

Tribal Climate Resilience Liaison Network

Key Successes



In 2012, the first liaison joined the South Central Climate Adaptation Science Center.

188

trainings, presentations, tribal climate camps, summits, workshops, and writing retreats given by the Tribal Resilience Liaison Network across eight service regions.



2012

2017

2019

2021

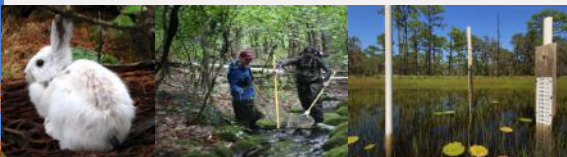
~ The Network collaborates with Tribes to achieve their Tribal priorities by connecting them to information, data, resources, and expertise- and to facilitate culturally appropriate research and planning ~



Tribal Climate Resilience (TCR) Liaisons are supported by a unique collaboration among the DOI-USGS Climate Adaptation Science Centers, or "CASCS"*, the BIA Tribal Climate Resilience Program* (TCRP), and Tribal organization partners.



CLIMATE CHANGE THREATENS Indigenous peoples' livelihoods and economies, uniquely and disproportionately,

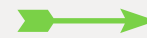


INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES HAVE TAKEN resilience actions as a response to the imposed threats of a changing environment.



107

number of Adaptation Plans, Vulnerability Assessments, and other Resilience Plans TCR Liaisons have assisted with



14,519

Training, workshop or camp tribal leadership, staff and community member attendees over the course of nine years.

275

Interns & youth involved in engagement projects led by Liaisons



1,054

at least this many tribal members have been reached during site visits

Photo Sources: Northwest, Northeast and Southeast CASCS.

*CASCS are comprised of DOI/USGS, university partners, Tribal colleges, and non-profits.

*The South Central CASC liaison is supported by a unique collaboration with The Chickasaw Nation rather than the BIA-TRP.

As a network, these Tribal Climate Resilience Liaisons learn from and communicate with Tribes to better understand Tribal priorities and connect Tribes to resources at the CASCs



~ Tribal Adaptation Menu: *Dibaginjigaadeg Anishinaabe Ezhitwaad ~*

The liaison to Midwest Tribal Nations, Sara Smith, is a member of the the Tribal Adaptation Menu (2019) team. The Menu is a collection of climate change adaptation actions to help tribal natural resource managers to addresses the unique needs, values, and cultures of indigenous communities. It was created based on Ojibwe and Menominee perspectives, languages, concepts, and values but to be adaptable to other communities as appropriate.

MIDWEST

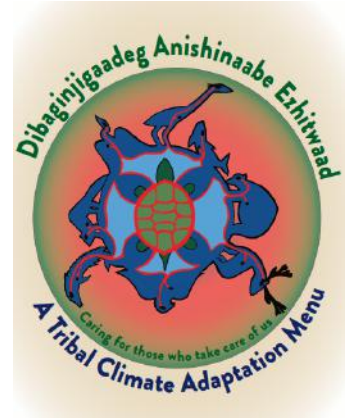


Source: Tribal Adaptation Menu team. 2019. *Dibaginjigaadeg Anishinaabe Ezhitwaad: A Tribal Climate Adaptation Menu*. Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, Odanah, Wisconsin. 54 p.

Disclaimer: This document was prepared by a team of individuals from a variety of agencies, Tribes, and academic institutions. It represents the consensus view of its authors and the guidance of teachers and elders.

<https://www.glifwc.org/ClimateChange/TribalAdaptationMenuV1.pdf>

Examples of liaison support...



This communication will ultimately promote more climate-resilient communities



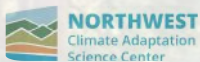
~ Climate Adaptation Planning: *Writing Retreat ~*

The liaison to Northeast and Southeast Tribal Nations, Casey Thornburgh, hosted a Climate Adaptation Plan Writing Retreat at the Wabanaki Culture Center in Maine. The purpose of the retreat was to provide a respectful space for constructive feedback sessions among writers. Staff from the local Passamaquoddy Tribe- Pleasant Point, Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah), Aroostook Band of Micmacs, and the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians attended.



~ Tribal Climate Camp: *Flathead Lake ~*

The liaison to Northwest Tribal Nations, Chas Jones, helped plan the 2019 Tribal Climate Camp, hosted by the Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes at Flathead Lake in Montana, in collaboration with the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians. The week long camp is designed to help tribes proactively plan for environmental impacts associated with climate change, and collaboratively develop planning strategies for communities facing similar challenges. It is estimated that approximately 29 tribes have benefited from the annual events since 2016.



National Adaptation Forum 2019 (left to right): Stefan Tangen (North Central Region), Althea Walker (Southwest Region), Casey Thornburgh (Northeast and Southeast Region). **Photo Source:** TRP.

