



NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY

Project Title: Facilitating Tribal Climate Change Adaptation Planning and Communicating Climate Change Impacts

Total Project Cost: \$550,000

Project Period: October 1, 2010 – September 30, 2014

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The goal of this project is to facilitate, communicate, and put in motion tribal climate change adaptation planning, by providing training and educational resources, tools and technical assistance to assist tribes in the planning process, and case study examples of tribes in different regions of the country concerned about climate change impacts and engaged in adaptation planning. This project will help meet the need for assistance in developing climate change adaptation plans that was expressed by tribes in *The Impact of Climate Change on Tribes in the United States*¹, a document compiled by the National Tribal Air Association in December, 2009. The project will improve tribal expertise in adaptation planning aimed at increasing tribal resilience to the projected impacts of climate change.

ITEP will take the lead in implementing the project and will receive guidance from a steering committee which will include tribes from different geographic locations, tribal consortia, climate change researchers from NAU and federal agencies, and the EPA project officer. ITEP will work with the steering committee to determine the best approaches to providing training and assistance to tribes, given the large diversity among tribes in terms of size, geographic location, climate change impacts, and capacity to develop and implement climate change adaptation plans.

The steering committee will be led by ITEP and will initially include:

- Sue Wotkyns: ITEP Climate Change Program Manager
- Mehrdad Khatibi: ITEP Interim Director, Principle Investigator
- Rose Kalistook: Environmental Coordinator, Orutsararmuit Native Village, AK
- Ed Knight: Senior Planner, Swinomish Indian Tribal Community, WA
- Syndi Smallwood: Environmental Dir., Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians, CA
- Steve Crawford: Environmental Dir., Passamaquoddy Tribe-Pleasant Point, ME
- Darrell Kaufman: Northern Arizona University Professor of Geology, AZ
- Margaret Hiza Redsteer: U.S. Geological Survey, AZ
- Lesley Jantarasami, US EPA Project Officer
- Bill Perkins, US EPA Project Officer

¹ National Tribal Air Association,
http://ntaanow.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=15&Itemid=41

Project Summary and Work Products

ITEP, with guidance from the steering committee, will perform the following work tasks:

- 1) Training: provide training that will build the capacity of tribes to engage in climate change adaptation planning. Develop a model for providing training that includes approaches, formats, and content that will best meet the diverse needs of tribes. Various modes of training delivery will be considered, including in-person multi-day classroom-style courses, online courses, and webinars. It is anticipated that some of the training will be as classroom-style courses.
 - Develop model for training in the first year of the project. The model will be evaluated and modified throughout the project period.
 - Training courses: an estimated three training courses will be delivered annually in years 2-4 of the project.
- 2) Tools and Technical Assistance: research and recommend tools that will assist tribes in the planning process. Provide assistance to tribes through quarterly “Climate Change Adaptation Planning Assistance” conference calls that will provide a forum for tribes to ask questions and seek guidance on climate change adaptation planning.
 - Research existing climate change adaptation planning tools.
 - Adaptation planning conference calls, two in year 1, quarterly in years 2-4.
 - Develop adaptation planning tool (using other existing funding).
- 3) Tribal Profiles: provide written profiles highlighting tribes that are actively working to address current and projected climate change impacts, including adaptation planning, to serve as examples for tribes and other underserved, low-income, minority populations impacted by climate change, and to help USEPA and other federal agencies gain a better understanding of the unique impacts of climate change to cultural and natural resources important to tribal communities.
 - A minimum of six tribal profiles will be written and posted to the ITEP Climate Change website annually in years 1-4.
- 4) Outreach and communication: provide climate change outreach and communication materials that are applicable and culturally sensitive to tribal populations.
 - Tribes & Climate Change website: continually update already established website with new resources, information, announcements about events and funding opportunities, and tribal profiles.
 - Tribal Climate Change Newsletter: continue delivering the monthly newsletter by email to provide news items, resources, announcements, and other items of interest to tribal environmental professionals and others across the country
 - Conferences: ITEP and a steering committee member will co-present about the project, adaptation planning, and tribal case studies at one national tribal conference each year and conduct outreach with tribes and tribal organizations.