

Frequently Asked Questions

Tribal Nations Conservation Pledge and Funding Collaborative



General FAQs

What is the relationship between the Pledge and the Fund?

The **Pledge** is a publicly shared commitment by a philanthropic institution to support the purposes of the Tribal Nations Conservation Pledge and Funding Collaborative (the Collaborative) through its own direct grantmaking to support the biodiversity and conservation efforts of Tribes, inter-Tribal organizations, and Tribal consortia. The **Fund**, hosted by Native Americans in Philanthropy (NAP), is a pool of contributions from funders that will quickly deploy funding and other resources to Tribal Nations in furtherance of the Collaborative's goals.

Does the Collaborative seek to reach a goal dollar amount?

Yes. The immediate goal is to reach \$100 million in commitments (\$75 million in contributions to the Fund and \$25 million in pledges) by the end of 2025.

Is the Fund a separate legal entity?

No. The Fund is hosted by NAP as an internal fund and will be held by NAP for the designated purposes of supporting the Collaborative. Contributions to the Fund will be considered charitable contributions to NAP, and NAP will provide charitable acknowledgment letters to funders. NAP is an organization described in Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3) and is further classified as a public charity.

Is there a minimum commitment required to contribute to the Collaborative?

No. There is no minimum amount required to take the Pledge or to contribute to the Fund. Funders and pledge-makers are free to decide what a meaningful contribution is for themselves.

Will there be reporting to ensure accountability?

Yes. NAP will provide an annual report on Tribal conservation work supported through the Collaborative. Additionally, NAP will maintain a Tribal conservation webpage to provide updates and highlight work supported and advanced by the Collaborative.

Will the contributors' commitments and contributions be publicized?

Yes. With permission from contributors, NAP will coordinate appropriate announcements, social media posts, and other public outreach highlighting their support of the Collaborative. Any anonymous contributions to the Fund or anonymous Pledge commitments will be honored except as otherwise required for NAP to comply with its federal and state tax reporting obligations.

Will the Collaborative publicize a list of grants made? How else will they be announced?

All grants made by the Fund will be announced through appropriate channels, such as via announcements on the NAP website, social media, and press releases, as NAP determines appropriate from time to time.

Can foundations directly fund Tribal Nations?

Yes. There are many examples of foundations funding Tribes directly in conservation work. It is recommended that each funder consult with their own advisors on the financial and tax implications of these contributions.

Fund FAQs

Does the Fund only provide direct grants to Tribal Nations?

No. The Fund will provide grants to support technical assistance and capacity building as well as general operating expenses. A portion of the Fund will also be used to provide matching funds to grantees required by certain federal funding opportunities as identified by NAP. This provides a unique opportunity to leverage philanthropic dollars to unlock additional federal funding to support Tribal conservation work.

How will the funds be dispersed? Who will make these decisions?

NAP has developed a comprehensive, inclusive, and transparent process to disperse funding. The funding process will include participation of a Tribal Leaders Advisory Committee comprised of leadership and staff from Tribal Nations and inter-Tribal organizations. The Tribal Leaders Advisory Committee will help oversee the Fund and will review and recommend projects for funding with the goal of making effective and equitable investments from the Fund that advance the goals of the Collaborative. NAP may in its discretion use an intermediary to assist with disbursement and administration of grants from the Fund. All grants will be subject to the final approval of NAP to ensure consistency with its status as a 501(c)(3) organization.



Will NAP charge overhead or a fee to distribute the Fund resources?

Yes. NAP has outlined 2 phases involved in the implementation of the Fund. In Phase 1, funding will be used to strengthen the vital infrastructure of NAP and its partners to manage the operations of the Collaborative. In Phase 2, the Fund will provide resources directly to Tribal Nations, during which a small portion of the funds will support NAP and its inter-Tribal partners to administer the Fund, which may take the form of providing ongoing technical assistance, providing accurate and timely reports, coordinating collaborative meetings, and other support activities such as website upkeep and communications efforts.

What kinds of projects, technical assistance, and capacity building do you expect the Fund to support?

Grants will be made in five distinct categories:

1. Grants to inter-Tribal organizations to support capacity, technical assistance, and Tribal conservation field-building work
2. Grants to conserve and restore rivers, wetlands, watersheds, and coasts
3. Grants to conserve and restore forests, grasslands, plateau regions and other important ecosystems that serve as carbon sinks, and for land conservation and restoration also known as "Landback" projects.
4. Grants to connect and reconnect wildlife corridors, large landscapes, watersheds, seascapes and species protection and mitigation
5. Grants to support matching funds required by NAP-identified, federal funding opportunities

My foundation only supports work in a specific geographical area. Can I restrict my support within the Fund to projects in that geographical area?

Yes. You can designate geographic restrictions on contributions to the Fund and NAP will match your funds to appropriate projects. Alternatively, pledge members can review projects recommended for funding by the advisory committee and provide direct support to those projects that match their geographic interests.

Pledge FAQs

What counts toward the Pledge?

Grants, or other charitable contributions, provided to Tribes, inter-Tribal organizations, and Tribal consortia for their work in biodiversity and conservation, including, but not limited to:

1. **Native-led natural resource and conservation projects and programs**
2. **Native-led projects and programs that regrant and offer technical assistance**
3. **Native-led conservation NGOs working in direct partnership with Tribes or Tribally led initiatives**
4. **Nonprofit fiscal agents recommended by a Tribal Nation for natural resource and conservation projects**

Is my organization required to report to Collaborative how our grants were spent to fulfill the Pledge?

No, the Pledge is on an honor system and the Collaborative will not require participating funders to provide documentation proving that they met their Pledge. NAP and the Collaborative encourage Pledge participants to use their involvement in the Collaborative to advance their own understanding of, and public education with respect to, funding Tribally led conservation efforts.

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

