

# INDIGENOUS POLICY

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*Indigenous Policy (IPJ)* publishes articles, commentary, reviews, news, and announcements concerning Native American and international Indigenous affairs, issues, events, nations, groups and media. We invite commentary and dialogue in and between issues.  
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***IPJ* INVITES VOLUNTEERS TO SERVE ON ITS ADVISORY COUNCIL,  
REFEREEING SUBMITTED ARTICLES.**

If you are interested in being a reviewer of submitted articles in the *IPJ* refereeing process, please contact Editor: Leo Killsback, American Indian Studies, Arizona State University, Discovery Hall, Room 356, P.O. Box 874603, Tempe, AZ 85287-4603, (480)727-0061, [leo.killsback@montana.edu](mailto:leo.killsback@montana.edu).

**Book Review Committee:**

*IPJ* has a book review committee. People wishing to review books, often receiving a free copy to review, and those wishing to have a book reviewed should send a copy, to: David Heska Wanbli Weiden, Associate Professor of Political Science and Native American Studies, Metropolitan State University of Denver, King Center 494, Campus Box 43, P.O. Box 173362, Denver, CO 80217-3362, 303-615-2032, [dweiden@msudenver.edu](mailto:dweiden@msudenver.edu).

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**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IS June 8**  
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***INDIGENOUS POLICY PLANS FOR 2022-23*  
WE INVITE YOUR HELP AND INPUT**

We wish you a fine Winter. *Indigenous Policy* journal is available on the web with e-mail notification of new issues at no charge. *Indigenous Policy* puts out two regular issues a year (Summer and Winter), and since summer 2006 we have published occasional special issues. We are seeking additional editors, columnists and commentators for regular issues, and editors or editorial groups for special issues, and short articles for each issue. We have via our web site, a regularly updated and searchable data base of Ph.D. Dissertations from Universities Around the World on Topics Relating to Indians in the Americas, compiled by Jonathon Erlen and Jay Toth from Dissertation Abstracts, with recent dissertations also listed separately in each of our regular Summer and Winter issues. *IPJ* is on face-Book, including some important updates since the last issue, at: <https://www.facE-Book.com/indigenouspolicyjournal>.

As *IPJ* is a refereed journal, articles may be posted on a different schedule from the rest of the journal. New articles may go up either at the same time as regular issues, or be added to already posted issues, and may or may not remain up when issues change, until replaced by new articles. Notices go out to our list serve when new issues are posted, and when new articles are posted. To be added to the list to receive e-mail notice of new postings of issues, and new postings of articles, send an e-mail to Steve Sachs: [ssachs@earthlink.net](mailto:ssachs@earthlink.net).

*IPJ* has been publishing special issues from time to time since winter 2002 and will continue to do so. These are usually on specific issues. In addition, the Fall issues of *IPJ* has been devoted to carrying the Proceedings of the American Indian Studies Section of the Western Social Science Association Meeting held the preceding April, but with the entire WSSA meeting on the web this year, it is unnecessary to do so. We invite articles, reports, announcements and



reviews of meetings, and media, programs and events, and short reports of news, commentary and exchange of views, as well as willingness to put together special issues.

Send us your thoughts and queries about issues and interests and replies can be printed in the next issue and/or made by e-mail. In addition, we will carry Indigenous Studies Network (ISN) news and business so that these pages can be a source of ISN communication and dialoguing in addition to circular letters and annual meetings at APSA. In addition to being the newsletter/journal of the Indigenous Studies Network, we collaborate with the Native American Studies Section of the Western Social Science Association (WSSA) and provide a dialoguing vehicle for all our readers. This is your publication. Please let us know if you would like to see more, additional, different, or less coverage of certain topics, or a different approach or format.

*IPJ* is a refereed journal. Submissions of articles should go to Editor: Leo Killsback, American Indian Studies, Montana State University, [leo.killsback@montana.edu](mailto:leo.killsback@montana.edu), who will send them out for review. Our process is for non-article submissions to go to Steve Sachs, who drafts each regular issue. Unsigned items are by Steve. Other editors then make editing suggestions to Steve. Thomas Brasdefer posts this Journal on the *IPJ* web site: <http://www.indigenouspolicy.org>.

### **Statement of Purpose**

#### ***Indigenous Policy Journal Standards and Philosophy of Publication of Scholarly Articles***

In its publication of double-blind, peer-reviewed scholarly articles, the Indigenous Policy Journal aspires the highest standards of scholarly edification and discourse on policy issues facing Indigenous peoples. In doing so, the *IPJ* is informed by the important national and international policy goals of self-determination and continuance of cultural values of indigenous people. We advise those submitting their articles to be aware of the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which provides useful guidelines for scholarly inquiry and study of practically any policy issue that contributes to the continuance of indigenous peoples.

### **GUIDE TO SUBMITTING WRITINGS TO *IPJ***

We most welcome submissions of articles, commentary, news, media notes and announcements in some way relating to American Indian or international Indigenous policy issues, broadly defined. Please send article submissions electronically attached to e-mail to Editor: Leo Killsback, American Indian Studies, Montana State University, [leo.killsback@montana.edu](mailto:leo.killsback@montana.edu), who will send them out for review. All non-article submissions (including Research Notes, which usually are non-refereed articles) go via e-mail to Steve Sachs: [ssachs@earthlink.net](mailto:ssachs@earthlink.net), or on disk, at: 1916 San Pedro, NE, Albuquerque, NM, 87110. If you send writings in Word format, we know we can work with them. We can translate some, but not all other formats into word. If you have notes in your submission, please put them in manually, as end notes as part of the text. Do not use an automated footnote/end note system that numbers the notes as you go and put them in a footer such automated notes are often lost, and if not, may appear elsewhere in the journal, and not in your article, as several writings are posted together in the same file. If you use any tables in a submission, please send a separate file(s) for them, as it is impossible to work with them to put on the web when they are an integral part of a Word text.

Some other format/style things are helpful to us, and appreciated, but not an absolute requirement. As we publish in 12-point Times font, with single spacing, and a space between paragraphs. It saves us work if we receive writings that way. Many thanks. We look forward to seeing what you send us.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**The COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Pandemic has caused the cancelation or postponement of many events. American Indian and Alaska Native related events that have been changed are listed in "What's open and closed in Indian Country," in "Indian Country's COVID-19 syllabus," *ICT*, <https://indiancountrytoday.com/news/indian-country-s-covid-19-syllabus-EiN-p5Q-XkW-smnaebJV6Q>." For events listed below, see if they have been moved to virtual or are still taking place.**

### **ISN PROGRAM AT APSA 2022, 118th APSA Annual Meeting & Exhibition Montréal, Québec, Canada, September 15–18, 2022**

2022 Conference Theme: Rethink, Restructure, and Reconnect: Towards A Post-Pandemic Political Science

**The Indigenous Studies Network (ISN) plans to put on one or more panels a business meeting/sharing circle at the American Political Science Association (APSA) Meeting, September 15-18, 2022, in Montréal, Québec, Canada.** In calling for paper and panel proposals, ISN's first concern is, "Indigenous communities face profound challenges as they work to solve pressing issues in an ever-changing world. As scholars we have an opportunity to examine what these existing and emerging challenges are, and when and how Indigenous communities and political leaders mobilize to address them. We welcome submissions for the Indigenous Studies Network that address any one of these challenges. Given the diversity of Indigenous politics and policy, all methodological and theoretical approaches are welcome, as are submissions that are single group, country, or nation focused. To submit proposals or for more information contact ISN Chair Richard Witmer, Creighton University, [RichardWitmer@creighton.edu](mailto:RichardWitmer@creighton.edu), or <http://www.apsanet.org>. Laura Evans, University of Washington, is Co-Chair.

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**A list of Indigenous Language Conferences is kept at the Teaching Indigenous Languages web site at Northern Arizona University: <http://www2.nau.edu> and among a large number of linguistic conferences of all types at: <http://linguistlist.org/callconf/browse-current.cfm?type=Conf>, and for bilingual education in the U.S. (and some beyond) at Dual Language Education of New Mexico: <http://www.dlenm.org>. A list of conferences which have a particular focus on language documentation and conservation is found at The Resource Network for Linguistic Diversity (RNLD) at: <http://www.rnld.org/conferences>. A list of Language conferences and symposia is posted by AILA (Association Internationale de Linguistique Appliquée) at: <https://aila.info>.**

**Centre for Applied Linguistics and Multilingualism (CALM) Webinar series**, begun November 19, 2020 – April 15, 2021, is Online (Organized by Centre for Applied Linguistics and Multilingualism, National University of Ireland, Galway): <https://www.nuigalway.ie/calm/newseventsnuachtimeachtai/calm-seminar-series-2020-2021.html>.

The Centre for Applied Linguistics and Multilingualism (CALM) aims to promote research in the area of applied linguistics and multilingualism as well as to increase the awareness of issues related to language learning, language processing and multilingualism within NUI Galway and the wider community.

A series of free webinars has been organised for the current academic year on topics of relevance to our research centre. **Links to the events will be provided in individual posts on the CALM website** and on social media channels.

**Applied Linguistics Conferences 2021/2022/2023: Lists numerous applied linguistic conferences with links**, at: <https://conferenceindex.org/conferences/applied-linguistics>.

**International Conferences on Applied Linguistics and Language Teaching are scheduled several times a year in many major cities around the world.** The listing is at: <https://waset.org/applied-linguistics-and-language-teaching-conference-in-january-2021-in-sydney>.

**The Department of Linguistics at the University of California Santa Barbara often puts on colloquia on Indigenous languages.** for information go to: <http://www.linguistics.ucsb.edu>.

**The D'Arcy McNickle Center for American Indian and Indigenous Studies at the Newberry Library**, in Chicago, has an on-going Newberry Library Seminar in American Indian Studies on Wednesdays from 5:30 - 7:30 pm at the Newberry, 60 West Walton Street, Chicago, Illinois with a meal included. "We will pre-circulate papers to those planning to attend. If you cannot attend and want to read a paper, please contact the author directly. To receive a copy of a paper, email [mcnickle@newberry.org](mailto:mcnickle@newberry.org) or call (312) 255-3552. Papers are available for request two weeks prior to the seminar date. Please include your email address in all correspondence." There are other occasional events. E-mail: [mcnickle@newberry.org](mailto:mcnickle@newberry.org) or call (312)255-3564 to receive a copy of the paper via E-mail. For more on this and other events at the Newberry Library go to: <http://www.newberry.org/mcnickle/AISSeminar.html>.

**The National Indian Health Board (NIHB)** holds and announces many events, announced at: [https://www.nihb.org/communications/events\\_calendar.php](https://www.nihb.org/communications/events_calendar.php).

**The National Indian Child Welfare Association (NICWA)** runs regular, perhaps monthly, trainings, in addition to an annual conference. For details go to: <https://www.nicwa.org/training-institutes/>.

**Native American Finance Officers Association (NAFOA)** holds and announces numerous events, For details go to: <https://www.nafoa.org/>.

**Affiliated Tribes of the Northwest Indians (ATNI)** regularly holds 3 conferences a year. For information go to: <http://www.atntribes.org>

**National Center for Great Lakes Native American Culture, Inc.** P O Box 1063 Portland, IN 47371 Home: 4950 North 750 East Attica, IN 47918 765-426-3022, [www.ncglnac.org](http://www.ncglnac.org), [kay.neumayr@ncglnac.com](mailto:kay.neumayr@ncglnac.com), holds events throughout the year, including: 2018 NCGLNAC Academic Conference: Great Principal Peacetime Chiefs, April 21, 2018, in the Bubp Building, Jay County Fairgrounds, Portland, Indiana.

**The University of North Carolina Pembroke, Pembroke, NC runs an ongoing Native American Speakers Series**, usually announced shortly ahead of time, and often at the Museum of the Southeast American Indian, University of North Carolina Pembroke, Pembroke, NC. Among the upcoming sessions in the speakers' series is: actress Diane Guerrero, who is best known for her roles on the Netflix series Orange is the New Black and Superior Donuts on CBS, April 16, 2019. For more information, email [ais@uncp.edu](mailto:ais@uncp.edu), or call 910.521.6266. Admission to the series is free, and it is open to the public.

**The Southwestern Political Science Association**, which has a Race, Ethnicity and Politics Section, meets with the Southwestern Social Science Association every October, and often has, and is open to proposals for Indigenous panels and papers. Upcoming meetings are: San Antonio, Texas, Hyatt Regency, October 6-8, 2022; Fort Worth, Texas, The Omni, October 26-28, 2023. For more information go to: <https://sssaonline.org/annual-meeting/future-meetings/>.

**NIRAKN Indigenous Knowledge Production: Generating Change through Connections** at the University of Melbourne, in Melbourne, Australia, offers numerous seminars, lectures and discussions on a range of Indigenous topics. For information go to: <http://www.nirakn.edu.au>.

**The National Indian Gaming Commission** puts on numerous trainings relating to gaming and its management, listed at: <https://www.nigc.gov>.

**The numerous Environmental Geology** Conferences are listed at: <https://conferenceindex.org/conferences/environmental-geology>.

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**World Indigenous Forum 2022** may be in January 2022. For details visit: <https://www.worldindigenousforum.com>.

**WABE Winter Institute** may be in January 2022. For details go to: <https://wabewa.org/events/>.

**54th Annual Meeting of the British Association for Applied Linguistics (BAAL)** may be in January 2022. For details go to: <https://www.baal.org.uk>.

**Affiliated Tribes of the Northwest Indians (ATNI) Winter Convention 2022** may be in January 2022. For information go to: <http://www.atntribes.org>.

**World Indigenous Forum 2022** may be in January 2022. For details visit: <https://www.worldindigenousforum.com>.

**The Society For The Study Of The Indigenous Languages (SSILA) Annual Winter Meeting Online** – January 6-9, 2022. For information go to: <http://ssila.org>.

The **96th Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America** is January 6-9, 2022 at the: Washington Hilton 1919 Connecticut Ave., Washington, DC. For details visit: <https://www.linguisticsociety.org/event/lsa-2022-annual-meeting>.

**NAFOA: Online Introductory Tribal Finance and Accounting Certificate Program** is January 10-March 4, 2022, 8:00 AM - 11:59 PM Eastern Time (US & Canada). For details visit: <https://www.nafoa.org/events/online-introductory-tribal-finance-and-accounting-certificate-program>.

**Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes Quarterly Meeting** is virtual, January 12 - 14, 2022. For details go to: <http://www.fivecivilizedtribes.org>.

**The Society for the Study of the Indigenous Languages of the Americas (SSILA)** will hold its **annual winter meeting online**, January 21-23, 2022. For details visit: <https://www.ssila.org/en/home>.

**Affiliated Tribes of the Northwest Indians (ATNI) Winter Convention 2022** is Virtual January 24-27, 2022. For information go to: <http://www.atntribes.org>.

**The 18th International Conference on Environmental, Cultural, Economic & Social Sustainability: Accelerating the Transition to Sustainability: Policy Solutions for Climate Emergency** is January 26-28, 2022 at the University of Granada, Granada, Spain. For details visit: <http://onsustainability.com>.

**Virtual and Physical: 8th International Conference on the Development and Assessment of Intercultural Competence (ICC)** will focus upon the theme of Decentering Mobility in Intercultural Education: Engagement, Equity, and Access. It is a hybrid event, in person and online, January 27-30, 2022, in Tucson, Arizona, and Online. For details visit: <http://cercll.arizona.edu/>. For information on the next **Intercultural Competence Conference**, go to: <https://cercll.arizona.edu/intercultural-competence-conference/>.

**WABE Winter Institute** is January 28-29, 2022 at Sea Tac Double Tree and virtual. For details go to: <https://wabewa.org/events/>.

**ICALLT 2022: 16, International Conference on Applied Linguistics and Language Teaching** is January 28-29, 2022, in Sydney, Australia. For details search: <https://waset.org/applied-linguistics-and-language-teaching-conference-in-january-2022-in-sydney>.

**Self-Governance Communication and Education Tribal Consortium Advisory Committee Meetings** are January 31-February 3, 2022 at Park Hyatt, Washington, DC. For details visit: <https://www.ncai.org/conferences-events/national-events>.

**NCAIS Graduate Student Conference** at the Newberry Library in Chicago may be in February 2022. “The Consortium offers graduate students from NCAIS member institutions an

opportunity to present papers in any academic field relating to American Indian Studies at the Graduate Student Conference. We encourage the submission of proposals for papers that examine a wide variety of subjects relating to American Indian and Indigenous history and culture broadly conceived. For details go to <http://www.newberry.org/>.

**The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) is pleased to present: A Virtual Dialogue on First Nations Accessibility and the Accessible Canada Act: Empowering First Nations Persons of all Abilities, and First Nations Governments** on February 3 and 9, 2022. For details, visit: <https://www.afn.ca/accessibility/>.

**First Nations Development Institute** is excited to join with the **New Mexico Healthy Soil Working Group** in **hosting Regenerative Agriculture Day**, Monday, February 14, 2022, 3 to 5 pm MT on Zoom. This collaborative workshop about regenerative agriculture in New Mexico will continue to connect networks and forge regional partnerships in collective efforts to re-balance soil and water cycles, providing a viable solution for improving health, the food and farming system, and the climate. Register here: <https://www.nmhealthysoil.org/2022/01/24/you-are-invited/?bbeml=tp-pck9Q6QNPEiuBt3JmyTokQ.jC--E12HSOEOXv8EXdRGEoA.r0SzMqA3nhEi8AeLCWuh9Pg.lfgja6BLy-0-L1VWNN6jyzzg>.

**The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) is pleased to present: 5th Annual Water Symposium - Virtual** on February 15-17, 2021. For details, visit: <https://www.afn.ca>.

**World Sustainable Development Summit 2022: Redefining Our Common Future for All** is February 16-17, 2022 in New Delhi, India. For details visit: <http://wsds.teriin.org>.

**Fifth International Conference on Heritage/Community Languages** may be in February 2022. For details visit: <http://international.ucla.edu/nhlrc>.

**Colorado Association for Bilingual Education (CABE) Professional Development Conference** may be in February 2022, at University of Colorado at Boulder University Memorial Center 1669 Euclid Avenue Boulder, CO. for details visit: <http://www.cocabe.org>.

The **4th Annual AFN National Water Symposium and Tradeshow** may be in February 2022. For details go to: <http://www.afn.ca/Home/>.

**NAAS International Research Virtual Conference 2022** may be in February 2022. For details go to: <https://www.naaas.org>.

**NAAAS & Affiliates (including the National Association of Native American Studies) 2022 Joint National Conference** may be in February 2022. For details visit: <https://www.naaas.org>.

**Self-Governance Communication and Education Tribal Consortium Advisory Committee Meetings is February 1-2, 2022.** For information go to: <https://www.tribalselfgov.org/events/>.

**23rd Biannual CDC/ATSDR Tribal Advisory Committee Meeting** is February 2-3, 2022, For details go to: <https://www.cdc.gov/tribal>.

**American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC) 2022 Annual Legislative Summit**, originally February 7-10, 2022 in Washington, DC, is on hold. For information go to: <http://www.aihec.org/who-we-are/calendar.cfm>.

**50th National Association for Bilingual Education Annual Conference (NABE)** preconference is February 7, conference February 8-19, 2022 in In New York City. For details go to: <http://www.nabe-conference.com>.

**UNC Pembroke Social Justice Symposium** is virtual February 9, 2022, registration required. For details go to: [www.uncp.edu/sjs/](http://www.uncp.edu/sjs/).

**NCAI 2022 Executive Council Winter Session** is February 13-17, 2022 in Washington, DC. For details visit: <http://www.ncai.org/conferences-events/ncai-events>.

**World Sustainable Development Summit 2022: Redefining Our Common Future for All** is February 16-17, 2022 in New Delhi, India. For details visit: <http://wsds.teriin.org>.

**A Virtual Dialogue on First Nations Accessibility and the Accessible Canada Act** is February 3 @ 11:00 am - February 10 @ 5:00 pm. for details go to: <https://www.afn.ca/events/>.

