

# Overview of EPA-Tribal Environmental Plans (ETEPPs)

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# Background

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- Indian General Assistance Program (GAP) Guidance provides a consistent national framework for building tribal environmental program capacity
- GAP Guidance designed to improve management of GAP resources
- ETEPs formally known as Tribal Environmental Agreements (TEAs)
  - Address a program deficiency identified in a 2008 Office of Inspector General (OIG) audit of the GAP program
  - Link GAP-funded assistance agreement work plans to tribally defined long term program development goals

# What exactly is an ETEP?

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- Strategic planning documents that clarify mutual roles and responsibilities for achieving tribally defined multi-program development goals.
- Reflect a tribe's intermediate and long-term environmental protection program capacity goals.
- Approved GAP work plans should contain capacity indicators that are related to accomplishing the goals identified in the ETEPs.
- EPA and the tribe will measure progress under the GAP work plan and the progress being made toward accomplishing the long-term goals in the ETEPs.



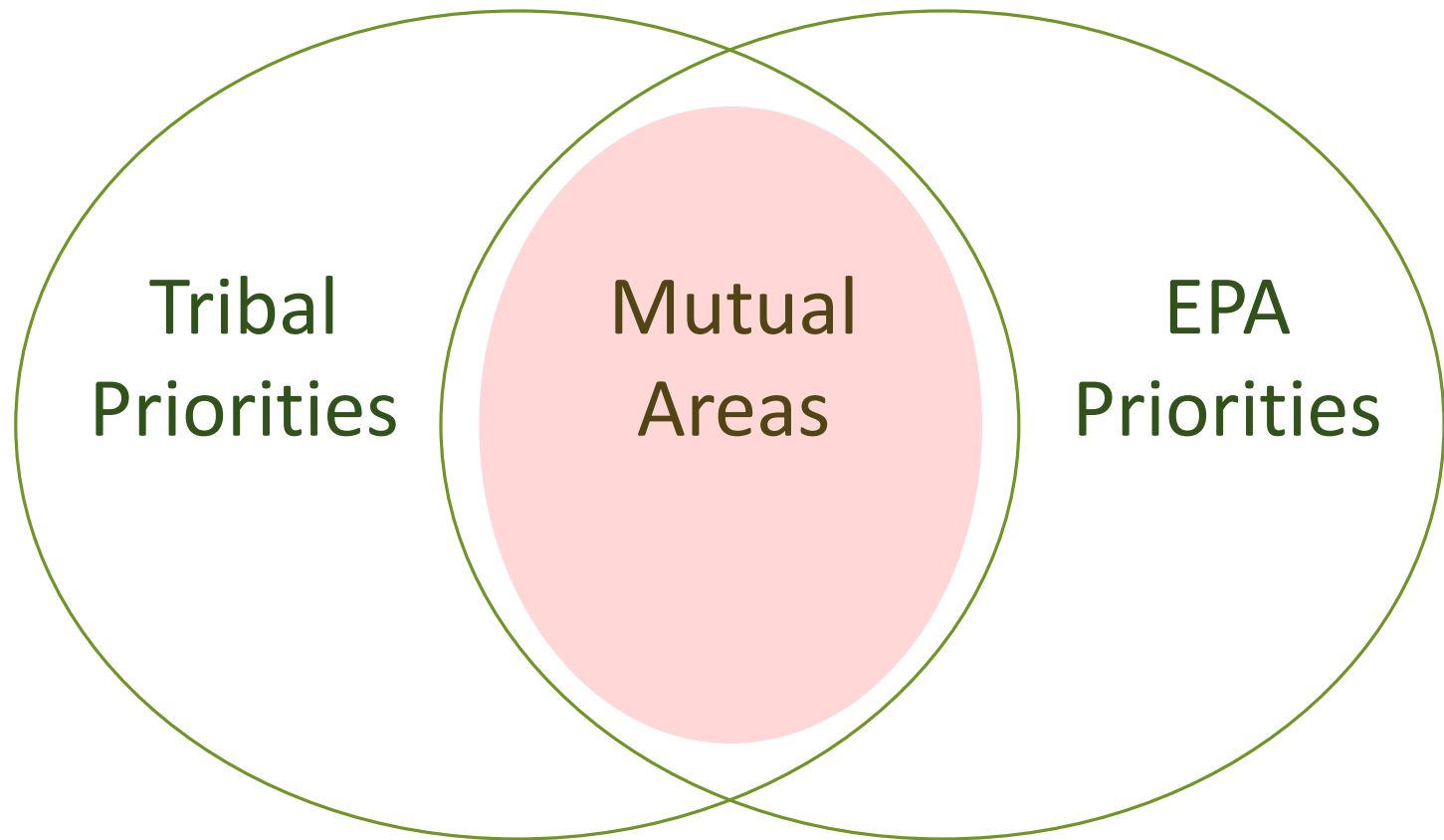
# Plans have Four Components

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- 1) An inventory of regulated entities
- 2) Identification of tribal environmental program priorities, including capacity building and program implementation goals;
- 3) Identification of EPA program priorities and management requirements; and
- 4) Identification of mutual roles and responsibilities

# Visual Representation

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# Tribal Program and Priorities

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- 1) Short description of the priority;
- 2) The tribe's long-term environmental program development goals that help to address or support the priority;
- 3) Intermediate program development milestones the tribal government would like to meet during the time period of the ETEP;
- 4) The tribe's plans to manage authorized environmental programs; and
- 5) Any type of assistance (training, technical assistance, EPA direct implementation actions, financial, etc.) that may be needed.

# EPA Programs and Activities

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- EPA can authorize tribal programs under:
  - Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA)
  - Clean Air Act (CAA)
  - Superfund (CERCLA)
  - Clean Water Act (CWA)
- Tribes have a major role in TSCA, FIFRA and EPCRA
- EPA Regional Offices review implementation of federal statutory programs and document these in the ETEP



# Mutual Roles and Responsibilities

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- Components 1-3 are the basis for discussion between EPA and tribal staff on joint work planning and partnering
- Define the actual activities that the tribe and EPA anticipates conducting during the time period of the agreement, including activities
  - tribal staff will perform to support EPA direct implementation of federal environmental programs,
  - EPA will perform to support tribal program development and implementation, and
  - tribes will undertake to either apply for program approval/delegation, and/or build capacities to partner with EPA to implement applicable federal programs



# Goal: Establish Water Quality Monitoring Program

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Activities can include:

- Complete a water quality assessment report
- Develop water quality monitoring strategy and associated quality assurance project plan (QAPP)
- Establish data management functions
- More capacity indicators can be found in GAP Guidance Appendix



# Important Take-Aways

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- The purpose is to develop a complete picture of particular environmental issues facing the tribe, with a shared understanding of the issues the tribe and EPA will each address consistent with programs administered by EPA
- The specific format, length, detail and approach to developing ETEPs may vary from tribe to tribe and region to region
- Maximum flexibility is provided as to how the ETEPs are developed

# Important Take-Aways

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- Involves coordination among EPA's regional and headquarters media offices, and between EPA and tribal governments – ETEPS are bigger than GAP
- Should be reviewed jointly by tribes and EPA at least annually, and updated as appropriate
- Should contain completion dates for tribal and EPA activities to allow progress to be measured;
- Indicate how the tribe and EPA will monitor progress being made toward the goals described in the document
- As part of the required annual work plan joint evaluation, regions should not only assess the tribe's performance and progress, but also summarize EPA's activities related to that tribe to inform subsequent work and longer-term priorities in the ETEP

# Contact Information

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