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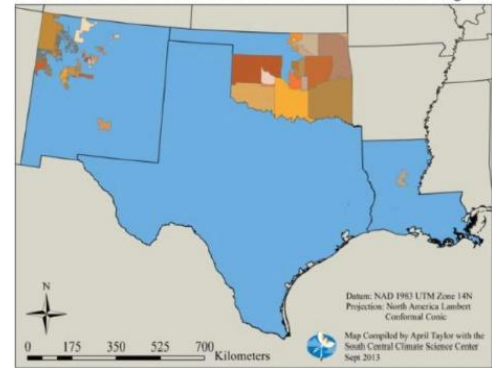


~ Conducting Climate-Related Projects:
Adaptation Planning in Oklahoma ~

The liaison to South Central Tribal Nations in Oklahoma, Texas, and Louisiana, April Taylor, aided in facilitation of four South Central CASC trainings for the Citizen Potawatomi Nation in building capacity for and initiating the development of a vulnerability assessment. Consultation began in 2014 and the Tribe continues to work with the liaison and CASC team to continue to partner with the Tribe to continue efforts for the development of a formal climate adaptation plan.



Tribal Lands in the South Central Climate Science Center Region



Tribal lands in the South Central Climate Science Center Region. **Map Source:** Compiled by April Taylor, South Central Climate Adaptation Science Center, 2013.



The 5th Annual Native Youth Community Adaptation and Leadership Congress brought together over 60 Native high school students and 25 Native college students for one week in July 2019. Students had the chance to open up about community struggles and break out into self-led teams to discuss ways to engage as indigenous youth leaders in local environmental issues. Over 8 federal agencies partner in this event sponsored primarily by Fish & Wildlife Service and Bureau of Indian Affairs, Tribal Resilience Program. The South Central Liaison April Taylor was a contributor to the Congress' interagency planning team, and Maurice Cruz also attended the event as a faculty member.

~Cultural Burning:
North Fork Mono Tribe~

In February 2020, the North Fork Mono Tribe hosted a Resource Restoration Cultural Burn in Mariposa, CA. The Tribal Climate Adaptation Science Liaison participated in this early February three-day workshop. The goal of the workshop was to introduce participants to the principles of cultural burning, which involve the targeted use of fire as a tool for ecosystem conservation & restoration. Over 100 people attended including students, local & non-local tribal community members, other local community members, fire departments & Cal Fire, state legislators & regulators from air quality management districts, and several SW CASC staff. The SW CASC and Liaison provided tools & resources for this burn, and have found multiple opportunities to continue to support cultural burning efforts in the region. The burn was covered by NPR.



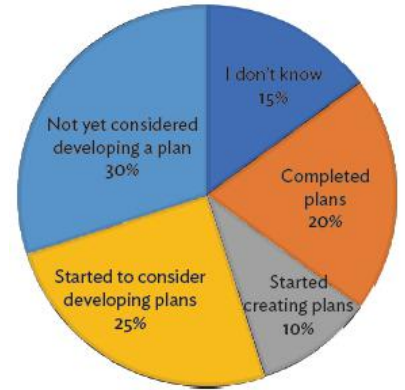
Source: Chris Adlam

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~ Building Capacity for Tribal Adaptation Planning: A Post-Training Needs Assessment ~

The liaison to Alaska Tribes, Malinda Chase, partnered with the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals, and the Alaska Center for Climate Assessment and Policy to gain feedback on the type of adaptation planning support that Alaska Tribes and staff need in their planning efforts. With Alaska warming 2.5 times faster than the rest of the US, many tribes seek adaptation training to address immediate and future impacts. By surveying Tribal staff that attended adaptation training in 2016-17, the partners gained further insight on the type of additional support and resources that Alaska Tribes need in taking their next planning steps and action.



Progress on Tribal climate adaptation planning among trainees (n=20). **Photo Source:** USGS. 2019. Building capacity for tribal climate adaptation planning in Alaska: a post-training needs assessment.

~ Building Relationships through Writing: Collaboration Amidst Pandemic Barriers ~

Stefan normally prioritizes in-person site visits & relationship building, spending every other week on the road traveling to visit tribal resource managers across a seven-state region in the heart of the U.S. Though as the Covid-19 pandemic struck, Stefan found himself supporting tribal resource managers in addressing climate change issues remotely. The opportunity that presented itself came in the form of increased time devoted to writing & developing virtual learning opportunities. Throughout 2020 Stefan collaborated on numerous reports & online tools such as: ATNI's response to the House Climate Action Plan, ITEP's Status of Tribes & Climate Change Report, NOAA's Climate Resilience Toolkit - Northern Great Plains Regional chapter, and the North Central Tribal Climate Webinar Series. While working & building relationships in-person is always the priority, it has been encouraging to see a silver lining even during the pandemic.