**The Native American/Indigenous Section of the 43rd Annual Southwest Popular/American Culture Association Conference** is February 23-26, 2022, in Albuquerque, New Mexico. For details go to: [www.southwestpca.org](http://www.southwestpca.org) .

**NCAIS Spring Workshop in Research Methods: Sovereignty and Survivance in Spatial Archives and Urban Landscapes** may be in March 2022. For details visit: <https://www.newberry.org/ncais-spring-workshop-research-methods>.

The **45th Annual California Conference on American Indian Education** may be in March 2022. For more information, contact: Achel McBride: (530)895-4212 x 110, Irma Amaro: (707)464-3512, or Judy Delgado at 916-319-0506, [judelgado@cde.ca.gov](mailto:judelgado@cde.ca.gov), or go to: <http://www.ccaie.org/>.

**NCAIS Spring Workshop in Research Methods: Sovereignty and Survivance in Spatial Archives and Urban Landscapes** may be in March 2022. For details visit: <https://www.newberry.org/ncais-spring-workshop-research-methods>.

The **45th Annual California Conference on American Indian Education** may be in March 2022. For more information, contact: Achel McBride: (530)895-4212 x 110, Irma Amaro: (707)464-3512, or Judy Delgado at 916-319-0506, [judelgado@cde.ca.gov](mailto:judelgado@cde.ca.gov), or go to: <http://www.ccaie.org/>.

**2022 Tribal Border Summit** may be in March 2022. For details go to: <https://www.tribalborderalliance.org>.

**8th International Conference on Language Documentation & Conservation** may be in March 2022. For details go to <http://ling.lll.hawaii.edu/sites/icldc/>.

**Eighteenth Annual Southeast Indian Studies Conference** on campus at the University of North Carolina, Pembroke, NC, at the University Center Annex, may be in March 2022. Conference details will be posted to the American Indian Studies <http://www.uncp.edu/ais/> and Southeast American Indian Studies <http://www.uncp.edu/sais/> websites as they become available

**Res 2022: Reservation Economic Summit** may be in March 2022. For information go to: <https://res.ncaied.org>.

**9th annual World Ocean Summit: Achieving 2030 Targets** is returning in-person March 1-3, 2022 in Lisbon, Portugal. For details go to: [https://events.economist.com/world-ocean-summit/?RefID=GoogleTAG&utm\\_source=ppc&utm\\_medium=google&utm\\_campaign=wos22&utm\\_content=paid-ads&gclid=EAIaIQobChMIwcjgjqer9QIVAntvBB05tQGrEAAYASAAEgKRJvD\\_BwE](https://events.economist.com/world-ocean-summit/?RefID=GoogleTAG&utm_source=ppc&utm_medium=google&utm_campaign=wos22&utm_content=paid-ads&gclid=EAIaIQobChMIwcjgjqer9QIVAntvBB05tQGrEAAYASAAEgKRJvD_BwE).

**Embracing Languages and Cultures for a Better World: Eighth International Conference on Immersion and Dual Language Education** was October 7–10, 2020, has been moved to March 2-5, 2022, at Grand America Hotel, Salt Lake City, UT. For information visit: <https://l2trec.utah.edu/dliimmersionconference/index.php>.

**UNC Pembroke: Opportunity, Access and Success for American Indian Youth**, March 3, 2022 at UNC Pembroke. For information go to: [uncp.edu/admissions](http://uncp.edu/admissions).

**NAME 2022 Virtual Conference: Multicultural Education: LIGHT in a Troubled World** is March 10 - 12, 2022. For information go to: [https://www.nameorg.org/name\\_2022\\_spring\\_virtual\\_conf.php](https://www.nameorg.org/name_2022_spring_virtual_conf.php).

**The Western Political Science Association (WPSA) 2022**, March 10-12, 2022 in Portland, OR, and will likely include one or more Race, Ethnicity and Politics panels that could include Indigenous issues. For details go to: <http://wpsa.research.pdx.edu/>.

The **Indigenous Studies and Indian Popular Sections** will put on panels at the **virtual Midwest Popular Culture Association/Midwest American Culture Association Annual Conference**, March 11-12, 2022, at the Hyatt Regency, 151 W 5th St, Cincinnati, OH 45202. Send questions and inquiries to the Area Chair, Anthony Adah at: [adahan@mnstate.edu](mailto:adahan@mnstate.edu). For more information about the conference, including how to submit to a different area, please visit the conference website at <http://www.mpcaaca.org>.

**AIHEC 2022 Annual Legislative Summit** is March 14-18, 2022 in Washington DC. For details go to: <http://www.aihec.org/who-we-are/calendar.htm>.



**Intertribal Tax Conference** is March 15-17, 2022 at Riverspirit Casino and Resort, Tulsa, OK, For details go to: <https://www.ncai.org/conferences-events/national-events>.

**AIHEC 2022 Spring Board of Directors Meeting** is March 17-18, 2022 in Washington DC. For details go to: <http://www.aihec.org/who-we-are/calendar.htm>.

**Eighteenth Annual Southeast Indian Studies Conference** on campus at the University of North Carolina, Pembroke, NC, at the University Center Annex, is March 18-19, 2022. Conference details will be posted to the American Indian Studies <http://www.uncp.edu/ais/> and Southeast American

The 2022 AAAL Virtual Conference: **AAAL 2022 Conference: Applied Linguistics in Times of Reckoning and Change - “Applied Linguistics in Times of Reckoning and Change”** is March 19-22, 2022 in Pittsburgh, PA. For details visit: <https://www.aal.org>.

**American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC) 2022 Spring Board Meeting** is March 23-26, 2022. For information go to: <http://www.aihec.org/who-we-are/calendar.cfm>.

**SWCOLT/PLAN** (conference on language teaching) is March 24-26, 2022 at Grand Sierra Resort, Reno, Nevada. For information go to: <http://www.swcolt.org/>.

**The American Indian Studies Section (AIS) of the Western Social Science Association (WSSA) 64th Annual Conference (2022)** is March 30 - April 2, 2022 at the Hilton Denver City Center, Denver, CO. The AIS Section Coorsinator is Aresta Tsosie-Paddoc, [alarusso@arizona.edu](mailto:alarusso@arizona.edu). Conference information is at: <https://www.wssaweb.com>.

The **53rd Annual Conference on African Linguistics (ACAL 53)** will be hosted by the University of California-San Diego, in spring of 2022. More details will be forthcoming. For information visit: <https://acal.linguistlist.org>.

**So What? Making Research Relevant for the Real World: 2020 SLA Graduate Student Symposium** may be in April 2021 at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis and Saint Paul, Minnesota. For details visit: <http://carla.umn.edu/conferences/index.html>.

**WABE (Washington Association of Bilingual Education) Annual Conference 2022** may be in April or May 2022. For details go to: <https://wabewa.org/events/>.

**Alaska Native Studies Conference 2022** may be in April 2022 at the University of Alaska Fairbanks campus. For information go to: <http://alaskanativestudies.org>.

**48th Annual Symposium on the American Indian** is at Northeastern State University, University Center, Tahlequah, OK, may be in April 2022. For details visit: <https://offices.nsuok.edu/centerfortribalstudies/NSU-Symposium>.

**17th International Conference on Environment, Energy, Ecosystems and Sustainable Development** may be in April 2022. For details go to: [www.icesd.org/eesd](http://www.icesd.org/eesd).

**2022 SLA Graduate Student Symposium: Language, Culture, and Globalization: Transdisciplinary Perspectives** is April 1-2, 2022 at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. For details visit: <http://carla.umn.edu/conferences/index.html>.

**40th Annual National Indian Child Welfare Association Protecting Our Children Conference** is April 3-4, 2022 in Orlando, FL. For details visit: <https://www.nicwa.org/conference/>.

**2022 AISES Leadership Summit** is April 3-5, 2022 at Pechanga Resort & Casino in Temecula, California. For details visit: <http://www.ncai.org/conferences-events/ncai-events>.

**NAFOA 40th Annual Conference** is April 4-5, 2022 at Hyatt Regency Seattle, Seattle, WA. For details go to: <https://www.nafoa.org/events>.

**The 11th Tribal Land Staff National Conference** is April 5-7, 2022 at the Mystic Lake Center, located in the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community near Minneapolis. For information go to: <https://www.ntla.info/conference/>.

**The 14th International Conference on Climate: Impacts and Responses: Adaptations: responding to Climate Change as an Emergency** is 7-8 April 2022, At UBC Robinson Square, Vancouver, BC, Canada. The Climate Change Conference is for any person with an interest in, and concern for, scientific, policy and strategic perspectives in climate change. It will address a range of critically important themes relating to the vexing question of climate change. Plenary speakers will include some of the world's leading thinkers in the fields of climatology and environmental science, as well as numerous paper, workshop and colloquium presentations by researchers and practitioners. For details go to: <http://on-climate.com/the-conference>. For details visit: <http://www.peace-ed-campaign.org/calendar>.

**Geoscience Conference 2022: 3rd International E-Conference on Geological and Environmental Sustainability** is April 7-8, 2022. For information visit: <https://environmentalresearchforum.com>.

**American Indian Cultures and Literatures area of the PCA/ACA (Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association) National Conference 2022** is April 13-16, 2022, in Seattle, WA. For details Visit: <http://www.pcaaca.org/conference/national.php>.

**Geoscience Congress 2022: 3rd International E-Conference on Geological and Environmental Sustainability “Geoscience Congress 2022”** is April 21-22, 2022. For details go to: <https://environmentalresearchforum.com>.

**Self-Governance Communication and Education Tribal Consortium Annual Conference** is April 24-28, 2022 at the Hyatt Regency Burlingame, CA. For details visit: <https://www.tribalselfgov.org/events/>.

**WABE Annual Conference** is April 28-30, 2022 in Bellevue, WA. For details go to: <https://wabewa.org/>.

**Annual Workshop on American Indigenous Languages (WAIL2022)** is April 30-May 1, 2022, at UCSB Department of Linguistics. For information visit: <http://www.linguistics.ucsb.edu> or <http://osl.sa.ucsb.edu/org/nail/WAIL>.

**United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII)** <https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/unpfii-sessions-2/sessions.html> 21st Session will be held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, in April or May 2022. For information visit: <https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/unpfii-sessions-2/sessions.html>.

**CCERBAL 2022 Conference** may be at **Canadian Centre for Studies and Research on Bilingualism and Language Planning (CCERBAL), Official Languages and Bilingualism Institute (OLBI)**, University of Ottawa, may be in April or May 2022. For details visit: <https://ccerbal.uottawa.ca/en/activities/conferences>.

**Annual Vine Deloria, Jr. Indigenous Studies Symposium** may be in May 2022 at Northwest Indian College, Bellingham, WA., (360)392-4307, [www.nwic.edu](http://www.nwic.edu).

**XVIX International Conference on Minority Languages** may be in May 2022. For details go to: <https://easychair.org/cfp/icml2022>.

**13TH national Closing The Gap first nations Health Conference (Australia)** is at Sea World Resort Conference Centre, Gold Coast Qld, Australia, **Rescheduled** to May 9-11, 2022. For details go to: <https://www.icsconferences.org/closingthegap>.

**The National Indigenous Chronic Diseases Conference (Australia)** is at Sea World Resort Conference Centre, Gold Coast Qld, Australia, **Rescheduled** to May 9-11, 2022. For details visit: <https://www.icsconferences.org/chronic-disease>.

**NIHB 2022 National Tribal Public Health Summit** is May 10-12, 2022 in Anchorage, AK. For information visit: <https://www.ncai.org/conferences-events/national-events>.

**NAFOA: 2022 Introductory Tribal Finance and Accounting Certificate Program** is on-line, May 10-13, 2022, 6:00 AM - 7:00 PM Eastern Time (US & Canada). For information go to: <https://www.nafoa.org/events/2022-introductory-tribal-finance-and-accounting-certificate-program>.

**12th national First Nations (Australia) women's health conference** is at Sea World Resort Conference Centre, Gold Coast Qld, Australia, **Rescheduled** to May 11-13, 2022 is at Sea World Resort Conference Centre, Gold Coast Qld, Australia, **Rescheduled** to May 11-13, 2022. For information visit: <https://www.icsconferences.org/2020-womens-conference>

**The First Nations Wellness Conference (Australia)** is at Sea World Resort Conference Centre, Gold Coast Qld, Australia, **Rescheduled** to May 11-13, 2022. For information visit: <https://www.icsconferences.org/2020-indigenous-wellness>.

The **Society of American Indian Government Employees (SAIGE)** is a national non-profit organization that advocates for American Indian and Alaska Native federal employees. SAIGE **18th Annual National Training Program** is likely to be in June 2022. Information is available from the Society of American Indian Government Employees, P.O. Box 7715, Washington, D.C. 20044, [www.saige.org](http://www.saige.org).

**Construction in Indian Country National Conference** may be in June 2022. For details visit: <https://ciic.construction.asu.edu/>

**2022 STARTALK/NHLRC Virtual Teacher Workshop** may be in June 2022. For details go to: <https://international.ucla.edu/nhlrc/event/14899>.

**10th Annual Indigenous Language (ILI) Symposium: Second Language Learners for 2022** may be in June or July 2022. For information visit: <https://ilinitiative.org>.

**The Native American Student Advocacy Institute** may be in June 2022. For details visit: <http://nasai.collegeboard.org/>.

**14th Austronesian and Papuan Languages and Linguistics Conference** may be in June 2022. For information go to: <https://www.hf.uio.no/iln/forskning/aktuelt/arrangementer/konferanser/2020/APLL12/index.htm>.

**Native American and Indigenous Studies Association (NAISA) Annual Conference** may be in June 2022. For more information go to: <https://www.naisa.org/annual-meeting/>.

**The 19th Annual Global Solutions Lab** Is likely June 2022, at the United Nations in New York and Chestnut Hill College in Philadelphia, PA. Participants, from around the world, will be briefed by, interact with and question UN experts (from the UN Development Program, UN Environmental Program, UNESCO, UNICEF, WHO, FAO and other UN agencies) and then, working collaboratively in small teams, develop designs, programs and strategies that deal with one of the critical problems facing our world. The participants present their work to a group of UN corporate and foundation leaders. After this their work is published in a book.

The Global Solutions Lab is a structured learning experience that fosters creativity, disruptive innovations, global perspectives and local solutions. It is intense, fast-paced, and for many, transformative.

For information visit: Global Solutions Lab: <https://designsciencelab.com>.

**SWCOLT Summer 2022 Workshops** (All sessions likely will be recorded and available through Sept. 30, 2022) will likely run from late June to late July 2022. For information go to: <http://www.swcolt.org>.

**23rd Diné Studies Conference** may be in June 2022. For details visit: <https://dinestudies.org>.

**14th Biannual Advocates for Indigenous California Language Survival biannual conference** may be in June 2022 or 23. For details visit: <http://www.aicls.org>.

The **2022 Institute on Collaborative Language Research (CoLang)** – held every two years - will be hosted by the University of Montana in collaboration with Chief Dull Knife College from June 13 to July 8th, 2022. For information about SSILA go to: [www.ssila.org](http://www.ssila.org).

**3rd National Indigenous NDIS (Australia): working towards a better future through partnerships and co-operation Conference** is at Pullman Cairns International Hotel, Cairns Qld, Australia, June 8-10, 2022. For information visit: <https://www.icsconferences.org/2020-ndis-conference>.

**2021 first Nations allied health conference (Australia)** is at Pullman Cairns International Hotel, Cairns Qld, Australia, June 8-10, 2022. For information visit: <https://www.icsconferences.org/allied-health>.

**NCAI 2022 Mid-Year Conference** is June 12-16, 2022 in Anchorage, AK. For information visit: <https://www.ncai.org/conferences-events/national-events>.

With the support of the Stabilizing Indigenous Languages Steering (SILS) Committee and the Northern Arizona University American Indian / Indigenous Teacher Education Conference (AIITEC) Planning Committee a decision was made to host a **combined SILS/AIITEC conference**, June 16-18, 2022, as a hybrid conference at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, Arizona, that allows for **both virtual and in person attendance**. Please note that we also plan to publish a new SILS/AIITEC monograph with selected papers from the combined conference. Further updates will follow as the planning committee fleshes out plans for the upcoming conference. For information go to: <https://nau.edu/coe/aiitec/>, or contact Jon Reyhner, Ed.D., SILS Steering Committee Coordinator and AIITEC Planning Committee member, Professor of Education, P. O. Box 5774, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, Arizona 86011, <http://jan.ucc.nau.edu/~jar/>.

**Fourth International Conference on Heritage/Community Languages** is Thursday, June 16, 2022 in UCLA Covel Commons. For details go to: <https://nhlrc.ucla.edu/nhlrc/home>.

**2021 NHLRC Heritage Language Teacher Workshop** may be in July 2022. For details go to: <https://nhlrc.ucla.edu/>.

**Inter-Tribal Council of the Five Civilized Tribes Meeting** may be in July 2022. For details visit: <http://www.fivecivilizedtribes.org>.

**American Indian Chamber Expo '22** may be in July 2022. For information go to: <http://www.aicccal.org/events/EXPO.htm>.

**11th Annual Native Harm Reduction Summit** maybe in July 2022. For details visit: <https://www.usetinc.org/event/national-native-harm-reduction-summit/> or <https://www.nihb.org>.

**Self-Governance Communication and Education Tribal Consortium Advisory Committee Meeting** is July 18-21, 2022 at Park Hyatt, 1201 24th St NW Washington DC. For information visit: <https://www.tribalselfgov.org/events/>.

**The (SCOPUS/ISI) (GLOCAL) Conference on Mediterranean and European Linguistic Anthropology, 2021** is July 19-22, 2021 in Athens, Greece. For information go to: [https://www.google.com/search?client=safari&rls=en&q=The+\(SCOPUS/ISI\)+\(GLOCAL\)+Conference+on+Mediterranean+and+European+Linguistic+Anthropology&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8](https://www.google.com/search?client=safari&rls=en&q=The+(SCOPUS/ISI)+(GLOCAL)+Conference+on+Mediterranean+and+European+Linguistic+Anthropology&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8).

**The 18th Giving the Gift of Language: A Teacher Training Workshop for Native Language Instruction and Acquisition, SILC: Strengthening Indigenous Languages and Cultures: A Teacher Training Workshop for Native Language Instruction and Acquisition** may be in August 2022. For information visit: <http://www.nsilc.org/index.htm> or <https://www.umt.edu/nsilc/>.

**14th International Conference on the Environmental Management of Enclosed Coastal Seas (EMECS 14)** may be in September 2022. For details go to: <https://www.emecs.or.jp>.

**18th International Conference on Environment, Geology and Materials** may be in August 2022. For details visit: [www.ieeesd.org/engema](http://www.ieeesd.org/engema).

**Native American Journalists Association (NAJA) - 2022 National Native Media Conference in association with the 2020 Native American Nutrition Conference** is August 25-27, 2021 in Phoenix, AZ. For information go to: <https://najanewsroom.com>.

**National Transportation in Indian Country Conference (NTICC)** is August 22-26, 2022 in Louisville, KY.. For details visit: <https://www.nticc.org>.

**50th Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Association of the Southwest** may be in September 2021. For details go to: <http://clas.ucdenver.edu/lasso/index.html>.

**The annual workshop of Rising Voices: Collaborative Science with Indigenous Knowledge for Climate Solutions** may be in September or October 2022. For details go to: <https://risingvoices.ucar.edu>.

**The 10th World Sustainability Forum** may be in September 2022. For details visit: <http://wsforum.org>.

**International Conference on Human-Wildlife Conflict and Coexistence** is postponed until international travel to large events can be safely resumed. We hope to be able to hold the conference on Thursday 1 – Saturday 3 September 2022, depending on further developments of the global coronavirus situation. For details visit: <https://www.hwcconference.org>.

