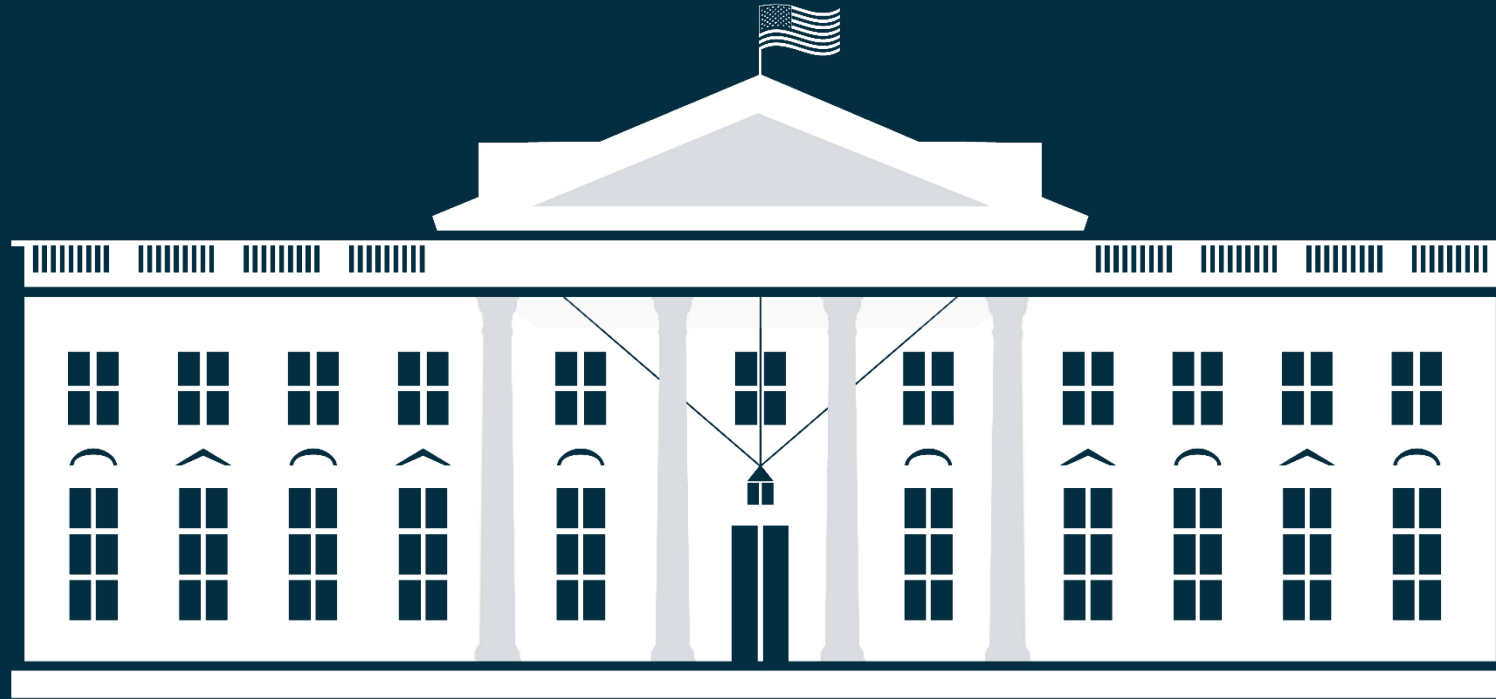


GOVERNMENT-WIDE GUIDANCE ON INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE



THE WHITE HOUSE
OSTP-CEQ



A Note on Terminology

Indigenous^{TK}
knowledges^{IK}
traditional^{ITEK}
ecological
knowledge



Why?

- A more **equitable and inclusive process** and evidence base in Federal actions
- **Requests from Tribal Leaders**
- Federal directives
 - **Racial Equity Executive Order** (EO 13985)
 - **Presidential Memorandums** on Tribal Consultation and Consultation Standards



The Biden–Harris Administration’s Commitment to Strengthening Relationships with Tribal Nations

“It is a priority of my Administration to make **respect for Tribal sovereignty and self-governance**, commitment to fulfilling **Federal trust and treaty responsibilities** to Tribal Nations, and regular, meaningful, and robust **consultation** with Tribal Nations cornerstones of Federal Indian policy.”

