



Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals



Tribal Wellbeing for Seven Generations Program Newsletter

May 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.



Thompson Meadows, AZ. Photo Credit: Kelsey Jensen

Meet the Climate Change Team

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Photo Credit: Kelsey Jensen

In the summer of 2023, Justin Knott, a member of the Tlingit & Haida Tribes (Wolf Moiety / Split-Killer Whale / Klawock Heenya Kwaan), embarked on a 16-hour motorcycle journey along I-40 and historic Route 66 from Kingman, Arizona, to Bixby, Oklahoma, on his first motorcycle. His destination: an Indigenous Internship with the Tribal Alliance for Pollinators (TAP), the largest Native-led grassland restoration organization in North America, based at the Euchee Butterfly Farm.

TAP not only operates a significant intertribal native seed bank but also leads restoration of critical habitat for native pollinators, including the monarch butterfly. At the time, Justin was pursuing his second Master's degree in Engineering and Technology Management at Washington State University, having already earned a Master's in Food Science and Management.

During his internship, Justin worked hands-on in pollinator conservation and native habitat restoration. In his final report to the Indigenous Internship Coordinator in September 2023, he wrote: "I am very proud to be interning for the Tribal Alliance for Pollinators. The internship has allowed me to build upon my skills in working with native plants and animals. Helping to restore habitat to ensure that there are native plants on native land for the pollinators makes me feel like I am a part of something great... The work done by the pollinators is not something that can be outsourced or replaced with machinery. The pollinators are an essential component of our food systems."

Following the internship, Justin remained connected with the TAP team and, in May 2024, was hired full-time to support the USDA Office of Tribal Relations in developing more pollinator-friendly forage seed mixtures for bison. Around this time, he also completed his second Master's degree.

Now with support from TAP, Justin was accepted into a PhD program in Biology at the University of Oklahoma. There, he will collaborate with the OU Biological Survey and the South Central Climate Adaptation Science Center. Justin is researching the viability of wastewater gardens to preserve native plant species critical to Indigenous cultures and pollinators. He reflects that if it weren't for the Indigenous Climate Change Internship, he would never have made the connection with Jane Breckinridge and the TAP team, an opportunity for which he is deeply grateful. The experience has allowed him to continue working for Native communities and advance a cause he is passionate about: restoring native agriculture systems for future generations. He continues to focus on building sustainable tribal agriculture systems and forging a path for future Indigenous youth leaders. Justin hopes to become a leading figure in the next generation of Indigenous ethnobiologists.

With generous funding from the Bay and Paul Foundation, Wells Fargo, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs Climate Resilience program, the Tribal Wellbeing for Seven Generations Program at the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP) coordinates the Indigenous Internship Program (IP) with host sites across North America to build climate resilience and capacity within Indigenous communities. In the summer of 2024, there was an IP intern in every time zone! The IP interns share a passion for our natural world and a desire to learn traditional teachings, knowledges, and language from our thought leaders. For more information about past Indigenous Internship Program host sites and interns, please visit our internship website. Host site applications for Summer 2026 will be available in October 2025.

In The News

[The Trees Are Speaking](#)

Indigenous scientists are hurrying to learn what they can about intact old-growth forests before they are gone. Biologist Teresa Ryan has seen a lot of clear-cuts and loaded logging trucks. But this trucker was hauling logs down the mountain outside the remote logging outpost of Woss, British Columbia, cut from trees so large the tractor trailer could carry only a few. "It's so sad. I just feel heartbreak, like a piece of me just went down the mountain," said Ryan, whose traditional name is Sm'hayetsk, as the logging truck roared past her. "The ancestors are there. We actually used to put our people in the trees," she said, speaking of traditional burial practices of the Gitlan of the Tsimshian Nation. © YES! Magazine, 04/22/25

[From Greenland to Ghana, Indigenous youth work for climate justice](#)

For the last week, Indigenous leaders from around the world have converged in New York for the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, or UNPFII. It's the largest global gathering of Indigenous peoples, and the forum provides space for participants to bring their issues to international authorities, often when their own governments have refused to take action. This year's forum focuses on how U.N. member states' have, or have not, protected the rights of Indigenous peoples, and conversations range from the environmental effects of extractive industries to climate change and violence against women. © Grist, 04/25/25

[A Victory at Bad River](#)