**NIHB's Annual National Tribal Health Conference and 50th Anniversary Celebration** is September 25-29, 2022 in Washington, DC. For details visit: [https://www.nihb.org/communications/events\\_calendar.php](https://www.nihb.org/communications/events_calendar.php)

**2022 International Conference on Ethnic and Religious Conflict Resolution and Peacebuilding (ICERM)** is September 28-29, 2022 in White Plains, NY. For information visit: <http://www.icermediation.org>.

**2022 Annual German Association of Applied Linguistics (GAL) Conference** in Würzburg, Germany is at the Julius-Maximilians-Universität of Würzburg, Würzburg, Germany, September 28-30, 2022. For information go to: <https://gal-wue22.de>.

**SWCOLT Summer 2022 Workshops** (All sessions likely will be recorded and available through Sept. 30, 2022) will likely run from late June to late July 2022. For information go to: <http://www.swcolt.org>.

**3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on Revitalization of Indigenous and Minoritized Languages is now biannual** and may be in October 2022. For details go to: <https://ssila.org/conferences>.

**16th Language is Life Biennial Conference** may be in October 2022. For details, visit: <http://www.aicls.org/>.

**NAAAS Regional Conference in the North East** may be in October 2021. For details visit: <https://www.naaas.org/naaas-regional-conference/>.

**American Indigenous Research Association Meeting** may be in October 2022 or 2023 as it now meets every other year. For details go to: <http://www.americanindigenousresearchassociation.org/annual-meeting/>.

**First Alaskans Institute's Annual Elders & Youth Conference (Elders & Youth)** may be in October 2022 in Anchorage, Alaska. For information go to: <https://firstalaskans.org/leadership-development/elders-youth-conference/>.

**2022 Convention - ANCSA** may be in October 2022. For details visit: <https://www.nativefederation.org/convention/>.

**The 3<sup>rd</sup> International Electronic Conference on Foods** may be in October 2021 on-line. For details visit: <https://foods2022.sciforum.net>.

**The 54<sup>th</sup> Algonquian Conference** will be in person in October 2022 and will be hosted by Andrew Cowell (University of Colorado, Boulder). Information will be available at: <https://algonquianconference.atlas-ling.ca/eng/conference/>.

**48<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference: International Indian Treaty Council** may be in October 2022. For information go to: <https://www.iitc.org/conferences-events/treaty-conference/>.

**UCLA IAC Fall Forum** may be in October or November 2022, at the James West Alumni Center, UCLA, Los Angeles, CA. For information visit: [https://www.aisc.ucla.edu/events/iac\\_fallforum2018.aspx](https://www.aisc.ucla.edu/events/iac_fallforum2018.aspx).

**The 19th International MEDCOAST Congress on Coastal and Marine Sciences, Engineering, Management & Conservation** may be in October 2022. For details go to: [conference.medcoast.net](http://conference.medcoast.net), or [medcoast@medcoast.net](mailto:medcoast@medcoast.net), <http://www.medcoast.net/>.

**Association on American Indian Affairs 8th Annual Repatriation Conference** may be in 2022. For details visit: [https://www.indian-affairs.org/repatriation\\_conference.html](https://www.indian-affairs.org/repatriation_conference.html).

**Annual Conference for Community-Based Heritage Language School Representatives** may be in October 2022. For details go to: <http://heritagelanguageschools.org/coalition/conference>.

**NAFOA: 2022 Fall Finance & Tribal Economies Conference** is October 3-4, 2022 at Foxwoods Resorts Casino Mashantucket, CT. For details go to: <https://www.nafoa.org/events/2022-fall-finance-tribal-economies-conference>.

**2022 American Indian Science and Engineering Association (AISES) National Conference** is October 6-8, 2022 in Palm Springs, CA. For details visit: <https://www.aises.org/news/events/2022-aises-national-conference>

**18th Annual FALCON Conference (Land-grant Programs with NIFA & FRTEP)** is October 20-23, 2022, in Albuquerque, NM. For information go to: <https://www.falcontribalcollege.org/annual-conference>.

**24th Annual American Indian Tourism Conference** is October 25-27, 2022 at Harrah's Resort Southern California, 777 S Resort Dr, Valley, Funner, CA 92082, hosted by the Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians. For details visit: <https://www.aianta.org/aitc/>.

The **2021 International Conference of Indigenous Archives, Libraries, and Museums (ATALM)** has been **rescheduled for October 25-27, 2022** at the Pechanga Resort in Temecula, California. For information, visit: <http://www.atalm.org>. Please direct questions to [atalminfo@gmail.com](mailto:atalminfo@gmail.com).

**First Nations Education Administrators Association (FNEAA) 2021 National Gathering** is October 27-28, 2021 at Fairmont Winnipeg, 2 Lombard Place, Winnipeg, MB R3B 0Y3 Canada. For information go to: <https://www.afn.ca/events/>.

**NCAI 79th Annual Convention** is October 30-November 4, 2022 in Sacramento, California. For details visit <https://www.ncai.org/conferences-events/national-events>.

**Fifteenth Native American Symposium** is likely to be in November 2022, at Southeastern Oklahoma State University, Durant, Oklahoma. The Thirteenth Native American Symposium will focus on the various legacies and prospects of Native America in the 21st century. Papers, presentations, creative projects, and films on all aspects of Native American life and studies are



welcome. All papers presented at the symposium will be eligible for inclusion in the published proceedings, which will also be posted on our website, <http://www.se.edu/nas/>. Please send an abstract of no more than 250 words to Dr. Mark B. Spencer by July 15 at [mbspencer@se.edu](mailto:mbspencer@se.edu).

**2022 IRAAL annual conference** may be in November 2022 at the National University of Ireland, Galway, Ireland. For details go to: <https://old.linguistlist.org/confservices/customhome.cfm?CFID=2dcc47d8-bd0d-4a0d-9b33-e70097bae99e&CFTOKEN=0&meetingid=5902JA44587E4258406050441>.

**2021 SICC First Nations Language Keepers Gathering** may be in November 2022. For information visit: <http://www.sicc.sk.ca>.

**The National Association for Ethnic Studies (NAES) Annual Conference** maybe in November 2022. For details contact National Association for Ethnic Studies (NAES), Department of Ethnic Studies, Colorado State University, 1790 Campus Delivery, Fort Collins, CO 80523-179, [www.ethnicstudies.org](http://www.ethnicstudies.org).

**The annual Kares Children's Learning Center November Native Language Symposium** may be in November 2022 in Albuquerque, NM. For more information visit: <https://kclcmontessori.org/>.

**American Society for Ethnohistory Annual Conference 2022** may be in November 2022. For details go to: <http://ethnohistory.org>.

**La Cosecha, 24th Annual Dual Language Conference** may be in November 2022, details to be announced February 1, 2022. For details visit: <https://www.lacosechaconference.org>.

**National Center for Great Lakes Native American Culture, 2022, NCGLNAC Academic Conference** may. be in November 2022. For details visit: [www.ncglnac.org](http://www.ncglnac.org).

**10th Biennial International Indigenous Research Conference** may be in November 2022 or 2023 in New Zealand. For information visit: <http://www.indigenousresearchconference.ac.nz>.

**CSU Water in the West Symposium** may be in November 2022 in Denver, CO. For details visit: <https://stem.colostate.edu/events/water-in-the-west-symposium/>.

**The Annual Honoring Native Foodways** may be in November 2022, in the University Center Annex, University of North Carolina, Pembroke. For information go to: <https://www.uncp.edu/>.

**Annual Tusweca Tiospaye 2022**, Lakota Dakota Nakota Language Summit and First Nations Education Summit may be in November 2022 in Rapid City, SD. For details visit: <http://tuswecatiospaye.org/>.

**51st Anniversary of the Occupation of Alcatraz by the Indians of All Tribes** is in November 2022 on Alcatraz Island. For information all (925) 297-5343 or email [alltribesday2019@gmail.com](mailto:alltribesday2019@gmail.com).

The Biannual **International Indigenous Research Conference in New Zealand** may be in November 2022. For information go to: <http://www.indigenousresearchconference.ac.nz>.

**9th Annual Sustainable Development Conference** May be in November 2022. Our Sustainable Development Conference - Green technology, Renewable energy and Environmental protection, annually held in Bangkok is a perfect place to meet world's leading professionals, scholars and governmental representatives from all over the world in the fields of sustainable development, green energy and environmental protection. For information go to: [www.sdconference.org](http://www.sdconference.org).

**3rd International Electronic Conference on Animals** November 2021 or December 2022. For details go to: <https://ieca2021.sciforum.net>.

**The National Association for Ethnic Studies (NAES) Annual Conference** is November 5-6, 2021 at Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, OH. For details contact National Association for Ethnic Studies (NAES), Department of Ethnic Studies, Colorado State University, 1790 Campus Delivery, Fort Collins, CO 80523-179, [www.ethnicstudies.org](http://www.ethnicstudies.org).

**Self-Governance Communication and Education Tribal Consortium Advisory Committee Meeting** is November 7-10, 2022 at Park Hyatt, 1201 24th St NW, Washington DC. For details visit <https://www.tribalselfgov.org/events/>.

**Indigenous Disability and Wellness Gathering 2022** is November 7-10, 2022 at 720 Douglas Street, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. For details visit <https://www.ncai.org/conferences-events/national-events>.

**ALAA and ALANZ Conference – Applied linguistics in the Asia-Pacific region** is in Wellington City, New Zealand, New dates: 25-27 November, 2022. For details visit: <https://aila.info/alaa-and-alanz-conference-applied-linguistics-in-the-asia-pacific-region/>.

**Tribal Border Alliance Summit** 2021 has been postponed and may be in December 2022. For details, visit, <https://www.tribalborderalliance.org>.

**The Annual International Conference on Poverty and Sustainable Development** may be in December 2022. For information go to: <http://povertyconferences.com>.

**The Annual conference of the Australian Linguistic Society, 2021**, may be in December 2021. For information go to: <https://als.asn.au>.

**2022 World Indigenous Business Forum** will be in Bogota, Colombia may be in December 2022, details to be announced. For details go to: <http://wibf.ca/>.

**Tribal Border Alliance Summit 2022** may be in December 2022. For details, visit, <https://www.tribalborderalliance.org/events/summit>.

**Foundation for Endangered Languages (FEL) XXVI** may be on December 2022,. For details visit: <http://www.ogmios.org/conferences>.

**National Indigenous Stop Domestic Violence Conference** (Australia) is at Pullman Cairns International Hotel Cairns QLD, Australia, December 14-16, 2022. For details go to: <https://www.icsconferences.org>.

**5th National Indigenous Justice and Child Protection Conference** (Australia) is at Pullman Cairns International Hotel Cairns QLD, Australia, December 14-16, 2022. For details go to: <https://www.icsconferences.org>.

**American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC) 2023 Annual Legislative Summit** is February 6-9, 2023 in Washington, DC. For information go to: <http://www.aihec.org/who-we-are/calendar.cfm>.

**NAFOA 41st Annual Conference** is April 24-25, 2023 at Renaissance Washington DC Downtown Hotel, 999 9th St. NW, Washington, DC. For information visit: <https://www.nafoa.org/events/41st-annual-conference>.

**WABE Annual Conference** is April 27-28, 2023 in Bellevue, WA. For details visit: <https://wabewa.org/annual-conference/>.

**American Indian Cultures and Literatures area of the PCA/ACA (Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association) National Conference 2023** is April 8, 2023, in San Antonio, TX. For details Visit: <http://www.pcaaca.org/conference/national.php>.

**ICL 21, 60th World Congress of Linguists** is July 17-21, 2023 in Lyon, France. For details go to: <https://aila.info/2018/05/06/icl-20/> or <https://aila2023.fr>.

**WABE Annual Conference** is April 18-20, 2024 in Spokane, WA. For details visit: <https://wabewa.org/annual-conference/>.

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## **ONGOING ACTIVITIES**

Steve Sachs

### **Environmental Activities**

The Sierra Club stated, July 1, 2021, <https://www.facebook.com/SierraClub/posts/10158882287477572>, "**This week, youth and Indigenous leaders held two nonviolent direct actions at the White House to say: There is no room for compromise when it comes to the very survival of our planet.**

Dozens were arrested, putting their bodies on the line to demand President Biden put an

end to dirty fossil fuel projects like Line 3, and that Congress pass a big and bold climate infrastructure bill prioritizing racial and economic justice.

**These acts of courage reflect the urgency of this moment.** As Biden and Congress negotiate over infrastructure plans, the stakes couldn't be higher. It's going to take all of us -- supporting and showing up however we can over the coming months -- to push through the kind of transformative legislation we need to safeguard our communities and our climate.

**Youth and Indigenous leaders are putting themselves on the line. Make sure their demands for a bold climate infrastructure plan are heard far and wide by sharing this post on social media."**

Susan Dunlap, "Native groups protest fossil fuels in Washington, D.C.," *New Mexico Political Report*, October 13, 2021, [https://nmpoliticalreport.com/2021/10/13/native-groups-protest-fossil-fuel-to-bring-attention-to-violence-against-native-women/?mc\\_cid=3a54659b28&mc\\_eid=cde7993ced](https://nmpoliticalreport.com/2021/10/13/native-groups-protest-fossil-fuel-to-bring-attention-to-violence-against-native-women/?mc_cid=3a54659b28&mc_eid=cde7993ced), reported that beginning on Indigenous Peoples Day, **"Native American groups have been protesting fossil fuel production this week in Washington, D.C., in order to help shine a light on the connection between fossil fuel extraction and violence against Women."**

Matthew Daly and Padmananda Rama, "Climate activists resume weeklong protest at Capitol: Speakers said President Joe Biden was not following through on his promises to act on climate change," *ICT*, October 15, 2021, <https://indiancountrytoday.com/news/climate-activists-resume-weeklong-protest-at-capitol>, reported, **"Indigenous groups and other environmental activists marched to the Capitol Friday as they continued a weeklong protest demanding that Congress and the Biden administration stop new fossil fuel projects and act with greater urgency on climate change."**

Nearly 80 people were arrested on the fifth day of the "People vs. Fossil Fuels" protest. That brings the total arrested during the week to more than 600, organizers said."

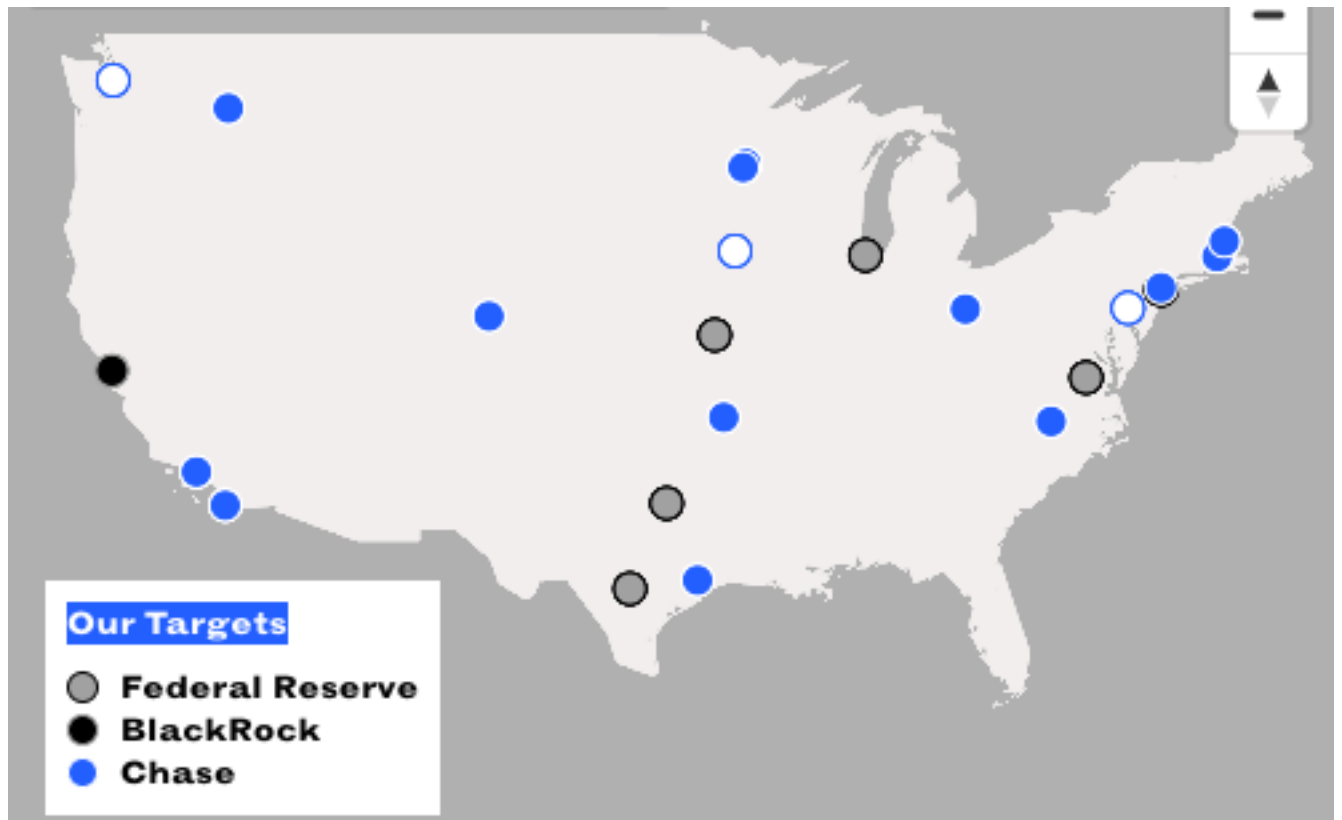
350.org stated in an October 25, 2021 E-mail, **"655 people were arrested at the Capitol as part of Indigenous-led demonstrations demanding that our leaders take urgent action to phase out fossil fuels."**

Throughout the week, thousands took peaceful action to demand that Biden keep the promises he made to be a champion for our climate and communities. **Indigenous leaders also delivered one million petition signatures asking Biden to stop the Line 3 pipeline.**

**As negotiations about the Build Back Better Act in Congress drag on – there's another key climate action that Biden can take with or without Congress: appoint a climate champion to the Federal Reserve to ensure the Fed accounts for climate risk immediately.**

**That's why on Friday, October 29, our movement is taking action outside Federal Reserve branches and banks across the country – and we need you there, Stephen.**

**Will you check out the map of actions on Friday, October 29 and join an action near you to stop the flow of money to big oil?**



If there's not an event near you, you can [sign up to host your own](#).

During the Fossil Free Future day of action, hosted alongside our partners at the Future Coalition, we'll not only target the Federal Reserve, but also big banks like Chase and BlackRock who are the top funders of fossil fuel projects.

