cover travel, lodging and/or registration costs.

### **Conference: April 21-24, 2025, Reno, NV** **[Tribal Drinking Water Conference](#)**

The Rural Community Assistance Corporation and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency are hosting the 2025 Tribal Drinking Water Conference on April 21-25, 2025, in Reno, Nevada. Ensuring both the quality and ample supply of drinking water is a multifaceted duty. Tribal Utilities must possess financial stability, managerial competence, and technical expertise to meet immediate water needs while safeguarding community health sustainably. Join the EPA and RCAC to expand your skills, gain insights, earn contact hours, network, and enjoy engaging activities.

### **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

### **Conference: May 6-8th, Ventura, CA** **[2025 SW Tribal Climate Change Summit](#)**

Save the date for the 2025 Southwestern Tribal Climate Change Summit hosted by Climate Science Alliance and Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals. To be held on Chumash lands in Ventura, California from May 6-8, 2025.

### **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.

## June

### **Symposium: June 2-5, Missoula, MT** **[48th Annual National Indian Timber Symposium](#)**

The Confederated Salish, Qlispe & Ksanka (Kootenai) Tribes (CSKT) welcomes you to the Intertribal Timber Council's 48th Annual National Indian Timber Symposium being held at the University of Montana in Missoula, MT. Aligning with this year's theme "Managing Tribal and Multi-Agency Interest & Empowering Tomorrow's Stewards" we will be focusing on working with other agencies and educating our youth to become our future leaders. The workshops and presentations will highlight these opportunities and challenges faced by tribes across the nation. Registration closes May 23, 2025

### **June 21-26, 2025, Shepherdstown, West Virginia** **[Native Youth Community Adaptation Leadership Congress](#)**

Join students from across the country to discuss climate 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.

## July

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

Save The Date! July 23-24! More details for the Tribal Water Resources event, including location and registration, are coming soon!

## August

### **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

### **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.

### **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.

# International Indigenous News & Resources

## In the News

### [I Taotao Tāsi \(The People of the Sea\)](#)

Part of the special issue on Resilience Rising: Indigenous Wisdom in Disaster Response and Climate Crisis Management. “Shifts in the climate have been happening for centuries, and the Peoples of the Pacific are attuned to it all. Pacific Islanders are i taotao tāsi (the people of the sea). We are subject to the temperament of the mighty ocean choosing to feed and protect us, or not. This centuries-long, fickle relationship has made us agile and resourceful. It has made us masters of adaptation. We are climate change frontliners, but we are also healers and navigators deeply rooted in our communities.” ©Cultural Survival, 03/18/2025.

### [A Canadian Mining Giant vs. the Guardians of the Amazon](#)

Around the world, mining operations have deepened poverty in Indigenous communities and destroyed traditional livelihoods, leaving environmental devastation in their wake. In early February, Ecuador finalized a new trade deal with Canada. The country's conservative president says this deal will promote local job growth, and hold both countries to the highest of labour and environmental standards. But deep in the Amazon, a different side of Canada's engagement with Ecuador is showing — a Canadian-owned copper mining project that local Indigenous communities see as an existential threat to their way of life. ©Cultural Survival, 02/6/2025.

### [Peruvian farmer takes Germany's RWE to court in landmark climate case](#)

A Peruvian farmer who says German energy giant RWE's emissions have contributed to the melting of Andean glaciers, increasing the flood risk to his home, took his case to court on Monday in a hearing that could set a precedent for climate litigation. The case, which began a decade ago and is now being heard in Hamm in Germany, could deliver a landmark ruling if the court holds the company accountable for past emissions and requires it to help fund climate adaptation for affected communities. ©Reuters, 03/17/2025.

### [From Microfinance to Mutual Aid - Moving Resources to People, Not Banks](#)

For years, banks have operated as gatekeepers, guarding resources and power behind a veneer of exclusivity. Now, the landscape is shifting. And, as is often the case, the Global South is a leading site of innovation. A small but powerful example is provided by Apoyo Mutuo Kelluwün-Rekulluwvn (Kelluwün-Rekulluwvn Mutual Aid), a groundbreaking nonprofit initiative from Maple Microdevelopment, developed in 2014 at the invitation of the Mapuche-Lafkenche Indigenous communities of coastal wetland Lake Budi, southern Chile, and Northern Patagonia. A decade in, this mutual aid model—one where communities collectively save, support one another, and make financial decisions together—merits close study. ©Nonprofit Quarterly, 03/12/2025

### [Yet another abandoned mine erodes - this time, in a Panamanian protected area](#)

After the Cobre Panamá copper mine shut down in 2023, the mine's infrastructure was left to waste away by the company in a biodiverse jungle area on Panama's Atlantic coast. A new report by Environmental Law Alliance

Worldwide (ELAW) has found that the mine's tailings dam is at a very serious and imminent risk of failure due to poor monitoring and internal erosion. Indigenous communities nearby have reported even more contamination in the water sources that run through their communities, leading to the disappearance of key species, the destruction of wetlands and health issues among residents. Experts said current mine closure regulations in Latin America are insufficient and the planning and development of responsible closure plans should focus on managing both social and environmental impacts. ©Mongabay, 02/25/2025.

