

Tribal Climate Resilience Liaison Network



Key Successes



In 2012, the first liaison joined the South Central Climate Adaptation Science Center. In 2019, the 8th liaison was added.



2012



2017



2018



2019

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

573

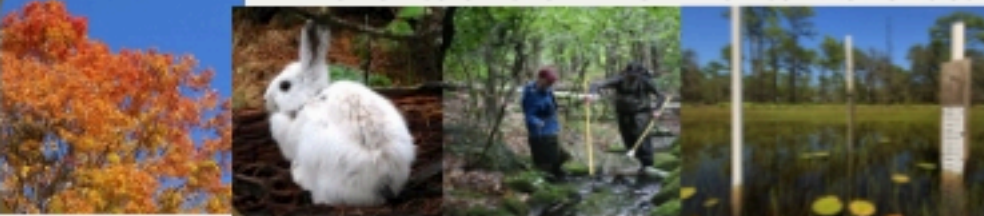
federally recognized Tribal Nations supported by the Tribal Resilience Liaison Network across eight service regions.



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



TRIBES FACE SIGNIFICANT CHALLENGES in building resiliency and responding to extreme weather events and environmental hazards.



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



111

number of Tribes with which liaisons have provided technical assistance on Adaptation Plans or Vulnerability Assessments.



193

Tribal climate camps, summits, trainings, workshops, writing retreats and presentations over the course of seven years.



8,332

number of attendees representing Tribal Nations at associated trainings and workshops.

124

site visits to Tribal Nations or Tribal partners.



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's TRP

As a network, these Tribal Climate Resilience Liaisons learn from and communicate with Tribes to better understand Tribal priorities so they can be incorporated into CASC activities



~ 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.

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.glfw.com/ClimateChange/TribalAdaptationMenuV1.pdf>

Examples of liaison support...

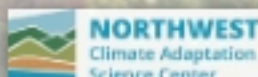


**This communication
will ultimately
promote more
climate-resilient
communities**



~ 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).

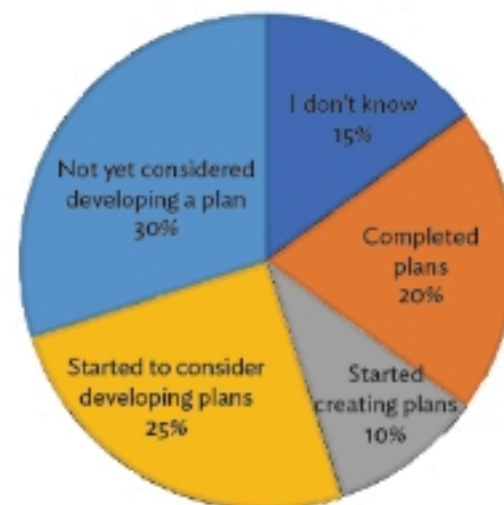
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~ Building Capacity for Tribal Adaptation Planning: A Post-Training Needs Assessment~

Source: USGS

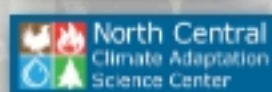
The liaison to Alaska Tribes, Malinda Chase, partnered with the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals, and the Alaska Center for Climate Assessment and Policy to gain feedback on the type of adaptation planning support that Alaska Tribes and staff 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). Source: USGS. 2019. Building capacity for tribal climate adaptation planning in Alaska: a post-training needs assessment.



Participants for an Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium and Institute for Tribal Environmental Professional sponsored climate adaptation planning training (February 21-23, 2017). Source: USGS. 2019. Building capacity for tribal climate adaptation planning in Alaska: a post-training needs assessment.



~ Lower Missouri River Workshops: Eight Tribes and Four Partnering Agencies, Programs and Academia Participate ~

The liaison to North Central Tribes, Stefan Tangen, assisted in the organization and facilitation of the "Building Resilience with Tribal Technical Teams" workshop hosted by the Sac and Fox nation of Missouri in Kansas and Nebraska. The workshop is the first of six funded by Bureau of Indian Affairs TRP that will take place under the Lower Missouri Tribes Adaptation Planning grant. The goal of the grant is to assist Tribal leaders, program coordinators, planners and managers to develop and utilize skills that will allow them to competently address the threat of extreme events and harmful environmental trends.



~Indigenous Youth Project: Honoring the Whole Student ~

The liaison to Southwest Tribes, Althea Walker, participated in the project: "Honoring the Whole Student: Developing Good Practices for Supporting the Intersectionality of Diverse Undergraduate Students in Geoscience". The project focused on the many identities that indigenous youth carry, and that there tends to be an oversimplification of this cultural identity in higher education. The purpose of the project was to increase both awareness and confidence in the Indigenous youth's understanding, recognition, and support of practicing the cultures nested within their identities.



Participants from Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri in Kansas and Nebraska, Meskwaki Nation, Omaha Tribe of Nebraska, Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas, Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska, Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska, Prairie Band of Potawatomi, and the Santee Sioux Tribe attended the workshop. Source: Stefan Tangen.

Building capacity in tribal communities to meet their growing climate challenges. LEARN

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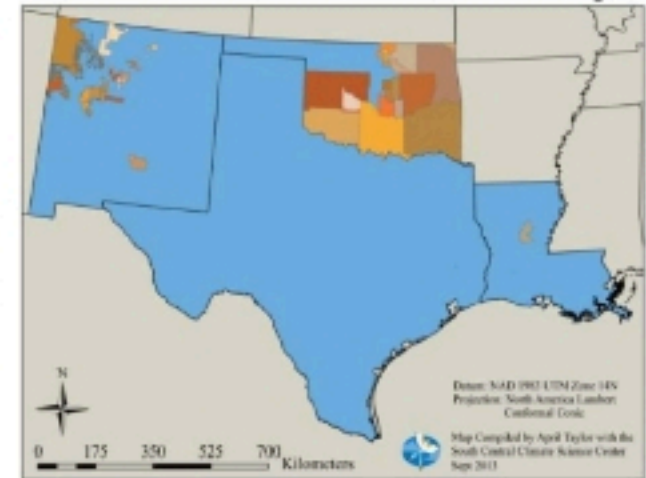


~ Conducting Climate-Related Projects: Adaptation Planning in Oklahoma ~



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. Source: Compiled by April Taylor, South Central Climate Adaptation Science Center, 2013.



Above: The Citizen Potawatomi Nation works with the South Central CASC team in the development of a Vulnerability Assessment. Source: South Central CASC. Below: Students, Jr. Faculty and Faculty Participants of the 2019 Native Youth Community and Adaptation Leadership Congress. Photo Source: NYCALC 2019 Report.



~ Navajo Nation Climate 101 Training: New Mexico and Arizona Tribes ~

The liaison to South Central Tribal Nations in New Mexico, Maurice Cruz, assisted with a Navajo Nation Climate 101 workshop. It was an introduction to global climate dynamics, climate projections and available data, with an emphasis on projected regional impacts of climate change. At the Navajo Nation Museum in Window Rock, Arizona, the audience was made up of individuals from a variety of disciplinary backgrounds. The goal of the training was to enhance communications between Navajo Nation and BIA staff, in a continuing effort to provide Tribal managers with a clear understanding of how these different fields of practice may be impacted by changes in the current climate system.

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.