**Central banks like the Federal Reserve are the referees of the financial system, holding power to enforce new rules and cut the flow of money to fossil fuels. It's the Fed's responsibility to assess and account for risks to the U.S. economy, and that includes climate risk.**

**These actions will amplify our core demands:**

**Ahead of COP26, we are calling on the Federal Reserve to phase out all fossil fuel financing by 2030.**

**Biden must appoint a Chair to the Fed who will take the mandate of climate risks seriously.**

**Encourage and support banks to make investments aimed at limiting global temperature rise to 1.5°C, with a particular emphasis on lending to low-income communities and communities of color."**

Winona LaDuke, Honor the Earth wrote in a December 15, 2021 E-mail, "Today, **December 14th, Stop Line 3 and Defend the Gulf are teaming up to deliver messages to US Army Corps offices from North to South and East to West, holding the Corps accountable for two emergencies we need addressed:**

**A federal Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Line 3**

**A regional EIS for the Permian and Gulf South**

Here is our map of actions ([https://actionnetwork.org/event\\_campaigns/dec-14-day-of-action-to-stop-line-3?link\\_id=5&can\\_id=2304a48b2891e77b9b6c14d1ce535f4f&source=email-1214-national-day-of-action-to-stopline3&email\\_referrer=email\\_1384907&email\\_subject=1214-national-day-of-action-to-stopline3](https://actionnetwork.org/event_campaigns/dec-14-day-of-action-to-stop-line-3?link_id=5&can_id=2304a48b2891e77b9b6c14d1ce535f4f&source=email-1214-national-day-of-action-to-stopline3&email_referrer=email_1384907&email_subject=1214-national-day-of-action-to-stopline3))(find or create one!), a couple letters you can deliver to Stop Line 3

([https://docs.google.com/document/d/1EQDLQCxeocDxjEa5UcmKWHFD1QOzvotJQxcdL5WF9c/edit?link\\_id=6&can\\_id=2304a48b2891e77b9b6c14d1ce535f4f&source=email-1214-national-day-of-action-to-stopline3&email\\_referrer=email\\_1384907&email\\_subject=1214-national-day-of-action-to-stopline3](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1EQDLQCxeocDxjEa5UcmKWHFD1QOzvotJQxcdL5WF9c/edit?link_id=6&can_id=2304a48b2891e77b9b6c14d1ce535f4f&source=email-1214-national-day-of-action-to-stopline3&email_referrer=email_1384907&email_subject=1214-national-day-of-action-to-stopline3)) and Defend the Gulf ([https://uploads-ssl.webflow.com/5c6dfd87a0f418f496062988/619be5668d0e8c2dcd7d4a2a\\_USACE+LETTER+FROM+DEFEND+THE+GULF+ORGANIZING+GROUP.pdf?link\\_id=7&can\\_id=2304a48b2891e77b9b6c14d1ce535f4f&source=email-1214-national-day-of-action-to-stopline3&email\\_referrer=email\\_1384907&email\\_subject=1214-national-day-of-action-to-stopline3](https://uploads-ssl.webflow.com/5c6dfd87a0f418f496062988/619be5668d0e8c2dcd7d4a2a_USACE+LETTER+FROM+DEFEND+THE+GULF+ORGANIZING+GROUP.pdf?link_id=7&can_id=2304a48b2891e77b9b6c14d1ce535f4f&source=email-1214-national-day-of-action-to-stopline3&email_referrer=email_1384907&email_subject=1214-national-day-of-action-to-stopline3)), plus a toolkit with more ideas! ([https://docs.google.com/document/d/1m9c\\_ILTpA\\_4ygytDHbOc\\_h5jmUshLFQLAvKdsRMY81M/edit?link\\_id=8&can\\_id=2304a48b2891e77b9b6c14d1ce535f4f&source=email-1214-national-day-of-action-to-stopline3&email\\_referrer=email\\_1384907&email\\_subject=1214-national-day-of-action-to-stopline3](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1m9c_ILTpA_4ygytDHbOc_h5jmUshLFQLAvKdsRMY81M/edit?link_id=8&can_id=2304a48b2891e77b9b6c14d1ce535f4f&source=email-1214-national-day-of-action-to-stopline3&email_referrer=email_1384907&email_subject=1214-national-day-of-action-to-stopline3)) Events can be simple and small; our superpower is working together. Please share your actions with the hashtags #StopLine3 and #DefendTheGulf (You can watch Line 3 and Gulf South water protectors discuss the issues on last week's hype call!: [https://www.facebook.com/WinonaLaDukeHonorTheEarth/videos/609504123621468?link\\_id=9&can\\_id=2304a48b2891e77b9b6c14d1ce535f4f&source=email-1214-national-day-of-action-to-stopline3&email\\_referrer=email\\_1384907&email\\_subject=1214-national-day-of-action-to-stopline3](https://www.facebook.com/WinonaLaDukeHonorTheEarth/videos/609504123621468?link_id=9&can_id=2304a48b2891e77b9b6c14d1ce535f4f&source=email-1214-national-day-of-action-to-stopline3&email_referrer=email_1384907&email_subject=1214-national-day-of-action-to-stopline3)) join an action today! ([https://actionnetwork.org/event\\_campaigns/dec-14-day-of-action-to-stop-line-3?link\\_id=10&can\\_id=2304a48b2891e77b9b6c14d1ce535f4f&source=email-1214-national-day-of-action-to-stopline3&email\\_referrer=email\\_1384907&email\\_subject=1214-national-day-of-action-to-stopline3](https://actionnetwork.org/event_campaigns/dec-14-day-of-action-to-stop-line-3?link_id=10&can_id=2304a48b2891e77b9b6c14d1ce535f4f&source=email-1214-national-day-of-action-to-stopline3&email_referrer=email_1384907&email_subject=1214-national-day-of-action-to-stopline3))

**The need for a Line 3 federal EIS has reached an emergency level. Rushed construction caused severe, ongoing permanent environmental damage. Sooner or later, tar sands oil is likely to spill and sink in these pristine waterways, poisoning the drinking water of millions. The Line 3 expansion was built using old, weathered pipes, and Enbridge lines are infamous for their accidents.**

let's make this big!

Line 3 + Gulf South = 1 Fight. Now that the expanded Line 3 is running tar sands from Alberta across Minnesota to Wisconsin, leaving three known artesian aquifer breaches and at least 28 toxic frac-outs in its path, plus countless manoomin and treaty violations and over 1,000 arrests, Enbridge has announced plans to expand onward capacity to the Texas Gulf Coast. Proposals include building a 200-mile pipeline from Houston to the Port of Corpus Christi, where the Canadian oil giant recently acquired the largest crude-exporting hub in the United States.

Referring to the Line 3 and Southern Access expansions, Enbridge CEO Al Monaco told Platts, 'Returning the line to full capacity sets us up for downstream expansion to the US Gulf Coast,' promoting 'full path access for Canadian [tar sands] to the US Gulf Coast.'

In response, Indigenous Peoples of the Coastal Bend promised 'the same resistance from tribal communities in Texas as they did with Line 3.'

Together, connected by the power and beauty of the Mighty Mississippi, we can stop the black snake from North to South, protecting the water, treaties and climate we all share. Please support today's actions, whether in person or online. Honor the Earth is pleased to be co-organizing this nationwide action day plus a special Vigil for Water this evening at the US Army Corps headquarters in DC.

Honor the Earth is pleased to be co-organizing this nationwide action day plus a special Vigil for Water this evening at the US Army Corps headquarters in DC, as well as co-hosting and livestreaming portions of Saint Paul's action starting 5pm CT!

Miigwech,  
Winona LaDuke".

"AFN BULLETIN – AFN Calls for urgent action and more equitable participation of Indigenous Peoples Following COP26: UN Climate Change Conference 2021," Assembly of First Nations, November 17, 2021, <https://www.afn.ca/afn-bulletin-afn-calls-for-urgent-action-and-more-equitable-participation-of-indigenous-peoples-following-cop26-un-climate-change-conference-2021/>, stated,

"SUMMARY:

**The AFN sent a small delegation to the 26th Conference of the Parties (COP26) for the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) taking place in Glasgow, Scotland, October 31, 2021 to November 12, 2021.**

The AFN participated in many discussions highlighting First Nations climate leadership, including through a moderated discussion, Turtle Island Climate Action: Declaring Indigenous climate emergencies, which was livestreamed from the Indigenous Peoples Pavilion on November 4, 2021.

**The AFN continues to call on the Government of Canada to include First Nations governance, laws and priorities in their climate plan.**

**The AFN urges all parties to the UNFCCC to push for full and effective participation for Indigenous Peoples in all future sessions, including COP 27 in Egypt.**

First Nations are uniquely positioned to lead efforts to protect, conserve and sustainably manage the environment. We are the first to experience the impacts of climate change and we can be first responders in this global emergency.

COP26 was an important opportunity to advance the leadership of First Nations in addressing the global climate crisis, consistent with the recent resolution: Declaring a First Nations Climate Emergency (AGA 2019), and in line with the findings of the most recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report."

**"As we emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic, priority attention must return internationally to addressing climate change, biodiversity loss, and its structural drivers in order to rebalance the relationship with all of Creation.** With record heatwaves, wildfires and floods around the world, there is no issue more pressing for all of humanity.

The AFN continues to call on the Government of Canada to include First Nations governance, laws and priorities in their climate plan. First Nations are uniquely positioned to lead efforts to protect, conserve and sustainably manage the environment due to our longstanding reciprocal relationship with all of Creation. COP26 was an important opportunity to advance the leadership of First Nations in addressing the global climate crisis, consistent with the recent resolution: Declaring a First Nations Climate Emergency (AGA 2019), and in line with the findings of the most recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report.

As we move forward in our work domestically, the AFN also urges all parties to the UNFCCC to take urgent and transformative climate action, and push for the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples. Canada is one of the few countries that offers delegation badges to organizations outside the federal government such as the AFN. Even with badges, participation in negotiation meetings is challenging, exacerbated by the health pandemic.

Representing the AFN at COP26 were Nova Scotia/Newfoundland Regional Chief Paul Prosper, Union of BC Indian Chiefs (UBCIC) Secretary-Treasurer Kukpi7 Judy Wilson, UBCIC Climate Policy Analyst Josh Kioke and AFN Senior Policy Advisor of Environment, Lands, & Water Branch Graeme Reed.

#### **Highlights included:**

Participating in the Indigenous Peoples Caucus, including the Preparatory meetings, and confirming an updated three-year workplan at the Indigenous Peoples Platform negotiation. Attending the Indigenous Clean Energy event on renewable energy leadership by Indigenous Peoples, with Regional Chief Prosper speaking on the importance of a First Nations Climate Lens

Leading a moderated discussion, Turtle Island Climate Action: Declaring Indigenous climate emergencies, which was livestreamed from the Indigenous Peoples Pavilion on November 4, 2021. Regional Chief Prosper was joined at the discussion by United Tribes of Michigan Executive Director, Frank Ettawageshik and National Congress of American Indians President, Fawn Sharp, which was moderated by Graeme Reed.

Witnessing the first-ever Annual Knowledge Keepers Gathering, which supported 28 Knowledge Keepers from all seven UN Indigenous socio-cultural regions and enabled them to address state parties.

As the AFN develops a National Climate Strategy, COP26 provided an opportunity to call on Environment and Climate Change Minister Steven Guilbeault to ensure that First Nations governance, laws and priorities breathe life into the Government of Canada's climate plan committing to "position Indigenous climate leadership as a cornerstone of a strengthened climate plan." COP26 also provided an opportunity for Regional Chief Prosper to meet with Minister Guilbeault, while sharing our priorities and seeking a commitment to continue the constructive dialogue at a domestic and international level.

#### **COP26 Priorities**

**The AFN continues to advance several priorities related to First Nations climate leadership, rooted in our resolution: Declaring a First Nations Climate Emergency (AGA 2019)**

**Our priorities at COP26 were to:**

**Amplify First Nations' and other Indigenous Peoples' voices and climate leadership on the international stage, while supporting efforts for full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples in the UNFCCC (UN Framework Convention on Climate Change); Urge Canada to re-commit to urgent and transformative climate action in line with the Chiefs-in-Assembly resolution from 2019 and to advance these priorities in the international setting and;**

**Communicate the utility of a First Nations Climate Lens to help reconceptualize the root causes driving climate change and offer reimaged Indigenous-led solutions."**

Food and Water Watch, "Tell Your Representative: Support the Future Generations Protection Act," December 24, 2021, <https://secure.foodandwateraction.org/act/tell-your->



representative-support-future-generations-protection-act?j=1374737&sfmc\_sub=6057815&l=35&mid=100001791&utm\_source=MarketingCloud&utm\_medium=email&utm\_campaign=2021-12-03\_FWA\_c4\_NAT\_Climate\_Future-Generations-Protection-Act\_Petition\_em\_GL\_C\_EP&ms=onor-em-12142021-2021-12-03\_FWA\_c4\_NAT\_Climate\_Future-Generations-Protection-Act\_Petition\_em\_GL\_C\_EP&oms=onor-em-12142021-2021-12-03\_FWA\_c4\_NAT\_Climate\_Future-Generations-Protection-Act\_Petition\_em\_GL\_C\_EP&eml\_name=2021-12-03\_FWA\_c4\_NAT\_Climate\_Future-Generations-Protection-Act\_Petition\_em\_GL\_C\_EP&eml\_id=1374737&gs=0g32HKLWvBvUTNkEGQ%2By7y25SCj1GjzZBNKTo3oC7KJaky67OIX6CyZPUyksqFuqQmfu7WV0aEpt32%2FmXiLVEXibhx%2BOD%2BrgIIhvtacPrwNJj%2BwrP2%2FNhXBjrCeNjQbo&af=kO92Otn60IZX7I%2BbjyvYfgyh9P7BuD3IGt0BcBW6roSxO9Sxtx7IgA%2BzQsVWFdItloC6qJUcwLPY72GDsoqBiR4qhumQoj1YlQjCMIqggjr6sbrHvS%2BpVUvFSNUFXrCQNfLt%2FjyWOuiD5r6ciy%2BTsNogVue42i61QvsuLjzzzXM%3D, stated, **"If we hope to avoid the worst impacts of climate change, we have to drastically cut greenhouse gases by stopping the extraction and burning of fossil fuels.**

**Yet Big Oil & Gas continues to push for ways to build dangerous new infrastructure like power plants and export facilities in order to artificially prop up its dying industry.** Its goal is to drill for every penny of profit — no matter how much greenhouse gas it spews into the atmosphere and pushes the planet toward irreversible climate change.

Representative Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) and Nanette Diaz Barragán (D-CA) have **introduced legislation that would move us toward a future without fossil fuels. The Future Generations Protection Act would ban greenhouse gas emissions from all new power plants, ban fracking, and ban crude oil, natural gas and natural gas liquids exports.**

Tell your representative to cosponsor the Future Generations Protection Act! "

Brett Wilkins, "220+ Medical Journals Unite to Demand Urgent Action on Climate Emergency, 'The greatest threat to global public health is the continued failure of world leaders to keep the global temperature rise below 1.5°C and to restore nature,' warn journals in unprecedented joint editorial," *Common Dreams*, September 6, 2021, <https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/09/06/220-medical-journals-unite-demand-urgent-action-climate-emergency>, reported, **"Asserting that humanity 'cannot wait for the pandemic to pass' before acting to rapidly reduce carbon emissions fueling the climate emergency, more than 220 health journals around the world on Sunday published an unprecedented joint editorial calling for 'urgent action to keep average global temperature increases below 1.5°C, halt the destruction of nature, and protect health.'"**

Jessica Corbett, "Over 700 Groups Demand 'Real Climate Solutions, Not Net-Zero Promise:' 'The only way to avoid climate catastrophe is to undertake... deep, systemic, and just transformations of our energy, food, transport, and industrial systems,'" *Common Dreams*, November 1, 2021, <https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/11/01/over-700-groups-demand-real-climate-solutions-not-net-zero-promises>?utm\_term=AO&utm\_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\_content=email&utm\_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\_medium=Email, reported, **"As world leaders gathered in Glasgow, Scotland on Monday for a United Nations climate summit, more than 700**

organizations from nearly 100 countries took aim at net-zero pledges 'premised on the notion of canceling out emissions in the atmosphere rather than eliminating their causes.'

'We are concerned that rich countries and polluting corporations will push ahead with 'false solutions' at COP26.'

The groups' case for 'real climate solutions, not net-zero promises' came in an open letter (<https://www.realsolutions-not-netzero.org>) to governments and international institutions arguing that 'to address the current climate emergency, we need real plans, real solutions, real finance, and real zero for an urgent, just transition.'

Net-zero schemes pushed by polluters "blithely rely on assumptions that carbon offsets, tree plantations, bioenergy, and dangerous distractions such as hydrogen and carbon capture and storage will somehow keep or take emissions out of the air after polluters have done their damage,' explains the letter. 'Unproven technologies that have repeatedly failed, have yet to be realized, and remain nonviable at scale are being imagined as supposed solutions for continued emissions.'

'We don't want to read about your promises to supposedly balance the emissions budget by mid-century, using techno-fixes, geoengineering, carbon markets, and accounting tricks,' the letter tells governments. 'We want to know what you are doing today to eliminate the major sources of emissions—fossil fuel production and use, deforestation, and industrial agriculture—which are not only warming the planet, but also poisoning frontline and fenceline communities and polluting our collective environment.'

And we want to know what you will do from now on, tomorrow, and every year to come,' the letter continues, 'to strengthen resilience, center justice, and support communities in a just and equitable transition to a fossil-free future that secures human rights, livelihoods, work, and a safe, clean, healthy, and sustainable environment for present and future generations.'

The letter contains 11 specific demands, beginning with: 'Show us your climate plans, concrete steps, and specific programs that center just transitions, human rights, racial, gender, social, economic, and environmental justice, safety and secure livelihoods for workers, Indigenous peoples, local communities, peasants, women, youth, and vulnerable groups.'

The groups urge governments to demonstrate how they will rapidly cut planet-heating emissions at source to meet the Paris climate agreement's 1.5°C temperature goal and how they will phase out polluting industries while investing in sustainable replacements.

The letter's signatories call on its targets to prove they 'recognize that there is no future for fossil fuels in a climate-safe world' and share their plans to 'protect and restore biodiverse ecosystems' as well as 'ensure real food security and food sovereignty in the face of climate threats.'

'Show us how you will support proven alternatives and practices pioneered by smallholder farmers, women, Indigenous peoples, and local communities, and respect and protect their rights,' the letter says.

Governments should also detail actions they will take to hold longtime corporate polluters accountable and make clear they 'understand that today's dominant growth-centered economic and development models are defunct,' the letter adds.

The groups are also demanding that 'countries most responsible for the historic and cumulative emissions heating our planet will do their equitable, fair share,' which includes

**providing 'climate finance that meets the scale of the climate crisis and supports mitigation, adaptation, and loss and damage—not through loans that plunge countries deeper into debt or the trickle-down of coins from speculative carbon markets.'**

**'The only way to avoid climate catastrophe,' the letter warns, 'is to undertake these kinds of deep, systemic, and just transformations of our energy, food, transport, and industrial systems.'**

Nikki Reisch, director of the Climate & Energy Program at the Center for International Environmental Law (CIEL), said in a statement Monday that "the massive global support for this call to action is proof that the people see through the ploys to put off real change and prop up polluting industries in pursuit of a distant 'net-zero.'"

CIEL was one of the initial signatories. Representatives for other groups that helped organize the letter expressed concerns about the impacts of governments' emissions reduction plans, which U.N. analyses have found are inadequate to meet the Paris goals.

Dipti Bhatnagar, climate justice and energy coordinator for Friends of the Earth International in Mozambique, said that 'we are concerned that rich countries and polluting corporations will push ahead with 'false solutions' at COP26,' referring to the summit in Scotland.

'The names and terms keep evolving, but the basic, damaging principles remain the same,' Bhatnagar added. 'They strengthen corporate power, deflect responsibility from rich historical polluters, and prevent urgent and equitable action on climate change.'

Teresa Anderson, climate policy coordinator for ActionAid International, warned that 'net-zero targets are likely to drive devastating land grabs in the Global South, threatening the rights and food security of women, smallholder farmers, and Indigenous communities.'

Four of the letter's more than two dozen initial signatories released a report last week detailing how 'on the road to COP26, corporations are using 'net-zero' to block effective climate policy and greenwash their image while maintaining business-as-usual.'

The quartet—Corporate Accountability, Corporate Europe Observatory, Friends of the Earth International, and Global Forest Coalition—specifically called out BlackRock, BP, Drax, the International Emissions Trading Association (IETA), Microsoft, and Shell.

'Big Polluters have pulled out all the stops promoting their flakey 'net-zero' plans on the road to COP26, from schmoozing decision-makers and sponsoring conferences to rubbing shoulders with the Queen of England,' said Pascoe Sabido, a researcher with Corporate Europe Observatory, in a statement last week.

'But look behind their vague ambitions and you see a chilling future of climate chaos and continued planetary destruction,' Sabido added. 'These climate criminals should have no seat at the table while they continue to try and burn it down.'

Our work is licensed under Creative Commons (CC BY-NC-ND 3.0)."

