

Tribal Nations Conservation Pledge & Funding Collaborative



About the Collaborative

Native Americans in Philanthropy (NAP) has launched a Tribal Nations Conservation Pledge & Funding Collaborative (the Collaborative) that calls on the philanthropic sector to make significant investments in biodiversity and conservation projects led by Tribal Nations. With support from Biodiversity Funders Group (BFG) and The Christensen Fund, the Collaborative provides a forum to strategize, share knowledge and educational resources, and participate in a funding mechanism to quickly move capital to Tribal Nations.

About The Fund

NAP created the Tribal Nations Conservation Fund as a collaborative fund, with seed money from the Christensen Fund, to accept contributions raised through the Collaborative and deploy those funds quickly and efficiently to support biodiversity and conservation projects led by Tribal Nations. A Tribal Leader Advisory Committee comprised of Tribal leadership and staff, and leadership and staff from inter-Tribal organizations, helps oversee the Fund and makes recommendations on distributions from the Fund to make effective and equitable investments in Tribal Nations across the country. Distributions from the Fund may take the form of general operating grants, capacity-building grants, technical assistance, or other support. A portion of the Fund is used to provide the matching fund requirement on behalf of Tribes for certain federal funding opportunities as identified by NAP.

About The Pledge

The Pledge provides a way for funders to support the conservation work of Tribal Nations and participate in the Collaborative through their charitable giving while doing so within the guidelines of their respective institutions. The Pledge calls on funders to commit to a self-determined amount of funding, or a self-determined percentage of annual programmatic funding, to support the biodiversity and conservation efforts of Tribes, inter-Tribal organizations, and Tribal consortia.

About the Tribal Conservation Learning Circle

Funders who participate in the Collaborative through the Fund or a Pledge have the opportunity to participate in a Tribal Conservation Learning Circle as a complement to their financial commitments. The Learning Circle is led by BFG in collaboration with NAP and the Christensen Fund. With leadership from the most influential environment and conservation funders around the country, BFG's mission is to support and grow a community of biodiversity grantmakers pursuing complementary and collaborative strategies. BFG works closely with NAP to convene a learning series focused on engaging Tribal and philanthropic leaders around emerging issues and opportunities.

Components of the Collaborative



A **Fund** hosted by NAP that provides resources directly to the biodiversity and conservation efforts of Tribes, inter-Tribal organizations, and Tribal consortia



A **Pledge** committing philanthropic institutions to a self-determined amount of funding, or a self-determined percentage of annual programmatic funding, over the next three years to support the biodiversity and conservation efforts of Tribes, inter-Tribal organizations, and Tribal consortia



A **learning circle of funders** who have contributed to the Fund, or have taken the Pledge, that meet regularly for concerted dialogue and ongoing learning opportunities led by Tribal experts

Investing in Tribal Nations is Crucial to Protecting Our Lands & Waterways

There is a crucial, global effort underway to protect 30 percent of the earth's lands, oceans, and waterways by 2030. Aptly named 30x30, this movement intends to stop some of the worst effects of climate change and our loss of biodiversity. President Biden's administration is leading the U.S. contribution to this work through the America the Beautiful initiative.

Tribal Nations, through their nation-to-nation relationships with the federal government and their deep knowledge of the ecosystems they steward, bring unique tools and resources to the 30x30 movement. In the United States, Tribes oversee approximately 5% of the country's landmass. The 95 million acres of land managed by the 574 federally recognized Tribal nations encompass some of the continent's most critically important wildlife habitat, resilient landscapes, and irreplaceable cultural assets. Indigenous Peoples have been deeply connected to these ecosystems

since time immemorial and have developed generations of environmental knowledge that has helped them nurture and steward lands and waters.

U.S.-based philanthropic support of conservation efforts led by Tribal Nations has been largely non-existent and has often been approached through a Western lens that disregards the knowledge of Indigenous Peoples. As Indigenous-led conservation and stewardship continues to prove effective and gain recognition as a critical strategy to achieve the goals laid out by 30x30, it is time for that to change. The federal government recognizes this as well and has ramped up funding for Tribally led conservation efforts. The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation announced that it will prioritize 10% of conservation funding to Tribal Nations. Now is the time to capitalize on this unprecedented opportunity and bring public and private funding together to support conservation work led by Tribal Nations.

How To Get Involved

Philanthropic institutions can join this effort in one of two ways:

Take the Pledge.



Funders can commit to the Tribal Nations Conservation Pledge by designating a self-determined amount of funding, or a percentage of programmatic spending, for Tribally led conservation efforts through grants of their own

Donate to the Fund.



Funders can make a meaningful, monetary contribution to the Tribal Nations Conservation Fund.

For more information, please contact: info@nativephilanthropy.org