The Bad River Tribe has taken on a billion-dollar Canadian oil pipeline company to defend manoomin and the fresh waters that sustain it—and us all. At the northern tip of Wisconsin, a river meanders northward to the world's second-largest freshwater lake. As it flows, the river gives life to walleye as well as wolves and medicinal plants. Where the waters reach Lake Superior, abundant—but vulnerable—wild rice grows. This land and this river have been home to the Mashkiigong-ziibiing and their ancestors, the Chippewa, Ojibwe,

and Anishinabe, for more than 500 years. The wild rice (manoomin in Ojibwe) that grows near where Lake Superior meets the land is a sacred dietary staple. And it's why the Chippewa settled near Lake Superior; their ancestors foretold to go west until they found food that grows on water. © Yes! Magazine, 05/08/25

[Tribal Right to Harvest Wild Rice Threatened by Climate Change – Adaptation Approaches Offer Hope](#)

Wild rice, called Manoomin in Ojibwemowin and Psiij in Dakotapi, is an essential, sacred species for Native American communities throughout the Upper Great Lakes region. The right to harvest wild rice off-reservation is guaranteed by treaties between Tribes and the U.S. government – but that right is now under threat as negative impacts from climate change increase. A new study supported by the Midwest Climate Adaptation Science Center analyzed 35 years of harvest data collected by the 1854 Treaty Authority and the Great Lakes Fish & Wildlife Commission. © Midwest Climate Adaptation Science Center, 05/15/25

[Indigenous Stewards Reclaim Prison Land](#)

Activists in eastern Kentucky are forcing the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) to go back to the drawing board mere months after the federal agency signed off on a Record of Decision approving a 500-acre site in Roxana, Kentucky, as the location for a \$500 million medium-security prison. On Jan. 22, the Appalachian Rekindling Project (ARP), a community-building and land restoration organization led by Indigenous women, announced that it purchased a section of the site the BOP identified as its first choice for the new prison. With the acquisition of 68 acres of private land, the ARP aims to heal the land and the local community—in part by stopping the prison from ever getting built. ©YES! Magazine, 05/16/25

[Charging Forward: Ogalala Lakota women prepare to rewire the solar industry](#)

In an industry where women make up just 11% of the workforce and Native women barely register a fraction of that, eight Oglala Lakota women are flipping the switch on renewable energy's gender gap. The

women completed the second cohort of the Bridging Renewable Industry Divides In Gender Equality (BRIDGE) program Friday through Pine Ridge, S.D.-based energy nonprofit Red Cloud Renewable. The four-week intensive training program included rooftop installations in the rain and complex electrical training designed to help them launch careers in the renewable energy industry. © Tribal Business News, 06/07/25

[Land Back: 47,097 Acres Returned to Yurok Tribe](#)

The Yurok Tribe, California's largest federally recognized tribal nation, was given 73 square miles of land -- or 47,097 acres -- along the eastern side of the lower Klamath River on Thursday. The land exchange is being called the largest single "land back" deal in California history. The land deal was announced by the Tribe, the Western Rivers Conservancy (WRC), the California Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB) and the California State Coastal Conservancy (CSCC). The 73 square miles of land is now owned and managed by the Yurok Tribe as the Blue Creek Salmon Sanctuary and Yurok Tribal Community Forest. © Native News Online, 06/05/25

[Mapping the Unmapped](#)

The day I was supposed to join a group of young women to map Gros Islet, an old fishing village on the Caribbean Island of St. Lucia, I got lost. Proann Francis, who was helping lead the expedition, had told me to meet everyone at Care Growell School, which Google Maps informed me was some 8,500 miles away, in Uttar Pradesh, India. "Where?" I asked. She instructed me to wait outside my hotel for a ride because it would be impossible to find the place on my own. An hour later, I found myself standing at the side of a dusty St. Lucian highway as a vintage red Toyota van pulled up. I squeezed in, between Francis and the driver. Behind us, a group of young women sat wearing matching light blue shirts that read "Women Mappers." © Grist, 06/11/25

Resources

[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.

[Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals Academic Year Internship Program](#)

The Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP) and its internship program was developed in partnership with various programs under ITEP, and it is proud to have supported Young Leaders over the last 20 years. The academic year Indigenous Internship Program has been working to build climate resilience and capacity within Native communities by engaging Young Leaders based at Northern Arizona University (NAU) since 2023. Through the generous support from the Bay and Paul Foundations and Wells Fargo, ITEP is investing in our Young Leaders and honoring our Elders and community leaders who have continually voiced the need to prioritize youth engagement.