Brett Wilkins, "Letter Accusing World Leaders of Climate 'Betrayal' Signed by 1 Million People—And Growing: 'There is still time to avoid the worst consequences if we are prepared to change. It will take determined, visionary leadership. And it will take immense courage—but know that when you rise, billions will be right behind you,'" Common Dreams, November 1, 2021, [https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/11/01/letter-accusing-world-leaders-climate-betrayal-signed-1-million-people-and-growing?utm\\_term=AO&utm\\_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_content=email&utm\\_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_medium=Email](https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/11/01/letter-accusing-world-leaders-climate-betrayal-signed-1-million-people-and-growing?utm_term=AO&utm_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_content=email&utm_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_medium=Email), reported, **"As activists gathered**

**Monday outside the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Glasgow, Scotland to protest world leaders' collective failure to address the worsening planetary emergency, a petition led by four young women at the center of the fight for climate action quickly gathered over a million signatures.**

**'This is not a drill. It's code red for the Earth.'**

The open letter ([https://secure.avaaz.org/campaign/en/climate\\_action\\_now\\_loc/](https://secure.avaaz.org/campaign/en/climate_action_now_loc/)) —led by Sweden's Greta Thunberg, Dominika Lasota of Poland, Ugandan Vanessa Nakate, and Mitzi Tan of the Philippines—**called world governments' climate failures a 'betrayal.'** **As of Monday afternoon, more than 1.2 million people around the world had signed the urgent call to action."**

Stop the Money Pipeline stated in a November 1, 2021 E-mail, **"The Glasgow Climate Talks begin** today. What the world's governments agree to over the next twelve days is incredibly important — it is not hyperbole to say that the fate of humanity is on the line.

**But it isn't only governments that are responsible for the climate crisis. That's why three months ago we launched the Deadline Glasgow: Defund Climate Chaos campaign, setting the start of COP26 as a deadline for US financial institutions to pass new climate policies.** With the talks starting today, we wanted to share what we have achieved so far:

**Collectively, over the past three months we have**

**Delivered 154,000 petition signatures to branch offices around the country**

**Swamped bank executives with hundreds of thousands of emails, demanding that they phase out fossil fuel financing**

**Made more than 3,000 phone calls to CEOs offices**

**Organized nearly 8,000 customers to join the Customers for Climate Justice campaign**

**Supported nearly 200 in-person actions at bank branches, insurance offices and asset manager headquarters**

**On Friday, hundreds of youth-led activists around the world called out financial institutions for their role in the climate crisis and enabling Indigenous rights abuses.** In San Francisco, community groups painted a block-long mural outside of BlackRock's headquarters. In Seattle, hundreds enacted a die-in outside of Chase's regional HQ. On the anniversary of Hurricane Sandy, New Yorkers marched on the Federal Reserve and Citibank's global headquarters.

In addition to bringing attention to the failure of financial institutions to take action to stem their financing of fossil fuels, the youth-led day of **action also brought attention to the continued violation of Indigenous rights enabled by the "net zero" framework. Net Zero opens the door to false solutions like carbon offsets and Indigenous rights violations.**

Click here to spread the word that the **current Net Zero proposals leave the door open for fossil fuel expansion:**

[https://twitter.com/intent/tweet?text=%23COP26%20targets%20are%20meaningless%20if%20we%20don't%20abandon%20fossil%20fuels.%20%0D%0A%0D%0ANet%20Zero%20needs%20to%20mean%20no%20more%20fossil%20fuels%20and%20no%20more%20fossil%20fuel%20funding.%20Otherwise%20it's%20just%20greenwashing.%0D%0A%0D%0Ahttps%3A%2F%2Fwww.nbcnews.com%2Fscience%2Fenvironment%2Funs-cop26-climate-summit-indigenous-voices-are-calling-lip-service-rcna3453&link\\_id=0&can\\_id=2304a48b2891e77b9b6c14d1ce535f4f&source=email-deadline-passed&email\\_referrer=email\\_1342911&email\\_subject=deadline-passed.](https://twitter.com/intent/tweet?text=%23COP26%20targets%20are%20meaningless%20if%20we%20don't%20abandon%20fossil%20fuels.%20%0D%0A%0D%0ANet%20Zero%20needs%20to%20mean%20no%20more%20fossil%20fuels%20and%20no%20more%20fossil%20fuel%20funding.%20Otherwise%20it's%20just%20greenwashing.%0D%0A%0D%0Ahttps%3A%2F%2Fwww.nbcnews.com%2Fscience%2Fenvironment%2Funs-cop26-climate-summit-indigenous-voices-are-calling-lip-service-rcna3453&link_id=0&can_id=2304a48b2891e77b9b6c14d1ce535f4f&source=email-deadline-passed&email_referrer=email_1342911&email_subject=deadline-passed.)

To every one of you who has participated in the Deadline Glasgow campaign — whether you made a phone call, sent an email or took to the streets to make our demands heard — we wanted to take a moment to express our deep gratitude.

Thanks to all of you, the message to banks, insurance companies and asset managers could hardly have been clearer. Yet, unfortunately we are sorry to report that US financial institutions have failed to rise to the moment.

**We have had some wins over the last three months but only time will tell if they are more than symbolic. AXIS Capital became the first North American insurance company to commit to phasing out coverage for all coal businesses.** After hundreds of you swamped its phone lines, **Chubb publicly committed to stop insuring tar sands extraction (though we are still waiting on an official policy).** Most recently, **Chase, Wells Fargo and Goldman Sachs joined the Net Zero Banking Alliance (which still has loopholes as we covered in a recent blog post).**

Click here to **tell the founder of the Net Zero Banking Alliance, Mark Carney, and UN Special Climate Envoy John Kerry, that net zero requires Wall Street to abandon fossil fuels:**

[https://twitter.com/intent/tweet?text=It%27s%20true%20that%20banks%20wouldn%27t%20have%20joined%20the%20UN%20Net%20Zero%20Banking%20Alliance%20without%20%40Mark%20Carney%20and%20%40John%20Kerry.%0D%0A%0D%0ABut%20Net%20Zero%20needs%20to%20mean%20no%20more%20fossil%20fuels.%20Otherwise%20it%27s%20just%20greenwashing.%20%23COP26%0D%0A%0D%0Ahttps%3A%2F%2Fwww.wsj.com%2Farticles%2Fmark-carney-ex-banker-wants-banks-to-pay-for-climate-change-11635519625%20&link\\_id=3&can\\_id=2304a48b2891e77b9b6c14d1ce535f4f&source=email-deadline-passed&email\\_referrer=email\\_1342911&email\\_subject=deadline-passed](https://twitter.com/intent/tweet?text=It%27s%20true%20that%20banks%20wouldn%27t%20have%20joined%20the%20UN%20Net%20Zero%20Banking%20Alliance%20without%20%40Mark%20Carney%20and%20%40John%20Kerry.%0D%0A%0D%0ABut%20Net%20Zero%20needs%20to%20mean%20no%20more%20fossil%20fuels.%20Otherwise%20it%27s%20just%20greenwashing.%20%23COP26%0D%0A%0D%0Ahttps%3A%2F%2Fwww.wsj.com%2Farticles%2Fmark-carney-ex-banker-wants-banks-to-pay-for-climate-change-11635519625%20&link_id=3&can_id=2304a48b2891e77b9b6c14d1ce535f4f&source=email-deadline-passed&email_referrer=email_1342911&email_subject=deadline-passed)

These are important steps and without pressure from all of you, they never would have happened. But, we have to be real, we are deeply disappointed that we didn't see more progress ahead of Glasgow.

**There is still a chance that we'll see some new policies from US financial institutions during the talks,** but whatever happens in Glasgow over the next two weeks, one thing is already crystal clear: In the years ahead, we are going to need a movement more powerful than ever to hold Wall Street accountable for its torching of the planet.

Over the next two weeks, we will be sending regular digests for you with all the latest from Glasgow, including plenty of updates about all the actions our partners are hosting. Keep an eye out for those updates."

Megan Specia and Stephen Castle, "Young Activists Want Action as Protesters Rally at COP26: For many, the climate conference has inspired mixed emotions: concern that their voices were not really being listened to, but also hope that their presence would help drive change," *The New York Times*, November 5, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/11/05/world/europe/cop-protests.html>, reported **"Thousands of climate activists from across the world have descended this week on the Scottish city of Glasgow, demanding that nations gathering for a global climate conference produce real, meaningful change."**

"They have spent the week disrupting talks held by gas giants, and staging theatrical spectacles on the fringes of the international event, known as COP26. But the protests will crescendo on Friday and Saturday in two days of demonstrations expected to draw up to 100,000 people."

Jake Johnson, "Petition From 14 Youth Leaders Says UN Must 'Declare a Systemwide Climate Emergency:' 'The climate emergency—which threatens every person on the planet into the foreseeable future—is at least as serious a threat as a global pandemic and similarly requires urgent international action,'" *Common Dreams*, November 10, 2021, [https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/11/10/petition-14-youth-leaders-says-un-must-declare-systemwide-climate-emergency?utm\\_term=AO&utm\\_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_content=email&utm\\_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_medium=Email](https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/11/10/petition-14-youth-leaders-says-un-must-declare-systemwide-climate-emergency?utm_term=AO&utm_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_content=email&utm_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_medium=Email), reported, "**A group of 14 youth climate leaders including Swedish activist Greta Thunberg filed a legal petition on Wednesday imploring the United Nations to "declare a systemwide climate emergency," a push that came amid growing anger over the milquetoast pledges emerging from the COP26 summit.**

'The United Nations connects the entire world together, and we need global action on the climate crisis.'

'The climate emergency—which threatens every person on the planet into the foreseeable future—is at least as serious a threat as a global pandemic and similarly requires urgent international action,' reads the petition, which was also signed by U.S. climate activist Alexandria Villaseñor, Ridhima Pandey of India, and Ranton Anjain and Litokne Kabua of the Marshall Islands.

The petition specifically urges U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres—who for years has warned that climate change poses an 'existential threat' to humanity—and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) to deem the planetary crisis a 'Level 3 Emergency.' On its website, the IASC notes that Level 3 protocols are designed to 'activate the necessary operational capacities and resources to respond to critical humanitarian needs on the ground.'

'The countries that emit the least face the greatest risks,' the youth leaders' filing notes. "UNICEF has identified 33 countries as 'extremely high risk' for children due to threats from climate change. Those countries contain half the world's children but are collectively responsible for only 9% of CO2 emissions. The 10 highest-emitting countries account for nearly 70% of global emissions, but only one, India, is ranked as 'extremely high-risk.'"

"National Congress of American Indians' Statement on the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change's 26th Conference of the Parties," National Congress of American Indians, October 28, 2021, National Congress of American Indians, stated, "**Tribal Nations are on the frontlines of climate change and environmental degradation, which threaten our traditional ways of life and livelihoods, as well as have countless far-reaching social and economic consequences for tribal communities. Tribal leader participation in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the 26th Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow, Scotland is essential to our continued advocacy for Tribal Nations on the global level to protect our lands and resources.** In recognition of the importance of this conference, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) President Fawn Sharp is leading an Indigenous delegation to advocate on behalf of Tribal Nations at COP26. NCAI firmly believes that by upholding global obligations to Indigenous Peoples, the international community can make significant headway towards crafting solutions to our shared climate crisis.

**The upcoming COP26 comes at a critical juncture, where all nations and communities must find consensus to address one of the world's most serious crises – the climate crisis. Solutions cannot be developed without continued and increased Indigenous**

**participation and inclusion, in line with the United Nation's Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.**

Tribal Nations have a different and unique sense of land and place. Our communities are rooted in, and often dependent upon, their environment and local natural resources for cultural practices, traditions, community, food, economies, and ways of life. Our Tribal Nations are responding to sea level rise, coastal erosion, ocean acidification and salinity, increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather phenomena, altered seasonal duration, economic and health impacts, and more. We also have expertise on environmental sustainability with solutions driven by our Traditional Ecological Knowledge.

This moment demands and needs tribal leadership involved at the global level, and COP26 provides an opportunity to elevate Tribal Nations to be part of this global leadership discourse and be acknowledged with the same respect as states and special interest groups.

**NCAI recognizes the need to elevate and strengthen the voices of tribal leaders and tribal partners to coordinate, collaborate, and participate in local, national, and international climate changes strategies.** With the strong delegation and inclusion of Tribal Nations, NCAI holds high expectations for the conference, and we look forward to a productive COP26 convening."

Jessica Corbett, "Report Reveals Indigenous Resistance Disrupts Quarter of US and Canadian Emissions: 'The numbers don't lie. Indigenous peoples have long led the fight to protect Mother Earth and the only way forward is to center Indigenous knowledge and keep fossil fuels in the ground.'" *Common Dreams*, September 1, 2021, [https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/09/01/report-reveals-indigenous-resistance-disrupts-quarter-us-and-canadian-emissions?utm\\_term=AO&utm\\_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_content=email&utm\\_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_medium=Email](https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/09/01/report-reveals-indigenous-resistance-disrupts-quarter-us-and-canadian-emissions?utm_term=AO&utm_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_content=email&utm_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_medium=Email), reported, **"Indigenous resistance to fossil fuel projects in the United States and Canada over a recent decade has stopped or delayed nearly a quarter of the nations' annual planet-heating pollution, according to a report** (<https://www.ienearth.org/indigenous-resistance-against-carbon/>) released Wednesday.

**The greenhouse gas pollution for Turtle Island, the land now known to settler nation-states as North America, totaled 6.56 billion metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent in 2019—5.83 billion metric tons CO<sub>2</sub>e for the U.S. and 727.43 million metric tons CO<sub>2</sub>e for Canada.**

Indigenous Environmental Network (IEN) and Oil Change International (OCI) examined the climate effects of several contentious projects and the impact of Indigenous protests.

As the new report—entitled *Indigenous Resistance Against Carbon* (pdf: <https://www.ienearth.org/indigenous-resistance-against-carbon/>)—explains:

**'Total Indigenous resistance against these projects on Turtle Island—including ongoing struggles, victories against projects never completed, and infrastructure unfortunately in current operation—adds up to 1.8 billion metric tons CO<sub>2</sub>e, or roughly 28% the size of 2019 U.S. and Canadian pollution. Victories in infrastructure fights alone represent the carbon equivalent of 12% of annual U.S. and Canadian pollution, or 779 million metric tons CO<sub>2</sub>e. Ongoing struggles equal 12% of these nations' annual pollution, or 808 million metric tons CO<sub>2</sub>e. If these struggles prove successful, this would mean Indigenous resistance will have stopped greenhouse gas pollution equivalent to nearly one-quarter (24%) of annual total U.S. and Canadian emissions.**

**'That 24%, equaling 1.587 billion metric tons CO2e," the report notes, "is the equivalent pollution of approximately 400 new coal-fired power plants—more than are still operating in the United States and Canada—or roughly 345 million passenger vehicles—more than all vehicles on the road in these countries."**

The groups not only highlight how Indigenous resistance to polluters' projects has limited greenhouse gas emissions but also explain and emphasize the importance of tribal and Indigenous sovereignty, self-determination, and free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC).

As IEN Keep It in the Ground organizer Dallas Goldtooth put it: 'The numbers don't lie.'

'Indigenous peoples have long led the fight to protect Mother Earth,' he said Wednesday, 'and the only way forward is to center Indigenous knowledge and keep fossil fuels in the ground.'

The new report says at the outset that it 'seeks to uplift the work of countless tribal nations, Indigenous water protectors, land defenders, pipeline fighters, and many other grassroots formations who have dedicated their lives to defending the sacredness of Mother Earth and protecting their inherent rights of Indigenous sovereignty and self-determination.'

**The report also draws attention to the criminalization of Indigenous land and water defenders, stating that "the fight against the Dakota Access Pipeline is a notable example of these threats—what happened in Standing Rock should not be seen as an anomalous incident, but rather a disturbing commonality across Indigenous resistance efforts worldwide.'**

**DAPL, as the oil pipeline is known, is among several projects included in the report. Other fights include fossil fuel development in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, fracked gas pipelines like Coastal GasLink and Mountain Valley, and tar sands projects like Trans Mountain and Line 3—which opponents are calling on President Joe Biden to block like he did the Keystone XL Pipeline shortly after taking office in January.**

'This report is predicated on a simple fact: The world is delving deeper into climate chaos, and we must change course,' according to IEN and OCI. 'In parallel to the severe threats Mother Earth is facing from climate change, the rights, well-being, and survival of Indigenous peoples throughout the world are at grave risk due to the same extractive industries driving the climate crisis.'

'The United States and Canada must recognize their duty to consult and obtain consent from Indigenous peoples for all projects proposed on Indigenous lands,' the report says. 'In parallel, these settler nation-state governments must recognize that the fossil fuel era is rapidly coming to a close.'

Echoing scientists' and energy industry experts' increasingly urgent warnings, the report recognizes the 'monumental challenge' of phasing out existing fossil fuel infrastructure and declares that 'our climate cannot afford new oil, gas, or coal projects of any kind.'

OCI U.S. campaign manager Collin Rees said Wednesday that 'Indigenous communities resisting oil, gas, and coal projects across their territory are demonstrating true climate leadership.'

'Brave resistance efforts by Indigenous land and water defenders have kept billions of tons of carbon in the ground,' he added, "showing that respecting and honoring the wisdom and sovereignty of Indigenous peoples is a key solution to the climate crisis."

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Jessica Corbett, "Global Religious Leaders, Scientists Issue Joint Call for 'Radical' Climate Action, 'It's really quite unprecedented, isn't it, for so many faith leaders to come



together in this way," *Common Dreams*, October 4, 2021, [https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/10/04/global-religious-leaders-scientists-issue-joint-call-radical-climate-action?utm\\_term=AO&utm\\_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_content=email&utm\\_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_medium=Email](https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/10/04/global-religious-leaders-scientists-issue-joint-call-radical-climate-action?utm_term=AO&utm_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_content=email&utm_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_medium=Email), reported, **"Dozens of religious leaders and scientists came together in Vatican City on Monday to demand 'urgent, radical, and responsible action' to address the climate emergency and related challenges that threaten humanity and 'life on our beautiful common home.'**

'We have inherited a garden: We must not leave a desert to our children.'  
—Joint appeal

**The interfaith climate meeting, hosted by the Catholic leader Pope Francis, included representatives from Buddhism, Christian denominations, Confucianism, Hinduism, Jainism, Judaism, Shi'a and Sunni Islam, Sikhism, Taoism, and Zoroastrianism."**

"President Biden: Build Back Fossil Free," Indigenous Environmental Network, E-mail, September 7, 2021, stated, "Relatives,

**Fossil fuel pollution and climate disasters are already disrupting millions of lives. We deserve a world beyond fossil fuels: a world in which workers' rights, community health, and our shared climate come before corporate profits.**

**That's why frontline black, brown and indigenous leaders are calling us to action at the White House this October to demand President Biden pick a side: People vs fossil fuels.**

Can you join the call on Thursday, September 9, to learn more about People vs Fossil Fuels?

Here's an excerpt from the call to action from frontline leaders:

*'We are asking you to stand with us. As representatives of communities who have carried the brunt of the harm from fossil fuels for generations, we ask you to join us in solidarity—and risk arrest—in Washington DC, October 11-15, 2021, as part of Build Back Fossil Free's People vs Fossil Fuels Week of Action.*

...

*If you have ever marched, rallied, called your representatives, lobbied, signed petitions to urge governmental leaders to act — we call on you to take the next step. Nonviolent civil disobedience is a time-tested tactic for change. If we all come together, put our bodies on the line in the name of climate justice, we may be able to change the course of history.'*

Indigenous people, pipeline fighters, water protectors, young people, scientists, faith leaders, and more are saying enough is enough: it's time to finally place people over fossil fuels.

This October, thousands of people will come to DC to demand that President Biden end the fossil fuel era. He must stop approving fossil fuel projects and declare a climate emergency right now, ahead of the United Nations climate summit in November.

Join the kick off call September 9 and find out how we're going to take action over 5 days to highlight the damage done by fossil fuels, the climate impacts we are already facing, and the need for real solutions rooted in justice ([https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_du8A-E-RUyeNCmc2hoKTA](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_du8A-E-RUyeNCmc2hoKTA))."