## Call for Input & Nominations

### **Call for Inputs: [Report to 60th Session of the HRC, on the Recognition of Indigenous Peoples](#) (United Nations)**

The Special Rapporteur is concerned that misunderstandings regarding the recognition of Indigenous Peoples continue to hamper the implementation of UNDRIP and other international instruments on Indigenous Peoples' rights. In his report to be presented at the 60th session of the Human Rights Council in September 2025, he therefore intends to examine ways and means of overcoming obstacles and promote best practices related to the recognition by States of Indigenous Peoples. **Deadline: March 28, 2025**

### **Call for Submissions: [Gender & Climate Change Technical Workshop](#) (United Nations)**

The development of the new Gender Action Plan will begin at SB 62 (62nd session of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change's Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice and the Subsidiary Body for Implementation) with a view to recommending a draft decision for consideration and adoption at COP 30 (November 2025). At SB 62, Parties and observers will come together to discuss the design, including the structure and content of the activities in the new gender action plan at an in-session workshop. **Call for submissions related to the workshop closes: March 31, 2025. (Tip: search "Gender" on the submission portal site to find the submission page.)**

### **Call for Inputs: [Report to 80th Session of the UN General Assembly](#) (United Nations OHCHR)**

The Special Rapporteur requests to receive inputs by way of response to the annexed questions, that will inform his report to be presented at the 80th session of the UN General Assembly in October 2025. This questionnaire seeks to assess existing legal frameworks, principles, procedural mechanisms, and implementation challenges, to identify best practices and provide recommendations for strengthening Indigenous Peoples' land rights globally. The UN Special Rapporteur on the rights of Indigenous Peoples seeks to examine implementing mechanisms of the right of Indigenous Peoples to their lands, territories and resources. right. He would like to take stock of States' practices of identifying, documenting, demarcating, registering and titling Indigenous Peoples' right to land, territories and resources with the view to distilling from the trends and lessons that could inspire other States, inform relevant international processes, help correct existing challenges and mitigate risks. **Deadline: April 1, 2025**



# International Indigenous Resources

## **Call for Nominations: [Nominations of Experts and fellows for IPBES's Second Global Assessment](#)**

The overall objective of the second IPBES global assessment of biodiversity and ecosystem services (referred to hereafter as “the second global assessment”) is to assess relevant knowledge that has become available since the publication in 2019 of The Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services and to assess progress towards achieving the goals of sustainability and living in harmony with nature. The second global assessment will strengthen the science-policy interface on biodiversity and nature's contributions to people on a range of spatial scales, from the local to the global, by providing the knowledge and the policy support tools needed for informed decision-making. **Deadline: April 6, 2025**

## **Call for Inputs: [2026 UN Water Conference - Global Online Stakeholder Consultation on the Themes for the Interactive Dialogues](#)** (United Nations SDGS)

The 2026 United Nations Water Conference to Accelerate the Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all will be held in the United Arab Emirates from 2–4 December 2026, co-hosted by Senegal and the United Arab Emirates. Non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions, the scientific community, Indigenous Peoples and local communities, persons with disabilities, the private sector and philanthropic organizations, and other actors are invited to contribute inputs on the themes for the Interactive Dialogues of the 2026 UN Water Conference through a global online stakeholder consultation. **Deadline: April 11, 2025**

## **Call for Inputs: [Strategic environmental impact assessments, and the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment](#)** (United Nations OHCHR)

The report aims to analyse the challenges and shortcomings in the regulation and implementation of EIAs and SEAs across different jurisdictions. It will also define how human rights standards and principles are and should be integrated in EIA and SEAs including in relation with procedural elements of access to information, public participation and access to justice. This will contribute to the clarification of how EIAs and SEAs should be designed and strengthened towards effective implementation. The Special Rapporteur will propose actionable recommendations, based on international best practices and existing legal frameworks. **Deadline: April 15, 2025**

## **Call for Inputs: [Human Rights in the life cycle of Renewable Energy and Critical Minerals](#)** (United Nations)

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**

## **Call for Inputs: [Human rights defenders working on climate change and a just transition](#)** (United Nations OHCHR)

To inform the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders working on climate change and a just transition, to be presented to the 80th session of the UN General Assembly in October 2025. The report will focus on the contributions made by human rights defenders to mitigating climate change and bringing about a just transition, and forms of retaliation or repression they may be facing for this work. In the call for inputs, the Special Rapporteur is seeking examples in line with these points of focus from any interested actors, including Member States and human rights defenders themselves. **Deadline: April 30, 2025**

## **Call for Inputs: [Climate Finance: Vulnerability and Responsibility](#)** (United Nations Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development)

This study complements the one on climate justice and just transition by further exploring and analyzing the various processes, initiatives, and practices that contribute to adequately financing climate transition and development at different levels. It shall systematically explore, track, and trace initiatives that have been decided upon and are currently under discussion and/or implementation. **Deadline: May 30, 2025.**