[Video: Indigenuity: How to Reframe Our Relationship With Climate Change | Janna Wale | TEDxSurrey](#)

Janna Wale, an Indigenous climate scientist from the Gitxsan Nation, explores the deep connection between climate change and our relationship with the Earth. Drawing from personal experiences harvesting salmon and witnessing environmental shifts, she highlights how Indigenous teachings emphasize balance, respect, and reciprocity with nature. Janna explains how the planet’s current “unhappiness” stems from humanity’s one-sided, exploitative relationship with the environment, fueled by a pursuit of profit over sustainability. Through captivating storytelling, she illustrates how nature’s intricate cycles depend on care and respect, offering a hopeful path forward. Viewers will learn how restoring our connection to the land, inspired by Indigenous wisdom, can help address the climate crisis and heal the Earth and ourselves. Janna

is a Gitxsan from Gitanmaax First Nation and Cree-Métis on her mother’s side. She is an award-winning climate researcher who uses a complex human-environmental systems approach to Indigenous and Western sciences.

[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.

[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 centring 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.

Job & Internship Opportunities

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. The audience for this curriculum will be youth ages 12-18 (approx 6-12th grades). 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 March 10, 2025.**

Clean Energy Fellows Program

This program aims to provide culturally-sustaining, career-focused education and eliminate barriers unrelated to students' actual potential for success so that all students can participate in, benefit from, and lead in a climate-smart future. Through a framework of professional development, symbiotic industry-education partnerships, and hands-on learning collaboration, the CE Team works with each Clean Energy Fellow to design customized objectives for regional impact. Laney shared specific information about their EMBER Cohort, which will consist of leaders from across the United States to engage students in community science efforts while building student access to and participation in climate solutions. Each Clean Energy Fellow or Clean Energy Fellows pair will develop unique programming that leverages community relationships, regional natural resources, place-based challenges, and scientific and industry expertise to deeply integrate universally accessible engagements into their educational environments. Members of this cohort will work with researchers on the Embedding Molecular Biology in Ecosystem Research (EMBER), which aims to address climate impacts driving severe wildfires by bringing together the expertise of researchers in molecular biology, ecosystem ecology, physiology, and modeling. This program is focused on K-12 educators. **Application deadline: June 22, 2025**

SIRGE Coalition Assistant

The SIRGE Coalition Assistant plays a key role in supporting the day-to-day operations of the SIRGE Coalition Secretariat. This position provides essential administrative and logistical support, including scheduling meetings, organizing logistics, taking notes, coordinating travel and expenses, translating documents, and occasionally interpreting during meetings. The Assistant also helps facilitate communication and workflow between the Secretariat, Executive Committee, Steering Committee, and various workstreams, including policy advocacy, community support, corporate engagement, communications, and research. We're looking for a detail-oriented, people-centered, and self-driven individual with experience working with diverse groups to advance social change, preferably with a background in Indigenous Peoples' rights. This is an exciting opportunity for someone interested in growing their skills and knowledge in Indigenous rights and climate justice, while contributing to a coalition committed to upholding Indigenous leadership, self-determination, and Free, Prior, and Informed Consent in the transition to a low-carbon economy. **Application deadline: open until filled**

Native American Internships in Habitat Restoration using TEK: Elderberry Wisdom Farm Summer and 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: open until filled**

Nez Perce Tribe - Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Coordinator

CPRG Coordinator is responsible for successfully managing multi-million-dollar projects under the EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG). This five-year initiative focuses on implementing ambitious climate resilience measures within tight deadlines. The Coordinator will lead strategic planning, budget management, grant administration, performance monitoring, and staff supervision. Core responsibilities include ensuring compliance with tribal, federal, and grant-specific regulations while achieving objectives tied to climate resilience, energy efficiency, and greenhouse gas mitigation. **Application deadline: open until filled**

Conservation Manager

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: open until filled**

Sovereignty Specialist

A Sovereignty Specialist focuses on supporting the recognition, protection, and advancement of tribal sovereignty, ensuring that Native American or Indigenous tribal nations have the authority to govern themselves, manage their lands, and protect their cultural rights. This specialist works in service of the Indigenous Conservation Council's Tribal Nation members and federal and state agencies, legal experts, and advocacy groups to ensure Tribal Nations can exercise their inherent rights to self-determination, governance, and territorial integrity through agreements and partnerships. Further, this position supports the Indigenous Conservation Council in upholding the sovereignty and self-determination of its Tribal Nation Members in all its actions. **Application deadline: 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/>

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

Tribal Wildlife Grants Program

Tribal Wildlife Grants program for FY2025 is now open for applications. The NAFWS grants team will cover the FY2025 Tribal Wildlife Grant (TWG) funding opportunity. Tribal Wildlife Grants are administered by the US Fish and Wildlife service and are used to provide technical and financial assistance to Tribes for the development and implementation of programs that benefit fish and wildlife resources and their habitat. Our grants team will be hosting a webinar on this funding opportunity on April 29, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. Mountain Time. We are working on getting a webinar registration link at this time. **Application deadline: June 20, 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.**