"#TotalKnew: cut them off," 350.org, October 26, 2021, [https://act.350.org/sign/listr\\_ms\\_350\\_other98\\_202110\\_EA\\_total/?source=listr-ads-ms\\_350\\_20211022-EA-other98-](https://act.350.org/sign/listr_ms_350_other98_202110_EA_total/?source=listr-ads-ms_350_20211022-EA-other98-)

total\_listr\_em001&link\_id=2&can\_id=77b09df18c25582be779f2e209efa4cc&email\_referrer=email\_1336100&email\_subject=50-years-of-climate-denial, stated, **"The oil giant knew their core business was causing global warming almost 50 years ago. They covered up the truth, funded misinformation, lied to their shareholders and the public. They made profit from pollution.**

**Total's fossil fuel business depends on money they get from banks. We demand that commercial banks who finance Total and its projects stop immediately. From across the world we call on banks: cut Total off."**

The Indigenous Environmental Network stated in an October 14, 2021 E-mail, **Contact:** Jennifer K. Falcon, Indigenous Environmental Network, 303-242-1119 jennifer@ienearth.org, Jamie Henn, jamie@fossilfree.media, 415-601-9337, stated, **"Frontline Indigenous Leaders Occupy the Bureau of Indian Affairs in D.C. for the First Time Since the 1970's, "Frontline Indigenous leaders from various fossil fuel fights from across Turtle Island have occupied the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Washington D.C. for the first time since the 1970's. On March 16th, 1970, the first occupation of a Bureau of Indian Affairs office happened in Littleton, Colorado and led to the Indian Hiring Preference and set off a chain of occupations that ended in Washington D.C. in 1972.**

**For the last week, there has been a historic surge of Indigenous resistance in the D.C. area starting on Monday, Indigenous Peoples' Day, where 'Expect Us' was written on the Andrew Jackson statue outside of the White House ahead of 130 Indigenous leaders and allies being arrested outside of the White House on Indigenous Peoples' Day. Despite a proclamation declaring October 11th Indigenous Peoples' Day, Indigenous leaders were met with police violence and Irad was used on Indigenous matriarchs and youth being arrested on the White House fence.**

**This was followed on Tuesday by two Water Protectors demanding Biden Stop Line 3 climbing the flagpole outside the Army Corp North Atlantic Division Office, replacing it with a 'Free Informed and Prior Consent' flag that read 'Consultation is not Consent.'**

The Indigenous leaders issued this statement:

***We will no longer allow the U.S. government to separate us from our relationship to the sacred knowledge of Mother Earth and all who depend on her. Her songs have no end, so we must continue the unfinished work of our ancestors who have walked on before us. Because of colonization, our mission has been passed on generation after generation- to protect the sacred. Just as those who walked before us, we continue their song and rise for our youth, for the land, and for the water. Politicians do not take care of us. Presidents will break their promises but Mother Earth has always given us what we need to thrive. We will not back down until our natural balance is restored.***

***For the land, for our waters, for our future-- we must fight now so our young will thrive.***

***You can arrest us, tear gas us, poison us but there will always be more hearts to continue the song until we are all free.***

***Another world is possible.***

***Our demands for the President of the United States are:***

***-Abolition of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.***

***-Restoration of 110 million acres (450,000 km<sup>2</sup>) of land taken away from Native Nations***

***--Bring Home Our Children Buried At Your Residential Schools***

- Restoration of treaty-making (ended by Congress in 1871).*
- Establishment of a treaty commission to make new treaties (with sovereign Native Nations).*
- Land Back*
- Water Back*
- Honor the Treaties*
- No new leases for oil and gas or extractive industry on public lands*
- Free, Prior, and Informed Consent*
- Reclaim and affirm health, housing, employment, economic development, and education for all Indigenous people.*
- Restoration of terminated rights.*
- Repeal of state jurisdiction on Native Nations.*
- Federal protection for offenses against Indians."*

Jessica Corbett, "Critics Warn Biden That 30% Methane Reduction by 2030 Not Good Enough: Following the new U.S.-E.U. pledge, climate campaigners called for an urgent end to fossil fuel extraction and major reforms of agricultural practices." *Common Dreams*, September 17, 2021, [https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/09/17/critics-warn-biden-30-methane-reduction-2030-not-good-enough?utm\\_term=AO&utm\\_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_content=email&utm\\_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_medium=Email](https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/09/17/critics-warn-biden-30-methane-reduction-2030-not-good-enough?utm_term=AO&utm_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_content=email&utm_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_medium=Email), reported, **"Advocates of addressing the root causes of the global climate emergency on Friday called the United States and European Union's new pledge to reduce methane emissions at least 30% by 2030 a step in the right direction but still lacking in both necessary ambition and specifics.**

**'Instead of merely pledging to do better, governments around the world must put an end to the drilling and fracking that is fueling the climate emergency.'**

— Wenonah Hauter, Food & Water Watch

**'While it is encouraging to see governments' pledge to take serious action, the emissions target should be much stronger,'** said Food & Water Watch executive director Wenonah Hauter in a statement. **'We know that more aggressive cuts in methane are well within reach over the next decade, and are necessary in order to deal with the climate crisis.'**

The Climate Reality Project stated in a September 12, 2021 E-mail, "Tonight, we come together and raise our voices for change.

**The stakes are clear, Stephen. Relentless heatwaves baking the West. Droughts drying out rivers and reservoirs. Hurricanes and floods in the south and east. Wildfires that never seem to end. And scientists warning it only gets worse unless we act now.**

**It's time for Congress to go big on climate action in the upcoming budget bill.**

**Join me tonight (September 12) from 7-8 PM ET/4-5 PM PT for an #OurClimateMoment Tweetstorm.** Because the science is clear: The climate crisis is devastating the Earth and we must act now to prevent lasting and catastrophic changes to the planet.

What is a "Tweetstorm?" And how do I participate?:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?utm\\_campaign=ocm&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=advocacy&utm\\_content=OCM-twitterstorm-email-2&ms=OCMtwitterstormEmail20921&emci=88cf0308-e210-ec11-981f-501ac57ba3ed&emdi=ff09c0aa-f313-ec11-981f-](https://www.youtube.com/watch?utm_campaign=ocm&utm_medium=email&utm_source=advocacy&utm_content=OCM-twitterstorm-email-2&ms=OCMtwitterstormEmail20921&emci=88cf0308-e210-ec11-981f-501ac57ba3ed&emdi=ff09c0aa-f313-ec11-981f-)

501ac57ba3ed&ceid=1558756&v=WiPFtFHZTxs&feature=youtu.be. This social media toolkit ([https://thesocialpresskit.com/climatereality?utm\\_campaign=ocm&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=advocacy&utm\\_content=OCM-twitterstorm-email-2&ms=OCMtwitterstormEmail20921&emci=88cf0308-e210-ec11-981f-501ac57ba3ed&emdi=ff09c0aa-f313-ec11-981f-501ac57ba3ed&ceid=1558756](https://thesocialpresskit.com/climatereality?utm_campaign=ocm&utm_medium=email&utm_source=advocacy&utm_content=OCM-twitterstorm-email-2&ms=OCMtwitterstormEmail20921&emci=88cf0308-e210-ec11-981f-501ac57ba3ed&emdi=ff09c0aa-f313-ec11-981f-501ac57ba3ed&ceid=1558756)) also has guidance on how you can tweet at your members of Congress. Let them know that this may be our last window to pass the big, bold legislation we need to cut emissions quickly enough to help stop irreversible and devastating climate change. Be sure to use #OurClimateMoment and #ActOnClimate in your tweets and follow @ClimateReality on Twitter!"

"Day of Action: Pass the Build Back Better Act," Sierra Club E-mail, September 29, 2021, stated, "**We're closer than ever to securing the biggest climate, economic, and social justice legislation in a generation.** But with a **key House vote looming** as soon as tomorrow it's facing a ton of push back from corporate lobbyists, the fossil fuel industry, and 'moderates' in Congress who want to shrink this transformative bill or block it all together.

**The Build Back Better Act includes transitioning our country to 100% renewable energy, creating millions of good green jobs, paid parental leave, replacing all lead pipes, funding for public transit and education, a Civilian Climate Corps, restoring protections for the Arctic Refuge, and much more.** These programs are supported by voters across political parties, and are the kind of investments our communities need during these times of interconnected crises.

**To get it over the finish line, we're holding a National Day of Action TODAY** to make sure Congress hears from us loud and clear that we need them to pass President Biden's transformational Build Back Better Act ahead of the smaller, inadequate bipartisan infrastructure bill.

Check out our toolkit for sample graphics and captions, or use the links below to quickly share our posts with your networks (<https://www.sierraclub.org/its-time-pass-build-back-better-act>)."

For more information go to: <https://www.sierraclub.org/2021-Fed-Organizing>.

New Mexico 350.org stated, July 8, 2021, <https://www.facebook.com/events/1780633842123333> "**Jul 19 Protest Wells Fargo Funding Line 3**

Public · Hosted by 350 New Mexico  
200 Lomas Blvd NE, Albuquerque, NM 87102, United States

#### **Details**

Join 350NM for a protest at one of two Wells Fargo locations to protest their funding of the tar sands Line 3 pipeline from Canada through treaty-protected lands of northern Minnesota to Superior, Wisconsin. Let's demand that Wells Fargo stop funding climate destruction!

What: Protest Wells Fargo's funding of the tar sands Line 3 pipeline

When: Monday July 19, 2021, 11:00 am

Where: Wells Fargo Bank: Two branches

-1027 Main St SE, Los Lunas

-200 Lomas Blvd NW, Albuquerque

Bring a sign if you can. We will have some extras available.

Line 3 is a tar sands pipeline currently under construction through northern

Minnesota - violating treaty rights, risking over 200 bodies of water with the threat of an oil spill, and reversing our progress on climate change with a carbon equivalent of 50 coal-fired power plants.

Learn more:

<https://www.stopline3.org>

<https://stopthemoneypipeline.com>

<https://mn350.org/campaigns/stop-line-3-pipeline/>."

"It's more clear now than ever: Biden must Stop Line 3," StopLine3.org, E-mail, August 11, 2021, stated, **"Hundreds of top scientists say the most drastic effects of global warming can be staved off by global elimination of fossil fuels, according to a dire report on climate change published by the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). UN Secretary-General António Guterres described the report as a 'code red for humanity.'**

**Climate change is real, the dangers are imminent, and our future will be catastrophic if we don't act swiftly and stand together against Line 3.**

**Line 3 traverses sacred Ojibwe homelands and violates multiple treaties that reserve Indigenous rights to hunt, fish, and gather along the route. If completed, the 337-mile pipeline will cross more than 200 bodies of water, including the Mississippi river twice. It will double the flow of the pipeline up to 760,000 barrels of some of the dirtiest oil in the world - tar sand crude oil - per day. With emissions equal to nearly 50 coal power plants, Line 3's carbon footprint would exceed the entire state of Minnesota's.**

The battle against Line 3 isn't over. We're at a turning point. As Enbridge pushes forward with construction, Indigenous-led water protectors and allies are continuing the fight and we need you.

Last week, over 200 artists, activists, and donors wrote a letter to President Biden asking him to Stop Line 3. Since then, over 20,000 people have done the same.

Will you join them in answering the "code red" and help us in protecting our water and our communities?

Start by taking these two actions:

Tell Joe Biden to Stop Line 3

Tell Jaime Pinkham to Stop Line 3 [Army Corps of Engineers]"

Winona LaDuke, Honoring the Earth wrote in an E-mail, October 10, 2021, "First things first -- **if you haven't signed the petition asking President Biden to stop the Line 3 pipeline, sign the petition today. If you've already signed it, ask your friends to join you.**

**We're delivering this petition to the White House next week, alongside our partners in this fight -- about one million people have already put their names to paper, but we want to make as big a statement as possible, and time is short.** After seven years of resistance from Indigenous communities and climate activists, Enbridge Energy announced last Friday that they are beginning to send oil through the pipeline. The completion of the Line 3 tar sands pipeline can still be stopped by the White House, but Enbridge's expanded tar sands pipeline is getting close to becoming fully operational -- the clock is ticking.

**We are already seeing environmental harm done by Line 3. Untreated wastewater and chemicals are seeping out from the land where the pipeline's construction went underneath the Clearwater river.** And the public just recently learned that, back in January,

**Enbridge breached an aquifer in rural Minnesota -- but rather than tell state regulators or environmental monitors about the breach, they just kept building.**

This isn't the end, though. Even if our state officials won't do their jobs, the completion of the Line 3 tar sands pipeline can still be stopped by the White House. In granting pipeline permits to Enbridge, President Biden's predecessor failed to complete an Environmental Impact Statement -- in other words, he declared that the federal government will approve the pipeline's construction without considering the environmental harms it will cause.

**President Biden can and should demand a full Environmental Impact Statement, for the sake of our land, water and climate. Starting on Monday, thousands of people will participate in the People vs. Fossil Fuels week action in Washington D.C. to demand that President Biden bring the era of fossil fuel extraction to an end.** More that a hundred water protectors from Minnesota are traveling to Washington D.C. to take part. On Tuesday, October 12th, we'll deliver the final petition demanding a full Environmental Impact Statement at the headquarters of Biden's Army Corp of Engineers--the agency that has the power to stop Line 3.

Please make the most of this time we have -- sign this petition, and share with your friends as well:

Sign the Petition ([https://www.stopline3.org/take-action?link\\_id=8&can\\_id=2304a48b2891e77b9b6c14d1ce535f4f&source=email-will-you-tell-joe-biden-to-stopline3&email\\_referrer=email\\_1318325&email\\_subject=will-you-tell-joe-biden-to-stopline3](https://www.stopline3.org/take-action?link_id=8&can_id=2304a48b2891e77b9b6c14d1ce535f4f&source=email-will-you-tell-joe-biden-to-stopline3&email_referrer=email_1318325&email_subject=will-you-tell-joe-biden-to-stopline3))

Want to Do More? Help water protectors travel to Washington, D.C.

Please donate whatever you can to help water protectors travel to the People versus Fossil Fuels week of action.

**Join Camp Firelight.**

**Our partners in the Rise Coalition re-launched Camp Firelight near the Clearwater River in Bagley, Minnesota--the area where Enbridge has damaged an aquifer and still not cleaned up their mess.** If you are able and willing to show in person at the camp, google 'Airport Road East of Bagley, MN' for directions. For more information visit the call to action on the Rise Coalition page. It's not too late to stop the Line 3 pipeline, and anything we can do to slow this construction helps keep the window open for President Biden to stop the pipeline once and for all."

Taysha Martineau, Camp Migizi, Via the Lakota People's Law Project, E-mail, August 12, 2021, stated, **"Right now, we're in a precarious moment. Even as drilling across major waterways is near complete, several more crossings remain — and it's no stretch to say this has been a messy, disturbing process. Two days ago, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency announced an investigation into 28 separate releases of toxic drilling fluid at 12 river crossings along Line 3.** Of course, we water protectors are well aware of these 'frac-outs' — and we're also aware that Enbridge has unsuccessfully attempted to underreport them.

Sadly, the U.S. government is letting a Canadian tar sands company perpetrate these evils on our homelands at the very same time that the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has issued its first major report in nearly a decade. This devastating critique of humanity's responsibility for the climate emergency means we can and we must do better. That's why we're here. In addition to defending our own homelands, we're trying to protect the Earth for generations to come.

**We're not going to slow down. Just yesterday, water protectors halted two work sites for long stretches, and at Shell River, a side boom and two excavators were put on hold by protesters. Next, water protectors are organizing a live streamed benefit concert — headlined by Bon Iver — at Bayfront Festival Park in Duluth, MN on Wednesday, Aug. 18. People inspired by the concert and this movement will join a Camp Migizi-led march the following day to the Army Corps of Engineers offices in Duluth.**

We hope you can join us, either on the ground or online, for any of these actions. We need to stay strong and vigilant. **Police protecting Line 3 are guilty of gross human rights violations, including the use of gas and rubber bullets, and Enbridge is hoping everyone will keep looking the other way as its construction crews spill toxic chemicals around the headwaters of the Mississippi.** The stakes are high, and time is short, but we can still make a difference!

Miigwech —thank you for standing with us against Line 3."

The Indigenous Environmental Network stated in a September 29, 2021 E-mail, **"Indigenous Environmental Network Statement on Enbridge's Line 3 Completion of Work," "It's with a heavy heart we receive the news that the U.S. has tragically failed once again to honor our treaties and protect the water that sustains all life on Mother Earth. The Line 3 fight is far from over, it has just shifted gears. Do not think we are going quietly into the night, we will continue to stand on the frontlines until every last tar sands pipeline is shut down and Indigenous communities are no longer targeted but our right to consent or denial is respected.**

Although Enbridge is pushing the message that the Line 3 is a done deal and that they have followed all the rules and regulations- **we see even at this late date the continuing harm to our lands and waters.** There have been spills, frac-outs and pierced aquifers even to this day. **They are spilling millions of gallons of polluted water directly into our forests and waterways.** This is far from over.

`We promise to continue to show up each time even stronger with new voices and hearts ready to lead.

**From the belly of the beast north of the medicine line to rice beds that sustain the life-ways of the Anishinaabe all the way down to our relatives impacted in the Bayous-- we will continue to fight for the natural and spiritual knowledge of the Earth. We will continue to fight and take care of one another and our Mother because she has always taken care of us.**

**Respect us, or expect us."**

For more information go to: <https://www.ienearth.org>.

Brett Wilkins, "Climate Activists Target Banks' Greenwashing in Nationwide #DefundLine3 Protests: 'Banks are continuing to fund massive new oil pipelines like Line 3 that would lock in vast amounts of climate pollution for decades. Even worse, they are disguising their loans as 'sustainability' measures,'" *Common Dreams*, August 13, 2021, [https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/08/13/climate-activists-target-banks-greenwashing-nationwide-defundline3-protests?utm\\_term=AO&utm\\_campaign=Weekly%20Newsletter&utm\\_content=email&utm\\_source=Weekly%20Newsletter&utm\\_medium=Email](https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/08/13/climate-activists-target-banks-greenwashing-nationwide-defundline3-protests?utm_term=AO&utm_campaign=Weekly%20Newsletter&utm_content=email&utm_source=Weekly%20Newsletter&utm_medium=Email), reported, **"In the wake of this week's publication of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report underscoring**

the imperative to quickly transition to a post-fossil fuel economy, activists in dozens of cities across the U.S. on Friday rallied outside the offices of major banks to denounce their funding of polluting projects including Enbridge's Line 3 tar sands pipeline.

The activists targeted companies including BlackRock, JPMorgan Chase, and Liberty Mutual, which invest in, fund, and insure fossil fuel industry projects like Line 3.

'On Monday, the IPCC released its first comprehensive study on the climate crisis since 2013. Hundreds of climate scientists collaborated on the report, synthesizing the findings of more than 14,000 studies, **'Stop the Money Pipeline—a coalition of over 150 groups whose mission is "holding the financial backers of climate chaos accountable" —said in a statement.**

**'The conclusions were clear: We must immediately phase out fossil fuels,'** the group continued. **'The United Nations Secretary-General, António Guterres, summed it up: 'This report must sound a death knell for coal and fossil fuels, before they destroy our planet.'** Yet, **Wall Street banks are continuing to fund massive new oil pipelines like Line 3 that would lock in vast amounts of climate pollution for decades. Even worse, they are disguising their loans as 'sustainability' measures."**

'You can't build pipelines and be sustainable,' Stop the Money Pipeline said in a tweet decrying greenwashing by JPMorgan Chase, which provided \$1.5 billion in so-called "sustainability" loans to Enbridge.

