



MONONA
TERRACE
MADISON

OCT 17
2022



Traditional Perspectives on the Environment Track Background Paper

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Overview

Climate change disproportionately impacts Tribal Nations and marginalized communities both urban and rural. Many Indigenous communities depend upon a healthy environment for spiritual, ceremonial, medicinal, subsistence, and economic needs. Many Tribal Nations located in present-day Wisconsin maintain knowledge systems that relay the interconnectedness with the environment and lifeways. However, even though many of these communities endure disparate climate impacts, Tribal Nations have not historically been represented in high level decision-making pertaining to climate related decisions at the State level.

Potential topics covered in this track include the following

1. Forests
2. Food sovereignty & Agriculture
3. Water
4. Fish & wildlife
5. Culturally significant species

Resources on Traditional Perspectives on the Environment and work being done

- Tribal Adaptation Menu (TAM) <https://glifwc.org/ClimateChange/TribalAdaptationMenuV1.pdf>
- The Status of Tribes and Climate Change Report (STACC) <https://sites.google.com/view/stacc2021-itep/home>
- Minisan (Connecting Ojibwe Ecological Knowledge and Climate Change in the Apostle Islands) <http://www.minisan.org/about/>
- GLIFWC Vulnerability [Assessment](#)
- [Indigenous Climate Resilience Network](#)
- 2021 WICCI report <https://wicci.wisc.edu/2021-assessment-report/>
- [Fayazi et al 2020](#) - Barriers to climate change adaptation in indigenous communities: A case study on the mohawk community of Kanasatake, Canada
- [Ford et al 2020](#) - The Resilience of Indigenous Peoples to Environmental Change
- [Long et al 2020](#) - Recentering Ecological Restoration With Tribal Perspectives
- [Billiot et al 2019](#) - Repeated Disasters and Chronic Environmental Changes Impede Generational Transmission of Indigenous Knowledge
- [Daigle et al 2019](#) - Traditional Lifeways and Storytelling -Tools for Adatation and Resilience to Ecosystem Change
- [Reo, N.J. & Ogden, L.A. 2018](#) - Anishnaabe Aki- An indigenous perspective on the global threat of invasive species.



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Goal: Through a multi-year process, Climate Fast Forward seeks to create a space for networking, idea sharing and collaboration. The goal is to create a welcoming and relevant atmosphere for tribal staff, leadership, and knowledge-holders to come together and build mutually beneficial relationships with other participants and tracks.

Current status: Tribal Nations and Indigenous communities have led the way in addressing climate change through mitigation efforts, climate adaptation and climate resiliency work.

End status: Policies at the State and Federal levels are informed by this work, capacity-building opportunities are created for all parties involved, and all future recommendations and climate goals incorporate tribal feedback, especially pertaining to indigenous values, practices, and other relevant lines of thought.

Impact on climate change mitigation, adaptation, or resilience: Being able to work collaboratively and respectfully, via mitigation, adaptation, and resilience, across boundaries (Tribal, State, Federal) in transparent ways while understanding sovereignty and showing reciprocity in the work being done.

Why this is a good approach for Wisconsin: Present-day Wisconsin has been home to a great diversity of Tribal Nations, each one maintaining their languages, cultural practices, and values. These communities have endured hundreds of years of colonization and forced assimilation and yet are still thriving. Climate change has already altered lifeways and the environment within Reservations and ceded territories. It is imperative that we work with Indigenous communities, not simply because they have been here the longest, but because environmental knowledge, cultural practices, and pure resiliency are facets that anyone can learn from.

Focal constituencies: Tribal managers, Tribal leadership, Tribal community members, Tribal students, Federal partners, State partners, academic partners, non-profit organizations

Potential key actions: Relationship building, Tribal perspectives, increasing awareness, shifting “western” paradigms on management/resources, understanding data & Tribal sovereignty