Presidential Memorandum on Tribal Consultation and Strengthening Nation-to-Nation Relationships, January 26, 2001

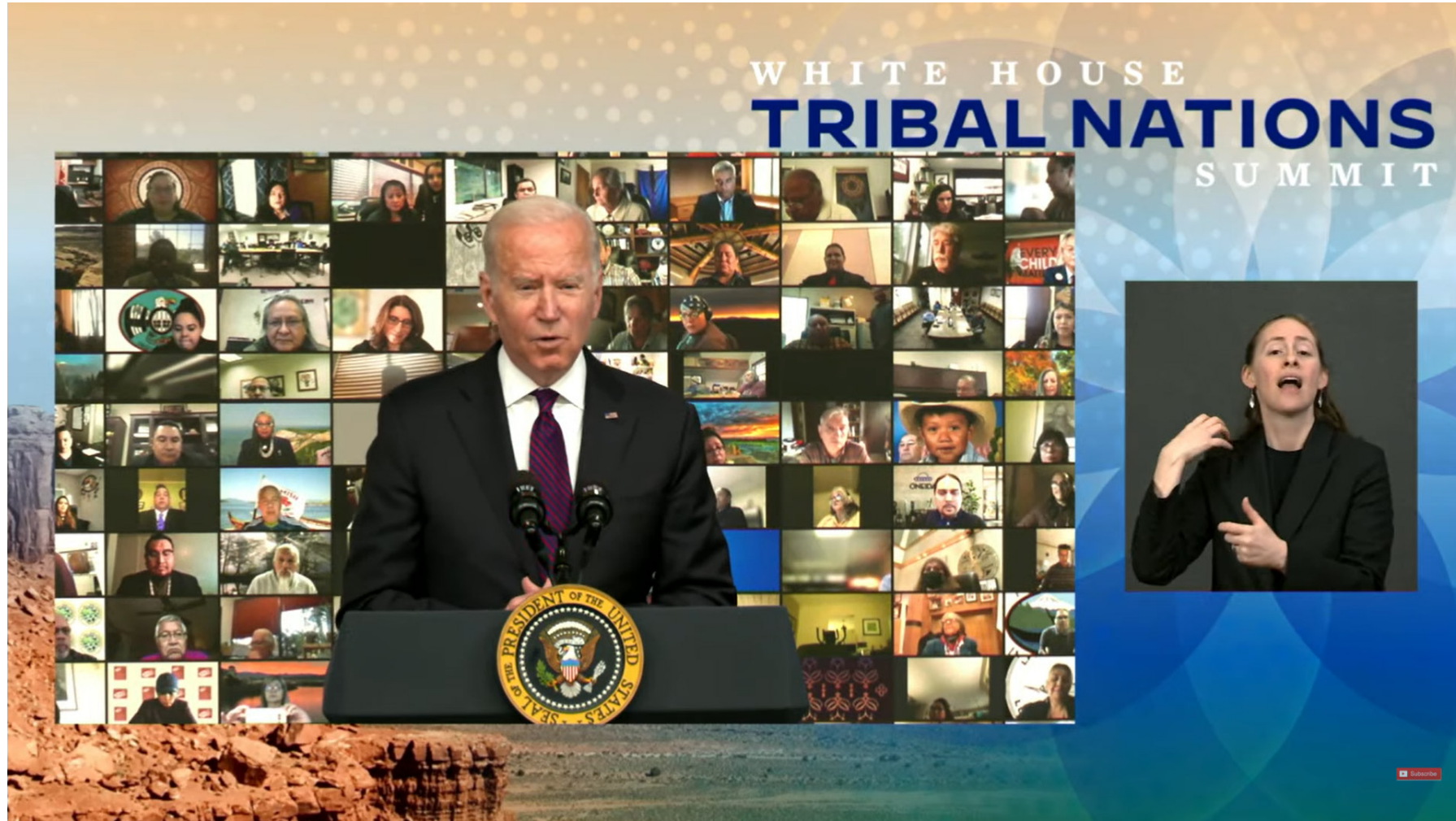


EXECUTIVE ORDER 13175

- Applies to rules, policies, and guidance with Tribal Implications
- **Tribal Implications are defined as:**
 - having substantial direct effects on one or more Indian Tribes
 - on the relationship between the Federal government and Indian Tribes, or
 - on the distribution of power and responsibilities between the federal government and Indian Tribes.
- **Requires the Federal government to consult** with Federally recognized Tribal Nations on policies that affect them.



Elevating Indigenous Knowledge in Federal Decisionmaking



OSTP-CEQ Memorandum on Indigenous Knowledge in Federal Decisionmaking





EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY
COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
WASHINGTON, D.C.