**'Sustainability-linked loans sound good, but when you look more closely you'll see they're close to meaningless,'** Stop the Money Pipeline explained. **'Enbridge's 'sustainability' loans reward the company for reducing emissions from its buildings and vehicles, but do nothing to address the oil that flows through its pipelines and is responsible for 99% of its climate pollution.'**

'In other words,' the group said, 'according to Wall Street, so long as Enbridge uses electric vehicles and solar power to build their oil pipelines, that's fine.'

Jackie Fielder, communications director for the Stop the Money Pipeline coalition, told Common Dreams that **'we're taking action to call out banks for supporting Enbridge's greenwashed 'sustainability bonds'** while the Canadian-based oil company reimburses police for violent crackdowns on unarmed water protectors. These banks are now complicit in human rights abuses.'

As Giniw Collective co-founder Tara Houska explained earlier this month:

'Police officers are reimbursed for any costs associated with Enbridge Line 3 protests, and it seems like they welcome the opportunity. One police officer was actually grinning and smiling and said he had a great time and couldn't wait for us to come again. They've billed over \$1.7 million to the Public Safety Escrow Trust, in which Enbridge is dumping millions of dollars to incentivize and encourage police officers to repress, suppress, surveil, and harass Indigenous people and our allies that are helping us try to stop this pipeline from happening in our treaty territory.'

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission required the trust to reimburse law enforcement when approving the project in 2018.

**If built according to plan, Line 3 will carry up to 760,000 barrels of crude tar sands oil—the world's dirtiest fuel—each day from Alberta to a port in Wisconsin. The pipeline would traverse Anishinaabe treaty land without the consent of the Indigenous peoples who live there. Line 3's route would cross more than 200 bodies of water and 800 wetlands, raising serious concerns not only about its climate impact, but also about accidents and leaks that are endemic to pipelines.**



**State and local law enforcement officers have violently repressed #StopLine3 demonstrations in northern Minnesota while arresting hundreds of water protectors in recent months.**

**Meanwhile, Indigenous and green groups continue to pressure the Biden administration to honor Native American treaties and protect the environment and climate by stopping the toxic project like President Joe Biden canceled the permit for the highly controversial Keystone XL Pipeline in January.**

Our work is licensed under Creative Commons (CC BY-NC-ND 3.0)."

The Water Protectors stated in a September 1, 2021 E-mail: **"Something beautiful and powerful happened last Wednesday. An estimated 2,000 water protectors gathered outside the Minnesota State Capitol in St. Paul, to demonstrate against the Line 3 tar sands pipeline. Indigenous leaders, local community organizers, and state elected officials all spoke out on the need to stop Line 3.**

Wednesday's rally began with the arrival of the Treaty People Walk for Water - a group of people who walked 250 miles over 19 days, from the pipeline cross at the Mississippi River headwaters to the Capitol. In the final miles of their walk, they were joined by hundreds more in support.

The rally ended with organizers reading a statement of demands criticizing Minnesota Governor Tim Walz's support of the pipeline and militarization of police in its defense.

On Saturday, water protectors took action at the Governor's email

Governor Walz has not responded to the demonstrators. And **hundreds of people have continued to peacefully hold space and conduct ceremony at the White House.**

**If Governor Walz won't act, it's up to President Biden. Will you call the White House today to ask the President to stop construction of the Line 3 pipeline?**

**Action is taking place all over the country. After rallying at the White House and at the Army Corps of Engineers HQ, people took action by demonstrating at the home of White House Chief of Staff Ronald Klain.** Two dozen were arrested for this peaceful demonstration, but a clear signal has been sent: We are deeply committed to stopping this pipeline, and we will not be ignored. In cities all over the U.S., people held their own actions in solidarity. We want to highlight an event in Washington, D.C., where allies in both houses of Congress just sent a letter to the White House asking President Biden to revoke Line 3's permit:

Water protectors continue to resist on the frontlines -- in the face of increased police activity, the Giniw Collective blocked a Line 3 pump station, impeding construction and operation. Their courage is an inspiration, and we owe them our urgency. To learn about joining the frontline resistance camps visit [www.stopline3.org/hub](http://www.stopline3.org/hub).

In a recent filing from Enbridge, the oil company claimed that they believe they can have the pipeline operational and pulling tar sands across Ashininaabe land 'as soon as mid-September.' They may be bluffing on the exact date, but we don't have the luxury of time.

We need leadership that is willing to honor our treaties, our earth, and our climate, and will act with bravery and love. We need President Biden to revoke Enbridge's Line 3 permit.

Call the White House today to let him know ([https://weprotectthewater.org/call?ss\\_source=sscampaigns&ss\\_campaign\\_id=612d19e7799ebd5a93bc3071&ss\\_email\\_id=612fd08d64a20447844b8342&ss\\_campaign\\_name=Something+beautiful+and+powerful+happened&ss\\_campaign\\_sent\\_date=2021-09-01T19%3A12%3A50Z](https://weprotectthewater.org/call?ss_source=sscampaigns&ss_campaign_id=612d19e7799ebd5a93bc3071&ss_email_id=612fd08d64a20447844b8342&ss_campaign_name=Something+beautiful+and+powerful+happened&ss_campaign_sent_date=2021-09-01T19%3A12%3A50Z)).

In solidarity,

The Stop Line 3 Team."

"The fight continues to Stop Line 3!" Stop Line 3 via the Action Team, December 3, 2021, [https://actionnetwork.org/event\\_campaigns/dec-14-day-of-action-to-stop-line-3?link\\_id=0&can\\_id=2304a48b2891e77b9b6c14d1ce535f4f&source=email-national-day-of-action-stopline3&email\\_referrer=email\\_1375132&email\\_subject=national-day-of-action-stopline3](https://actionnetwork.org/event_campaigns/dec-14-day-of-action-to-stop-line-3?link_id=0&can_id=2304a48b2891e77b9b6c14d1ce535f4f&source=email-national-day-of-action-stopline3&email_referrer=email_1375132&email_subject=national-day-of-action-stopline3), stated, **"December 14th marks the anniversary of the first large-scale arrest of water protectors taking nonviolent direct action to Stop Line 3. One year and over 1,000 arrests later, Enbridge is also facing criminal prosecution. Rushed construction pierced at least one artesian aquifer and caused dozens of frac-out spills, damaging waters and wetlands. Yet the pipeline is now running tar sands oil. This cannot be allowed to continue. On December 14th, we are holding a national Stop Line 3 Day of Action – can you join us?"**

Sign up to join or create an action!

**The need for the Army Corps of Engineers to order a federal Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) has reached an emergency level.** Why an EIS? Frac-out. Aquifer breach, frac-outs. As water protectors warned, there is severe, permanent, ongoing environmental damage.

**Enbridge has already been fined \$3.32 million for failure to follow environmental laws and the case referred by the state for criminal prosecution. Millions of gallons of artesian water are being lost, while spilled drill-fluid contaminants are moving downstream, polluting everything in their path. Sooner or later, tar sands oil is likely to spill and sink in these pristine waterways, poisoning the drinking water of millions.**

Check out the toolkit to learn how to take action on December 14th!

**Violating Anishinaabe treaty territories in Minnesota, the new stretch of Line 3 was approved without full informed consent.** It carries the carbon emissions equivalent of 50 new coal-fired plants in a time of 'code red' climate emergency.

**Moreover, Enbridge cannot obtain the required \$200 million in 'environmental impairment liability' insurance and has not established the promised Decommissioning Trust Fund.**

**Enbridge is the Canadian pipeline company responsible for the largest inland oil spill in US history. Enbridge pipelines had more than 800 spills in the US and Canada between 1999 and 2010, leaking 6.8 million gallons of oil.**

Before the Line 3 emergency becomes catastrophic, we come together on December 14th to call on the Army Corps of Engineers to order a federal EIS. Please join us."

Chase Iron Eyes, Co-Director and Lead Counsel, via the Lakota People's Law Project, stated in an August 24, 2021 E-mail, **"Today, water protectors from Standing Rock are still being prosecuted, and — in the troubling cases of Ruby Montoya and Jessica Reznicek — they're still being labeled as terrorists. Because we cannot allow this dangerous precedent to be used against more people who care for our Grandmother Earth, we're going to help defend Ruby. Our struggle against the Dakota Access pipeline (DAPL) didn't end at Standing Rock in 2017, and it won't be over until every water protector in the crosshairs of the criminal justice system is liberated.**

In 2017, Ruby and Jessica engaged in a direct action that damaged an empty section of DAPL's pipe. Jessica was recently found guilty, given a "terrorism enhancement," and sentenced to eight years in prison. Ruby's fate now hangs in the balance as her trial approaches. With

litigation support from Lakota Law and the National Lawyers Guild, Ruby is going to fight. Her next hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, Sept. 1.

As Ruby says in this new video produced by our team ([https://lakotalaw.org/resources/chase-ruby-interview?ms=ea&utm\\_source=ea&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=rmha&utm\\_content=t\\_extlink&sourceid=1048724&contactdata=7DrBL%2bGt3OC8MR3XNo2tDZCpeyYA5i0YgCgRMbESeunQwdL2ePqoHjJIhslf3Fcu4P0ObKU0TzzEu9Vu%2bcAJRuhhTGtqsjGLPt76bAIWgiEAhn%2bBiI7xWLGcb59Nas7XrNT6RwvUfnanHB5ipmI99wBIAQ5ilw1wDyvk25hyh%2fl2sLCcJVoeKfZ7W47dKQIBbQbhRPhkR9f0NZeMMuP%2fB6tKq6aO6Gdvsh797c1ROVhE5NxyqdxHrczRxxXKiZ&emci=4f2fc748-1005-ec11-b563-501ac57b8fa7&emdi=c6854120-3105-ec11-b563-501ac57b8fa7&ceid=2626553](https://lakotalaw.org/resources/chase-ruby-interview?ms=ea&utm_source=ea&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=rmha&utm_content=t_extlink&sourceid=1048724&contactdata=7DrBL%2bGt3OC8MR3XNo2tDZCpeyYA5i0YgCgRMbESeunQwdL2ePqoHjJIhslf3Fcu4P0ObKU0TzzEu9Vu%2bcAJRuhhTGtqsjGLPt76bAIWgiEAhn%2bBiI7xWLGcb59Nas7XrNT6RwvUfnanHB5ipmI99wBIAQ5ilw1wDyvk25hyh%2fl2sLCcJVoeKfZ7W47dKQIBbQbhRPhkR9f0NZeMMuP%2fB6tKq6aO6Gdvsh797c1ROVhE5NxyqdxHrczRxxXKiZ&emci=4f2fc748-1005-ec11-b563-501ac57b8fa7&emdi=c6854120-3105-ec11-b563-501ac57b8fa7&ceid=2626553)), humanity is going through a reckoning. In the future, no one will fondly remember the names of corporations that represented the status quo; instead, many people will only wish they had fought harder to protect life on this planet. Nobody who takes a stand to stop extractive destruction should ever be charged with a felony, much less be labeled a terrorist.

Ruby told me that Jessica has never even held a weapon in her hands, and at one point she was considering entering a monastery. And Ruby is a Waldorf School teacher, who vividly remembers kids in her classes crying and losing sleep because Australia and the Amazon were on fire. Ruby's resistance, like my own back in 2017 that earned me a felony charge, has been motivated only by a desire to give the next generations a destiny they can believe in.

Nothing any of us did comes close to a level of governmental coercion necessary to justify a terrorism enhancement. It's fallacious to suggest we have that type of power. If the government is being coerced by anyone, it's the fossil fuel barons who buy politicians to protect their profits. Ruby was invited by an Indigenous community to protect water and help safeguard sacred lands. She showed up. Now, we will have her back, just like she had ours. Please stay tuned as we continue to fight to prevent a grave miscarriage of justice.

Wopila tanka — thank you for standing for justice!"

StopLine3.org stated in a September 22, 2021 E-mail, " **It's Climate Week...Let's Ride.**

Right now, **at least 20 riders, including Honor the Earth Executive Director Winona LaDuke, are participating in the 8th Annual Spiritual Ride Against the Current of the Oil** (<https://www.honorearth.org/lwno2021>). **The 2021 ride is traversing the Line 3 route as both a Water Protectors protest and a personal spiritual pilgrimage.**

Participants are riding in prayer for the water and for the complete shutdown of Line 3 pipeline.

The journey began on September 15 in Palisade Minnesota and will conclude on September 26 on the Red River on the North Dakota/Minnesota border. Along the way, riders are making several stops, and at each one they welcome horse nations and communities to join them for Prayers for the relatives and the water. '

Join us on Twitter

Also this week, Governor Tim Walz tweeted about Climate Week, saying we need to 'recommit to combating climate change to protect the health and beauty of our state.' But Indigenous water protectors are already doing that!

Along with actions like the 8th Annual Spiritual Ride, a recent report (<https://www.ienearth.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Indigenous-Resistance-Against-Carbon-2021.pdf>) from Indigenous Environmental Network and Oil Change International found that

Indigenous-led resistance to fossil fuel projects over the past decade has stopped or delayed an amount of greenhouse gas pollution equivalent to at least 25% of annual U.S. and Canadian emissions.

On the other hand, building the new Line 3 pipeline would have the same impact as building 50 new coal-fired power plants. That's the opposite of combating climate change - it's exacerbating it!

The person who's not doing enough to combat climate change is Governor Walz, who could stop this pipeline if he wanted. But there's still time for him to act - let's respond to Governor Walz on Twitter and Facebook using the hashtag #OurMNClimate and demand he stop Line 3."

Food and Water Watch stated in a September 23, 2021 E-mail, **"President Biden called the climate crisis an existential 'threat.' Yet his administration continues to issue permits for fracking on federal lands and support fossil fuel projects from Alaska to the Gulf Coast. Fossil fuel pollution is harming millions of people across the globe, and we know things will only get worse if we don't transition away from dirty energy immediately. President Biden could use his executive authority to stop these disastrous projects and protect the climate we all depend on. It's time he does.** We can't allow the era of fossil fuels to continue."

"For more information about this historic protest, including COVID protocols and answers to other questions, please visit <https://peoplevsfossilfuels.org/>."

Andrea Germanos, "'Tear It Down': Climate Campaigners Arrested Outside New England's Last Coal Plant: 'We came to shut this coal plant down and build a better future!'" *Common Dreams*, October 4, 2021, [https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/10/04/tear-it-down-climate-campaigners-arrested-outside-new-englands-last-coal-plant?utm\\_term=AO&utm\\_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_content=email&utm\\_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_medium=Email](https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/10/04/tear-it-down-climate-campaigners-arrested-outside-new-englands-last-coal-plant?utm_term=AO&utm_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_content=email&utm_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_medium=Email), reported, **"Activists with 350 New Hampshire and the No Coal No Gas campaign on Sunday blockaded the entrance to New England's only remaining coal plant without a shutdown date, where they declared that they'll 'do what must be done to close Bow and stop the climate crisis.'**

Video and photos shared on social media of the event outside the Merrimack Station in Bow, New Hampshire show a row of seated protesters with their arms locked together and standing demonstrators holding a banner that read, 'Tear it down.' Between those groups were two activists with pickaxes breaking up the pavement where the group subsequently planted flowers.

Sixteen protesters were arrested following a dispersal order from the Bow Police Department, the Concord Monitor reported. Troopers with the New Hampshire State Police, outfitted in riot gear, were also on the scene."

Brett Wilkins, "'We Won't Stop Fighting,' Vow South African Activists After Judge OKs Shell Seismic Blasting at Sea: 'We must do everything we can to undo the destructive colonial legacy of extractivism, until we live in a world where people and the planet come before the profits of toxic fossil fuel companies,'" *Common Dreams*, December 6, 2021, [https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/12/06/we-wont-stop-fighting-vow-south-african-activists-after-judge-oks-shell-seismic?utm\\_term=AO&utm\\_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_content=email&utm\\_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_medium=Email](https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/12/06/we-wont-stop-fighting-vow-south-african-activists-after-judge-oks-shell-seismic?utm_term=AO&utm_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_content=email&utm_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_medium=Email), reported, **"South African activists on Monday**

vowed to keep fighting after a court ruling allowing fossil fuel giant Shell to proceed with massive underwater explosions off the ecologically sensitive Wild Coast, a move environmentalists say would cause "irreparable harm" to marine life.

'Our ancestors' blood was spilled protecting our land and sea, and we now feel a sense of duty to protect it for future generations.'

'We won't stop fighting,' tweeted Greenpeace Africa following Sunday's nationwide protests. 'Shell must immediately stop oil and gas exploration off S.A.'s Wild Coast.'

**Demonstrators from more than 30 organizations—including 350.org, Clean Seas, Extinction Rebellion, The Green Connection, Greenpeace Africa, Oceans Not Oil, and Sea The Bigger Picture—turned out for over 70 protests nationwide, according to *The Cape Argus*.**

Julia Conley, "Two Climate Activists Halt Operations at World's Largest Coal Port: 'It is now our duty to defend the biosphere that gives us life and to every person that Australia has forgotten and ignored,' said Hannah Doole of the campaign group Blockade Australia," *Common Dreams*, November 17, 2021, [https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/11/17/two-climate-activists-halt-operations-worlds-largest-coal-port?utm\\_term=AO&utm\\_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_content=email&utm\\_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_medium=Email](https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/11/17/two-climate-activists-halt-operations-worlds-largest-coal-port?utm_term=AO&utm_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_content=email&utm_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_medium=Email), reported, **"A two-person protest halted operations at the world's largest coal port early Wednesday morning, as two women scaled the Port of Newcastle in New South Wales, Australia to protest their government's refusal to take far-reaching climate action.**

Hannah Doole and Zianna Faud—both members of the campaign group Blockade Australia—filmed themselves suspended on ropes attached to the port, where they forced the transport of coal to stop for several hours."

Jessica Corbett, "Ahead of UK-Hosted Climate Summit, Oil Critics Arrested for Blockade Outside Downing Street: 'Johnson's failure to act has left us with petrol queues, energy companies going bust, offshore workers unemployed for months on end, and a deepening climate crisis,'" *Common Dreams*, October 11, 2021, [https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/10/11/ahead-uk-hosted-climate-summit-oil-critics-arrested-blockade-outside-downing-street?utm\\_term=AO&utm\\_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_content=email&utm\\_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_medium=Email](https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/10/11/ahead-uk-hosted-climate-summit-oil-critics-arrested-blockade-outside-downing-street?utm_term=AO&utm_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_content=email&utm_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_medium=Email), **"The Metropolitan Police arrested at least seven Greenpeace activists in London on Monday for disrupting traffic outside Downing Street by locking themselves to barrels and a 12-foot oil-splattered statue of U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson.**

Though Johnson is not currently at his London residence—he is vacationing with family in Spain—the action comes less than three weeks before the United Kingdom is set to host a global climate summit known as COP 26 in Glasgow, Scotland.

Some demonstrators toted posters and banners that read 'Stop Cambo,' referring to a new oil field near Shetland that Greenpeace expects the government to approve 'any day now,' spokesperson James Hanson told Agence France-Presse.

**A sign protesters propped up by the statue of Johnson declared the oil field his "monumental climate failure." The Conservative prime minister, Greenpeace**

U.K. highlighted Monday, "has said he backs 16 new North Sea oil and gas projects going ahead."

Greenpeace U.K. also pointed to recent comments from a fellow Tory. Secretary of State for Business Kwasi Kwarteng said last month that 'the U.K. is still too reliant on fossil fuels. Our exposure to volatile global gas prices underscores the importance of our plan to build a strong, home-grown renewable energy sector to strengthen our energy security into the future.'

The advocacy group explained Monday that 'when it comes to Cambo, 80% of oil extracted is likely to be exported, and production won't start for a few years—so the project would do very little to shore up the U.K.'s energy supply and won't fix the current gas price crisis.'"