## **Call for Papers: [Advancing and Integrating Climate and Health Policies](#)**

The Journal of Climate Change and Health is looking for original research articles that explore how health features in climate policymaking (and vice versa), how policies can benefit both climate and health goals, and what might be the most effective communication strategies to ensure the success of these policies for an upcoming special issue on climate change and health policies. **Deadline: June 20, 2025.**

## Job & Internship Opportunities

### **Job: [Director, Qanittaq at the Inuit Circumpolar Council \(ICC\)](#)** (Canada)

The Director, Qanittaq (ICC) is a senior leadership role, responsible for implementing ICC Canada's co-leadership of the Qanittaq Clean Arctic Shipping Initiative with Memorial University. Increases in Arctic shipping present emerging opportunities and challenges for Inuit and Canada, with significant implications for the environment, economy, geo-politics and Inuit rights in the Arctic. It is a priority area for Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) Canada, which is actively collaborating with partners to share Inuit knowledge and perspectives and to advance Inuit priorities in Arctic shipping. **Deadline: ASAP**

### **Internship: [Cultural Survival's Capacity Building Program Internship](#)**

Cultural Survival is accepting applications for an upcoming remote internship opportunity for Summer 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, 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: March 31, 2025**

# International Resources & Events

## **Fellowship: [First Nations Women Transforming Conservation Fellowship](#) (Canada)**

The fellowship is designed to empower First Nations women to envision and build vibrant, resilient communities that reflect who we are—our ways of knowing, doing, and being. The fellowship will provide opportunities for fellows to learn more about public policy, government relations, research design, communications, land use planning, and other elements of advancing Indigenous-led conservation and stewardship. **Deadline: April 11, 2025**

## Resources & Funding

### **Resources to prepare for the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues:**

- [Prepare to Connect, Engage, and Contribute: 5 Key Actions to Participate in the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues \(UNPFII\)](#)**  
©International Indigenous Women's Forum,
- [Webinar: Share Your Story - How to Communicate Effectively with Journalists](#)**  
(Wed., April 9, 2025) During this crash course webinar, participants will learn how to hone and craft their messages; learn storytelling techniques and tools and understand the story components journalists want and how to communicate them effectively to journalists and media.
- [Preparatory Bibliography for UNPFII 2025](#)**  
©Docip

### **Funding: [Indigenous Peoples Resilience Fund Food Sovereignty Bundles](#) (Canada)**

The Food Sovereignty Bundles are made possible by the Walmart Foundation. Eligible organizations and groups can apply for \$5,000 to \$100,000 for projects centered on food sovereignty, food security, and nutritional health and wellness, while embedding Indigenous knowledge and practices to achieve community resilience. All project activities and organizations must be based in Canada. **Deadline: March 28, 2025.**

### **Report: [UNPFII Report - Evaluating institutional structures to improve the health and wellness of Indigenous Peoples globally: the Indigenous determinants of health measurement instrument](#)**

Inspired by the voices of Indigenous leaders who have called for an appraisal tool tailored to their unique health needs, the author of the present study unveils a powerful new instrument designed to bridge systemic gaps and promote cultural safety on a global scale. This tool is not just another assessment – it is a call to action to policymakers, practitioners and Indigenous communities to collaboratively evaluate two critical elements: (a) how effectively institutional policies address the distinct risks and protective factors that Indigenous communities face; and (b) whether relevant stakeholders are structurally prepared to uphold the principles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in meaningful ways. ©United Nations, 02/04/2025.

### **Report: [Soil Carbon Credits: Another Wave of Land Alienation in Northern Tanzania](#)**

The rapid development of the soil carbon credit business in Northern Tanzania is generating community misinformation, concerns and conflicts. It is encouraging corruption in the form of pre-payment (signing fee); The conditions are not in place to ensure Free, Prior and

Informed Consent (FPIC); Soil carbon credits will likely create major disruptions in Maasai traditional grazing practices and land use and management systems. ©Maasai International Solidarity Alliance (MISA), 03/2025.

## Events

### **Conference: March 31 - April 3 - Canberra, Australia [Global Indigenous Data Sovereignty Conference](#)**

The GIDSov Conference 2025 will bring together Indigenous Peoples from across the globe to reflect on the advances in IDSov and Indigenous Data Governance (IDGov) and map future pathways and aspirations for the next decade. The Conference will explore ways to move beyond principles and into practice. This internationally significant event will feature keynote speeches, presentations, workshops, and collaborative sessions, culminating with a Communique on the Conference resolutions.

### **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 12-16, 2025 - Recife, Brazil [19th International Conference on Community-Based Adaptation to Climate Change \(CBA19\)](#)**

The CBA conference series aims to bring together a community of practitioners that are collectively seeking to enable community-driven climate action. This year's theme is "How can we achieve just and equitable adaptation?"

### **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.

### **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.

# International Resources & Events

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**Conference, October 13-14, 2025 - Colombo, Sri Lanka**  
**[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.

**Proposal/Abstract deadline: February 25, 2025.**