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.**

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**

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>

June

**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

**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.

**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 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.

**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.

**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 youth at the U.N. share environmental setbacks and solutions](#)

Indigenous leaders from around the world converged in New York for the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues from April 21 to May 2, 2025, discussing how states have, or have not, protected the rights of Indigenous peoples. Conversations range from the environmental effects of extractive industries to climate change. Young people in attendance often work alongside elders and leaders to come up with solutions and address ongoing challenges. Grist interviewed seven Indigenous youth attending UNPFII this year hailing from Africa, the Pacific, North and South America, Asia, Eastern Europe, and the Arctic. © Grist, 05/03/2025

[Amazon people brace for a drier future along the endangered Madeira River](#)

The Madeira River, the largest tributary of the Amazon, has been losing water flow over the last 20 years while facing severe droughts. The water drop is worrying the local population, whose livelihoods depend on balanced water bodies for small-scale agriculture, wild fruit extractives, fishing and transportation. The Madeira is particularly vulnerable to hydrological extremes and reached its lowest level ever recorded in September 2024. The Amazon has been warming since the 1980s, suffering 15 extreme droughts so far. © Mongabay, 05/05/2025

[Report urges stricter mining standards to manage climate and social impacts](#)

A new report from the Mining Observatory finds that key mining states in Brazil are highly exposed to climate risks, water insecurity and environmental degradation. Mining for transition minerals can in some cases exacerbate the impacts of climate change on ecosystems and local communities in the states of Pará, Minas Gerais, Goiás and Bahia. Researchers told Mongabay that without better socio environmental safeguards, the expansion of transition minerals mining represents a “major” threat to these communities’ way of life and the preservation of ecosystems. The report urged governments and companies to implement stronger policy frameworks, climate adaptation strategies, robust oversight and better mechanisms to involve rights-holders in key decisions. © Mongabay, 05/09/2025

[In Panama, an Indigenous-led project rewrites the rules of reforestation](#)

Scientists from the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute are collaborating with local communities in the Ngäbe-Buglé Comarca, a protected Indigenous territory, to foster a ground-up reforestation strategy using native trees and carbon payments. The project involves about 30 plots totaling 100 hectares (247 acres) of land, giving participants full ownership of their trees. The approach is based on carbon-sequestration data and other scientific metrics collected from Smithsonian’s Agua Salud research site in Colón. The work also leans on economic analyses to ensure that reforestation projects can become reliable and sustainable livelihood strategies for Panama’s rural communities. © Mongabay, 05/22/2025

[Land squeeze threatens climate-exposed islanders](#)

Sea level rise is threatening to push the Indigenous Solomon Island community, Walande, further inland as it threatens the viability of low-lying land for growing swamp

taro crops and a collapsing seawall. The land squeeze and food insecurity have some members of the community considering relating - another move after life on their former island home was made untenable by climate change-fuelled extreme weather - all that’s visible of their previous island above water are a few wooden posts sticking out of the sea. © National Indigenous Times, 05/14/2025.

Call for Input & Nominations

[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.**

[Call for Inputs: Lived Experiences of Indigenous Peoples affected by Renewables and Mining for Critical Minerals](#)

UN Special Rapporteur on Climate Change, Professor Elisa Morgera wants to hear directly from Indigenous land defenders, women, youth, Elders, and leaders from communities impacted by mining for the energy transition and renewable projects. This will be a space to share lived experiences and will inform the Rapporteur’s report to the UN General Assembly and will help ensure that Indigenous Peoples’ voices and solutions are heard.

[Call for Registration: 18th Session of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#)

Job & Internship Opportunities

[Internship: Women’s Earth Alliance - Development Internship](#)

WEA equips women with the skills and tools they need to protect our earth and strengthen our communities from the inside out. The intern will learn about global climate crisis and environmental justice issues, and the different types of grassroots solutions arising from women’s leadership. **Deadline: ASAP.**

[Job: Director, Global Indigenous Policy & Partnerships \(The Nature Conservancy\)](#)

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) seeks a strategic, experienced, and principled Director of Global Indigenous Policy & Partnerships to lead the organization’s policy engagement in support of Indigenous Peoples, local and traditional communities. This role will elevate Indigenous-led priorities across global and national policy forums, build and nurture key partnerships, and ensure TNC’s internal alignment to center Indigenous rights, self-determination, and local leadership in conservation. **Deadline: June 14, 2025.**

[Job: Program Coordinator - Inuit Climate Action Partnership \(ICAP\)](#)