November 15, 2021

MEMORANDUM FOR THE HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

FROM: Eric S. Lander 
President's Science Advisor and Director,
Office of Science and Technology Policy

Brenda Mallory 
Chair, Council on Environmental Quality

SUBJECT: Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Federal Decision Making

Background

President Biden is committed to strengthening the relationship between the Federal Government and Tribal Nations and to advancing equity for Indigenous people, including Native Americans, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians, and Indigenous peoples of the U.S. territories.¹ These commitments include ensuring that Federal agencies conduct regular, meaningful, and robust consultation with Tribal officials in the development of federal research, policies, and decisions, especially decisions that may affect Tribal Nations and the people they represent.

Consistent with the Administration's additional commitment to scientific integrity and knowledge- and evidence-based policymaking,² the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) and the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) issue

- **White House Memorandum** issued November 2021
- **Tribal Consultations**
- **Public and Expert Input opportunities**

Developing Guidance for Federal Agencies on Indigenous Knowledge

- **Interagency Working Group** with more than 25 agencies represented, including:
 - Department of the Interior
 - USGS, FWS, BIA
 - Department of Commerce
 - NOAA
 - Department of Defense
 - Army Corp of Engineers
 - Department of Labor
 - Department of Energy
 - State Department
 - Department of Justice
 - Department of Education
 - Department of Transportation
 - White House Council on Native American Affairs
 - US Department of Agriculture
 - Health and Human Services
 - IHS, CDC, NIH
 - Homeland Security
 - FEMA
 - Environmental Protection Agency
 - National Science Foundation
 - Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
 - Smithsonian Institution
 - National Archives and Records Administration

White House Team



Dr. Gretchen Goldman

Assistant Director for
Environmental Science,
Engineering, Policy, and
Justice, OSTP



Haley Case-Scott

Policy Analyst, OSTP
and Vice-Chair of
Indigenous Traditional
Ecological Knowledge
Working Group



Justin Pidot

General Council, CEQ



Raychelle Aluaq Daniel

Deputy Director of the Arctic
Executive Steering Committee
Policy and Advisor for
Indigenous Knowledge, OSTP



'Aulani Wilhelm

Assistant Director for
Ocean Conservation,
OSTP



Dominic Maione

Deputy Director for
Species and
Conservation, CEQ



Release of Government-wide Guidance on Indigenous Knowledge at the White House Tribal Nations Summit



- 1. Government-wide Guidance for Federal Departments and Agencies on Indigenous Knowledge**
- 2. Implementation Memorandum from OSTP Director Arati Prabhakar and CEQ Chair Brenda Mallory**

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/ostp/news-updates/2022/12/01/white-house-releases-first-of-a-kind-indigenous-knowledge-guidance-for-federal-agencies/>

Engagement and Process



- **100+** Tribes engaged
- **1000+** individuals and organizations engaged
- **25+** Federal agencies
- **3** Tribal Consultations
- **2** Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Roundtables
- **1** Native and Indigenous Youth Roundtable
- **1** Public Listening Sessions
- **16** Case Studies featured

White House Guidance on Indigenous Knowledge (1)

- **Understanding Indigenous Knowledge**

- Definitions
- Indigenous Knowledge as evidence and with other forms of knowledge

- Growing and maintaining **relationships with Tribes and Indigenous Peoples** to support Indigenous Knowledge

- Historical context and past injustices
- Promising practices for engagement
- Co-management and co-stewardship of lands and waters
- Co-production of knowledge

White House Guidance on Indigenous Knowledge (2)

- **Applying Indigenous Knowledge in Federal Contexts**

- Promising practices for inclusion of Indigenous Knowledge in Federal processes
- Appropriately engaging around sensitive Indigenous Knowledge

- **Including Indigenous Knowledge in Federal Research, Policy, and Decision making**

- Rulemaking
- Research Design
- Grantmaking and other Federal Funding Opportunities
- Highly Influential Scientific Assessments, e.g. The National Climate Assessment

White House Guidance on Indigenous Knowledge (3)

- **Application in Specific Statutory Contexts**

- Endangered Species Act
- National Environmental Policy Act
- Marine Mammal Protection Act
- Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act
- Information Quality Act
- Evidence Act
- National Historic Preservation Act
- Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act

Appendix C: Indigenous Knowledge Information Quality Act (IQA) Checklist for Highly Influential Scientific Assessments (HISAs)

Indigenous Knowledge Information Quality Act Checklist

Transparency & Traceability

Relationality

- ☐ Ability to substantiate that the information is part of a relationship or kinship of people across generations interconnected to social, spiritual, cultural, and natural environmental or ecological systems
- ☐ The information is tied to a specific location or a specific type of habitat, environmental media, or biological species

Clarity

- ☐ Theories, scope, approach, methods, and context is clearly described and any differences in outcomes from those developed using other approaches are discussed, including assumptions and limitations

Objectivity

Context

- ☐ The information is understood and applied in a way that is respectful to and consistent with the cultural, spiritual, and environmental context of the Indigenous Peoples who own it
- ☐ The knowledge is used or applied in the assessment in an objective, accurate, clear, complete, and unbiased manner
- ☐ There was meaningful engagement, communication, collaboration, or co-production between the assessment author and the knowledge holder(s)

Valuation

- ☐ The inherent use and value of the information and expertise of the knowledge holders, including lived experience, is retained and respected
- ☐ Language and names within the information, in which Indigenous Knowledge and values may be nested, are preserved
- ☐ The Indigenous Knowledge is considered through an Indigenous lens, voice, or style and weaved together with other forms of evidence without converting or forcing the knowledge into non-Indigenous frameworks

Purpose

- ☐ The original purpose for creation of this information is understood, considered, and respected when used in the assessment
- ☐ The interpretation of the information is consistent with the intent

Integrity & Security

Consent

- ☐ Information owners granted free, prior, informed consent for including this information in assessment, and maintain control over collection, ownership, and use of data derived from sources
- ☐ Reference in the assessment is free of any culturally sensitive information that the knowledge holders do not want made public, including consideration of how documentation may be subject to or released under the Freedom of Information Act

Respect

- ☐ The author made clear how the information will be protected to prevent against unauthorized use, cultural misappropriation, or inadvertent disclosure, including how data and knowledge sovereignty and governance are being respected and not disclosed in contexts outside the assessment

Reproducibility

Continuity

- ☐ Ability to substantiate that the information consists of repeated observations or understandings built and maintained over time and shared or passed down through generations while maintaining continuous formats (e.g., oral, written, song, dance, visual formats, etc.)

Validation

- ☐ Practices for ensuring quality control and validation are appropriate to the nature of the source information, as determined by the Indigenous knowledge holders from which the information comes, such as through iterative, equitable dialogue on the interpretation of findings by community members, co-researchers, or collective knowledge systems



Appendix A: 16 Examples of Indigenous Knowledge Application and Collaboration Between the Federal Government and Tribes and Indigenous Peoples

- **4th National Climate Assessment**
- Bears Ears National Monument
- **Northern Bering Sea Climate Resilience Area**
- Sweetgrass Shared Governance in Acadia National Park
- ACHP Burial Sites, Human Remains, and Funerary Objects Policy
- USAID and Indigenous Genetic Resources
- NSF and Indigenous Data Sovereignty in the Arctic
- NIH and Tribal Health Research
- Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument
- **US Forest Service and Indigenous Fire Stewardship**
- NOAA and Conservation of the Eulachon
- **USDA and Tribal Climate Adaptation**
- US Army Corps of Engineers and Rivercane Restoration
- **USGS and Climate Change in Arctic Rivers**
- **USGS and Climate Adaptation**
- CDC and Food Sovereignty

Other Appendices Resources

- Appendix B: Select Federal **Agency Guidance Documents** on Indigenous Knowledge
- Appendix D: Federal Departments and Agencies Contributing to the **Interagency Working Group** on Indigenous Knowledge
- Appendix E: Additional References and Resources for Promising Practices to Apply When Considering **Indigenous Knowledge in Federal Processes**
- Appendix F: Additional Resources for Considering Indigenous Knowledge in **Federal Research Design and Implementation Contexts**



IK Guidance Implementation Memorandum

- **Launching the Subcommittee on Indigenous Knowledge** under the National Science and Technology Council
 - Tasked with coordinating Guidance implementation with the White House Council on Native American Affairs
 - Serve as a community of practice and shared learning space for agencies
 - Continue work around Indigenous Knowledge in Federal decision making.
- **Agency progress reports on guidance implementation due in 180 days**
 - NSTC Subcommittee on IK will use progress reports to identify and help address cross-cutting challenges and coordinate implementation



Laying a Foundation for Future Work



Thank you!