A two-year position partially funded for Arctic Indigenous candidates as part of an Indigenous-specific initiative guiding the program of work at ICAP, a partnership between circumpolar Inuit and other global Indigenous

International Indigenous Resources

Peoples dealing with the impacts of climate change. The coordinator will be responsible for relationship building with partners in developing nations, coordinating and creating opportunities to share knowledge, and strategies for responding to climate induced changes. **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, 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.**

Resources & Funding

Statement: [UN Indigenous Rights Rapporteur's Statement at 83rd Session of African Commission on Human Rights](#)

This year's African Commission theme on Reparation for Historical Wrongs resonates deeply with the ongoing struggles of Indigenous Peoples globally. I commend the African Commission for their leadership in dedicating this year's focus to these complex issues, which is vital for the advancement of human rights across the continent and globally. Recognizing their unique history of discrimination, land dispossession, and cultural marginalization is paramount to achieving justice and ensuring the full realization of their human rights. The pursuit of meaningful reparations is not just about rectifying the past but about building a more equitable and inclusive future for all. To delve deeper into the critical issues discussed, follow the above link for the full statement.

Position Paper: [CEDAW General Recommendation 39: Ensuring the Rights of Indigenous Women and Girls: A Position Paper by the Network of Indigenous Women in Asia \(NIWA\)](#)

The NIWA Position Paper on CEDAW General Recommendation No. 39 (GR 39) is a powerful document that amplifies the collective voices, experiences, and recommendations of Indigenous women across Asia. Developed by NIWA member organizations, this position

paper calls on States, institutions, and the global community to uphold and protect the rights of Indigenous women and girls to land, territories, culture, and self-determination—free from violence and discrimination. NIWA views GR 39 as a crucial advocacy tool to combat intersecting forms of discrimination and demands the urgent implementation of the CEDAW Convention and GR 39 principles.

Funding: [Call for Expressions of Interest for Partners to Deliver Global Environmental Benefits under GEF 8 Heart of Conservation initiative \(HCI\)](#) (World Wildlife Fund)

The Global Environment Facility-funded Heart of Conservation Initiative (HCI), implemented by World Wildlife Fund, has launched a call for Expressions of Interest for on-the-ground projects led by Indigenous Peoples and/or local communities. Projects will deliver Global Environmental Benefits, including: 1) Conservation of globally significant biodiversity, 2) Sustainable use of the components of globally significant biodiversity, and 3) Fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources, including by appropriate access to genetic resources. The call is open to representative institutions, organizations, networks or funding mechanisms of Indigenous Peoples and/or local communities operating in GEF-eligible countries. Selected projects will be implemented from 2026-2030, with budgets between 1-2 million USD. **Deadline: June 30, 2025.**

Funding: [UN Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples - Human Rights Council 60th Session](#)

The United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples is pleased to invite applications from Indigenous Peoples' representatives to participate in the Human Rights Council 60th session. The sessions will take place in Geneva, Switzerland, from 8 September to 3 October 2025. **Deadline: June 16, 2025.**

Funding: [UN Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples - Regional Forums on Business and Human Rights](#)

The UN Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples is accepting applications from Indigenous individuals and communities seeking financial assistance to participate in the following key meetings of Regional Forums for Business and Human Rights: 1st Western European and Others Group (WEOG) Regional Forum on Business and Human Rights (Aug. 25-27, 2025); 7th Asia-Pacific Regional Forum on Business and Human Rights (Sep. 14-19, 2025); 4th Africa Regional Forum on Business and Human Rights (Oct. 6-9, 2025). **Deadline: June 16, 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.**

International Indigenous Resources

Report: [Discussions and outcomes of the two intersessional meetings on concrete ways to enhance the participation of Indigenous Peoples in the work of the Human Rights Council](#)

The present report is submitted pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 54/12 and is prepared by the co-facilitators appointed by the President of the Council and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. It provides a summary of the two intersessional meetings on concrete ways to enhance the participation of Indigenous Peoples in the work of the Council. The report also contains specific recommendations for the Council's consideration, based on the outcome of the intersessional meetings. ©United Nations General Assembly, 03/27/2025.

Events

Roundtable: June 18-19, 2025 - Online (Canada)
[2025 Indigenous Perspectives Roundtables](#)

Every year, the Indigenous Perspective roundtable, hosted in partnership with the Centre for Indigenous Environmental Resources (CIER), brings together more than 1,000 people to listen, learn, and reflect on Indigenous-led research exploring some of the most pressing climate issues of our time. Roundtable 1 : Indigenous Ways of Knowing as Climate Policy. Roundtable 2 : Indigenous Power as the Pathway to Clean Electricity.

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.

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.

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.