Jessica Corbett, "German Groups Sue Major Carmakers for Fueling the Climate Emergency: 'While people suffer from floods and droughts triggered by the climate crisis, the car industry, despite its enormous contribution to global warming, seems unaffected,'" Common Dreams, September 3, 2021, [https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/09/03/german-groups-sue-major-carmakers-fueling-climate-emergency?utm\\_term=AO&utm\\_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_content=email&utm\\_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_medium=Email](https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/09/03/german-groups-sue-major-carmakers-fueling-climate-emergency?utm_term=AO&utm_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_content=email&utm_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_medium=Email), reported, "**A pair of climate advocacy groups on Friday announced lawsuits against BMW, Mercedes-Benz, and Volkswagen for fueling the climate emergency, hoping to force the German carmakers to stop selling internal combustion vehicles and cut their carbon footprints 65% by 2030.**

Greenpeace Germany and Deutsche Umwelthilfe (DUH) are accusing the companies of failing to decarbonize in line with the 1.5°C temperature goal of the 2015 Paris climate agreement."

Kevin Koenig And Pendle Marshall-Hallmark, "Is Your Bank Using Your Money to Profit from Amazon Destruction? JPMorgan Chase, Goldman Sachs, Citi, and HSBC are among the banks exposed for pouring billions into Amazon crude," Amazon Watch, July 8, 2021, [https://amazonwatch.org/news/2021/0708-is-your-bank-using-your-money-to-profit-from-amazon-destruction?utm\\_source=Amazon+Watch+Newsletter+and+Updates&utm\\_campaign=c245cf2f53-2019-07-29-bolsonaros\\_deadly\\_brazil\\_COPY\\_01&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_e6f929728b-c245cf2f53-342254273&mc\\_cid=c245cf2f53&mc\\_eid=8769095ac1](https://amazonwatch.org/news/2021/0708-is-your-bank-using-your-money-to-profit-from-amazon-destruction?utm_source=Amazon+Watch+Newsletter+and+Updates&utm_campaign=c245cf2f53-2019-07-29-bolsonaros_deadly_brazil_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_e6f929728b-c245cf2f53-342254273&mc_cid=c245cf2f53&mc_eid=8769095ac1),

**The Amazon rainforest is at the tipping point – rapidly approaching an ecological point of no return when, if enough deforestation occurs, the forest will no longer be able to sustain itself, triggering a mass dieback of plant and animal species, and deregulating global climate and temperature patterns. We must take immediate action to protect the Amazon right now, and we can start by Ending Amazon Crude.**

Today, Amazon Watch and Stand.earth released a new report, *Banking on Amazon Destruction* (<https://amazonwatch.org/news/2021/0708-banking-on-amazon-destruction>), showing that global banks are failing their own social and environmental commitments by financing and investing in the oil and gas industry in the Amazon rainforest. These banks remain highly exposed to the risk of funding corruption, human rights violations, environmental harms, and ultimately climate chaos due to their ongoing relationships with

**companies and traders operating in the region. And they might be using your money to do it.**

We need you to join us as we issue a new call: Banks must exclude all types of finance, including investment, for any company engaging in the oil industry in the Amazon by setting markers to end new financing by 2022 and existing financing by 2025.

Amazon oil has a history of devastating impact on Indigenous communities. Marlon Vargas, President of the Confederation of Indigenous Nationalities of the Ecuadorian Amazon (CONFENIAE) shared the following about his experience:

'For too long, the oil industry has wreaked havoc on our Indigenous peoples, violated our rights, cut down our forests, seized our territories, and created climate chaos that is leading to the collapse of the Amazon. The banks that finance this destruction are complicit in the genocidal threat to our peoples and an existential threat to humanity and our planet. We call on all institutions that finance oil extraction and the oil trade in the Amazon to make bold decisions to stop bankrolling environmental pollution and climate change. Their investments must be based on sustainable economic alternatives for our countries and communities.'

**This report comes on the heels of our August 2020 investigation revealing that European banks financed the trade of 155 million barrels of Amazon oil from the headwaters region of Ecuador and Peru to refineries in the U.S. for a total of \$10 billion.**

**Although this led to commitments by top banks to uphold their policies and end oil trade financing in that region, Amazon Watch and Stand.earth investigators decided to address the continued flow of capital to the companies drilling and significantly impacting the forest and Indigenous peoples territories.** Therefore, this new report looks at 14 U.S. and European banks providing both trade and corporate finance for oil activities across the Amazon biome. Spoiler alert: Not a single bank profiled is living up to its Environmental and Social Risk (ESR) commitments. Only an Amazon-wide exclusion will stop Amazon oil expansion and destruction.

**Along with several other banks listed in the report, Goldman Sachs and JPMorgan Chase hold hundreds of millions of dollars in bonds issued to PetroEcuador (formerly PetroAmazonas), Ecuador's national oil company. These bonds are bankrolling oil expansion into Yasuní National Park, a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, where new roads to well sites are being carved through the forest, and bringing drilling closer to Indigenous peoples living in voluntary isolation. The company is responsible for thousands of oil spills over the last decade, and is currently at the center of a major corruption scandal that has several senior government officials and Petroecuador executives in jail awaiting trial.**

JPMorgan Chase is dragging its heels on implementing sound ESR policies, including in the Amazon. It's the biggest banker for the fossil fuel industry worldwide, and it continues to fund Brazil's national oil company, Petrobras, which is ranked one of the largest fossil fuel expansion companies globally.

Citi, Goldman Sachs and many European banks provide revolving credit facilities (RCFs) to problematic oil traders including Gunvor and Vitol, which have been implicated in recent bribery scandals. All banks have policies in place to nominally prevent the financing companies linked to corruption, yet only view it as a business risk and do not include it in ESR frameworks. RCF's also make it difficult for clients to know whether their money is being used to fund corruption.

**Since the report was finalized, Amazon Watch investigators have learned that JPMorgan Chase and Credit Suisse, along with another bank not listed in this report,**

**recently helped arrange the issuance of a \$150 million dollar bond for GeoPark, a Chilean oil company currently operating in the Colombian Amazon that is allegedly paying paramilitary groups to ensure the continuation of its operations on and near the territories of Indigenous groups that opposed oil operations.**

It's time to start winding down oil production, halt oil expansion, and End Amazon Crude. Even the International Energy Agency (IEA), the world's leading authority on the oil and gas industries, has delivered a sweeping call for nations around the world to stop investing in new fossil fuel supply. There simply is no room for new oil expansion.

This new report reveals that most banks continue to rely on policies that don't curb oil expansion in the Amazon, preferring instead to influence them to slowly reduce their emissions over time — rather than divest or defund from them. The Amazon, like the Arctic, is an ecosystem that functions across political boundaries, and needs to be off limits to oil and gas extraction and the funding that enables it. Net zero pledges, false solutions, and piecemeal exclusions by country won't get us there. The Amazon could continue to be a draw for oil financing under bank decarbonization strategies as some of the high cost or carbon intense crude is curtailed in other regions."

Kenny Stancil, "Greenpeace Activists to Canadian Banks: 'Stop Funding Climate Chaos and Injustice:' 'We are not going to let bank CEOs ignore the deadly consequences of their actions,'" *Common Dreams*, December 7, 2021, [https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/12/07/greenpeace-activists-canadian-banks-stop-funding-climate-chaos-and-injustice?utm\\_term=AO&utm\\_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_content=email&utm\\_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_medium=Email](https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/12/07/greenpeace-activists-canadian-banks-stop-funding-climate-chaos-and-injustice?utm_term=AO&utm_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_content=email&utm_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_medium=Email), reported, **"Climate justice advocates suspended fellow activists from 15-foot-tall tripods in Toronto's financial district on Tuesday, blocking entrances to the Royal Bank of Canada's corporate headquarters as part of a campaign to pressure the nation's five biggest banks to 'stop funding climate chaos and injustice.'**

'Bankers' business-as-usual... is destabilizing the climate, destroying biodiversity, and violating Indigenous rights.' [It is also very risky investment that should be prohibited as an unreasonable risk to bank stockholders].

According to Greenpeace Canada's latest report on fossil fuel financing, **Canada's five largest banks are among the world's top 25 funders of coal, oil, and gas. Collectively, Canadian banks have provided more than \$820 billion to fossil fuel corporations since the 2015 signing of the Paris agreement**, which seeks to curb greenhouse gas pollution in order to avert catastrophic global warming. That sum is over 13 times more than the \$60 billion the federal government has invested in climate action during the same period".

Andrea Germanos, "World's Biggest PR Firm Urged to Stop Enabling 'Ecosystem Destruction:' 'Edelman is in fact actively contributing to fossil fuel emissions through its marketing activities,' according to a new letter," *Common Dreams*, November 8, 2021, [https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/11/08/worlds-biggest-pr-firm-urged-stop-enabling-ecosystem-destruction?utm\\_term=AO&utm\\_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_content=email&utm\\_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_medium=Email](https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/11/08/worlds-biggest-pr-firm-urged-stop-enabling-ecosystem-destruction?utm_term=AO&utm_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_content=email&utm_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_medium=Email), reported, **"A group of over 100 climate**



justice advocates and creators on Monday publicly called on the world's largest public relations firm—Edelman—to drop ExxonMobil and other fossil fuel companies as clients.

**'Advertising for fossil fuel companies obstructs urgently needed government action on climate change and impedes climate justice solutions.'**

**'Edelman's fancy ads are giving ExxonMobil social license to operate, and to thereby destroy our climate,'** Dr. Ayana Elizabeth Johnson, a marine biologist and co-founder of the All We Can Save Project, said in a statement.

"With this campaign," said Johnson, "culture-makers are using their own social clout to say 'not on my watch.'"

Johnson is one of the organizers of a new letter that says Edelman often invites "people like us to join sustainability campaigns on behalf of their clients." While the values of some of those clients line up with those of the signatories, that's far from the case with ExxonMobil and Shell, companies the letter says Edelman works with extensively.

**'In fact,' the letter states, 'Edelman does more work for fossil fuel interests than any PR agency on earth.'**

"Help hold BlackRock accountable for its new \$15 billion pipeline deal," Stop the Money Pipeline, December 8, 2021, [https://blackrocksbigproblem.com/action-tweet-at-blackrock/?link\\_id=0&can\\_id=2304a48b2891e77b9b6c14d1ce535f4f&source=email-green-pipelines-arent-a-thing&email\\_referrer=email\\_1379044\\_\\_subject\\_1814597&email\\_subject=blackrocks-latest-climate-strategy-greenwashing-a-pipeline](https://blackrocksbigproblem.com/action-tweet-at-blackrock/?link_id=0&can_id=2304a48b2891e77b9b6c14d1ce535f4f&source=email-green-pipelines-arent-a-thing&email_referrer=email_1379044__subject_1814597&email_subject=blackrocks-latest-climate-strategy-greenwashing-a-pipeline), stated, **"BlackRock has been talking big on climate over the last few years, and CEO Larry Fink has worked hard to portray himself as a climate leader. But actions speak louder than words."**

**This week, major oil & gas company Saudi Aramco announced that it signed a \$15 billion deal led by BlackRock. BlackRock and a handful of other investors now own half of Aramco's Gas Pipeline Company, a newly formed subsidiary of Saudi Aramco focused on the maintenance and development of fossil fuel pipelines.** This new investment will provide Aramco with fresh capital to expand its fossil business, something that is clearly incompatible with limiting warming to 1.5C according to the Paris Accords. Fink just returned from COP26 in Glasgow where he shared the stage with world leaders and touted his climate commitments; this new fossil fuel deal is a slap in the face.

Fink and BlackRock want to frame this deal as somehow permissible, but we know better. That's why **this is a key moment to spread the word about BlackRock's dirty new investments.** Use this form to send a tweet that points out BlackRock's climate hypocrisy and helps disrupt their leadership's greenwashing narrative."

350.org stated in a December 9, 2021 E-mail, **"A new analysis from the progressive advocacy group Public Citizen just revealed that the Biden administration has approved more oil and gas drilling permits on public lands per month than Donald Trump's administration did during the first three years of his presidency."**

Source: *Washington Post*

**The Biden Administration may blame this solely on a federal court's decision to block a pause on leasing. But we know that President Biden has been slow to ban new leases on public lands — which he could do with the stroke of a pen today if he wanted to.**

It's up to us to make sure he knows that the climate movement is watching. Can you add your name today to our petition calling on Biden to ban new leases on public lands?: [https://act.350.org/sign/biden-no-drilling-public-lands/?source=em20211209-1&akid=177615%2E3619499%2ES0\\_JTL](https://act.350.org/sign/biden-no-drilling-public-lands/?source=em20211209-1&akid=177615%2E3619499%2ES0_JTL).

Amazon Watch stated in an October 13, 2021 E-mail, [https://amazonwatch.org/news/2021/1012-flying-over-the-amazon-in-flames?utm\\_source=Amazon+Watch+Newsletter+and+Updates&utm\\_campaign=cc6a08641d-2019-07-29-](https://amazonwatch.org/news/2021/1012-flying-over-the-amazon-in-flames?utm_source=Amazon+Watch+Newsletter+and+Updates&utm_campaign=cc6a08641d-2019-07-29-bolsonaros_deadly_brazil_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_e6f929728b-cc6a08641d-342254273&mc_cid=cc6a08641d&mc_eid=8769095ac1)

[bolsonaros\\_deadly\\_brazil\\_COPY\\_01&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_e6f929728b-cc6a08641d-342254273&mc\\_cid=cc6a08641d&mc\\_eid=8769095ac1](https://amazonwatch.org/news/2021/1012-flying-over-the-amazon-in-flames?utm_source=Amazon+Watch+Newsletter+and+Updates&utm_campaign=cc6a08641d-2019-07-29-bolsonaros_deadly_brazil_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_e6f929728b-cc6a08641d-342254273&mc_cid=cc6a08641d&mc_eid=8769095ac1) **"In partnership with Brazilian allies, Amazon Watch organized a flight over the Amazon rainforest with experts and key journalists to expose fires, deforestation, illegal mining, and cattle ranching."**

We flew over Rondônia and southern Amazonas, a region considered the "new Amazon deforestation frontier." Unfortunately, as expected, we documented massive destruction surrounded by immense areas of intact rainforest.

The images showed large areas of deforested rainforest that had already been consumed by fire and deep scars from mining activities within protected areas, along with illegal landing strips, large plots of land being prepared for planting, and cattle grazing alongside recent fires.

We saw all the stages of the deforestation process one after another. The extraction of high-value timber, followed by the burning of vegetation to grow pasture, and then cattle herds occupying areas that until recently had been covered by intact forest."

The photos are at: [https://amazonwatch.org/news/2021/1012-flying-over-the-amazon-in-flames?utm\\_source=Amazon+Watch+Newsletter+and+Updates&utm\\_campaign=cc6a08641d-2019-07-29-](https://amazonwatch.org/news/2021/1012-flying-over-the-amazon-in-flames?utm_source=Amazon+Watch+Newsletter+and+Updates&utm_campaign=cc6a08641d-2019-07-29-bolsonaros_deadly_brazil_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_e6f929728b-cc6a08641d-342254273&mc_cid=cc6a08641d&mc_eid=8769095ac1)

[bolsonaros\\_deadly\\_brazil\\_COPY\\_01&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_e6f929728b-cc6a08641d-342254273&mc\\_cid=cc6a08641d&mc\\_eid=8769095ac1](https://amazonwatch.org/news/2021/1012-flying-over-the-amazon-in-flames?utm_source=Amazon+Watch+Newsletter+and+Updates&utm_campaign=cc6a08641d-2019-07-29-bolsonaros_deadly_brazil_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_e6f929728b-cc6a08641d-342254273&mc_cid=cc6a08641d&mc_eid=8769095ac1).

"Statement from the Indigenous Environmental Network in Support of the Wet'suwet'en Peoples, November 20, 2021, Indigenous Environmental Network, stated, **"The Indigenous Environmental Network condemns the actions of Canada as it inflicts settler violence against the Wet'suwet'en peoples, hypocritically breaking both Wet'suwet'en and Canadian law to push TC Energy's illegal Coastal Gaslink pipeline through unceded territories."**

**By entering sovereign Wet'suwet'en territory with RCMP, dogs and assault rifles we are witnessing state-sanctioned violence on behalf of an Oil company,** and such barbarous acts of violence inflicted upon Indigenous peoples cannot be defended. These attacks by RCMP are nothing less than Human Rights violations as defined by the United Nations, and acts of extreme detriment to the inherent sovereignty of the Wet'suwet'en. The Wet'suwet'en have asserted self-governance over their territories since time immemorial, and it is their inherent right to defend their lands, resources and bodies from foreign aggressors. They have signed no treaties nor have they relinquished title to their lands. They are not part of so-called Canada and have not consented to bearing the burden of the world's dependence on an extractive industry such as oil.

We will continue to support the Wet'suwet'en in their struggle and call on others to join us in supporting our relatives. From disrupting business as usual to divesting from banks funding the theft of Indigenous lands, there are steps we can all take to stand with our relatives. These

barbarous acts of violent aggression must cease and the inherent right to self determination must be upheld.

How You Can Help:

Over the past two days heavily militarized RCMP tactical team have descending on Coyote Camp with snipers, assault rifles, and K9 units,

**In total, eleven people were arrested at Coyote Camp, including Gidimt'en Checkpoint spokesperson, Sleydo', and Dini'ze Woos' daughter, Jocey. Four more were arrested at 44km later that day, including Sleydo's husband, Cody.**

Solidarity actions began immediately. Now is the time. Plan, organize or join an action where you are.



Issue a solidarity statement from your organization or group and tag us.



Host a solidarity rally or action in your area.



Pressure the government, banks, and investors. <http://yintahaccess.com/take-action-1>



Donate. <http://go.rallyup.com/wetsuwetenstrong>



Spread the word. #WetsuwetenStrong #AllOutForWedzinKwa#ShutDownCanada

**More information and developing stories:**

Website: [Yintahaccess.com](http://Yintahaccess.com)

IG: @yintah\_access

Twitter: @Gidimten

Facebook: @wetsuwetenstrong

Youtube: Gidimten Access Point

TikTok: GidimtenCheckpoint

**Background:**

The Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs represent a governance system that predates colonization and the Indian Act which was created in an attempt to outlaw Indigenous peoples from their lands.

The Wet'suwet'en have continued to exercise their unbroken, unextinguished, and unceded right to govern and occupy their lands by continuing and empowering the clan-based governance system to this day. Under Wet'suwet'en law, clans have a responsibility and right to control access to their territories. The validity of the Wet'suwet'en house and clan system was verified in the Delgamuukw and Red Top Decisions that uphold the authority of the hereditary system on Wet'suwet'en traditional territories.

At this very moment a standoff is unfolding, the outcome of which will determine the future of Northern "BC" for generations to come. Will the entire region be overtaken by the fracking industry, or will Indigenous people asserting their sovereignty be successful in repelling the assault on their homelands?

The future is unwritten. What comes next will be greatly influenced by actions taken in the coming days and weeks. This is a long-term struggle, but it is at a critical moment. That is why we say: The Time is Now. If you are a person of conscience and you understand the magnitude of what is at stake, ask yourself how you might best support the grassroots Wet'suwet'en."

"Help Secure Justice for Those Exposed to Radiation from Nuclear Weapons Activities," UCS Science Network, October 26, 2021, [https://secure.ucsusa.org/a/2021-justice-for-exposed-radiation-nuclear-weapons?contactdata=E1Osb44SJrgJ1EUiiPBHqkl%2byoiIVG%2fAXGYdwtRzH9tLK6mPBSi5v2CtnllkpF5oOg5TbiHUSIXz6NOxZva1FBZF%2f1eJU173CuNvohHkHDJZhu%2bTFtKSv82mtmDZHD3HZj38uU5WYeQsE2SL6FtoUGDLxd6cMJxhgfm7M7OoerYRJSKrXDln8NKq%2fq82akjPftW5gMnWq%2fV05rZ9Ce%2b1WiCd1spTRDHB5jmjnu6IzLYMesU3GUywXYE3HTWfq5uHszilhIekIFki%2fDj0g%2bXuiw%3d%3d&utm\\_campaign=email&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=email&emci=99b68e91-6d36-ec11-9820-c896653b26c8&emdi=06679bde-a636-ec11-9820-c896653b26c8&ceid=1031605](https://secure.ucsusa.org/a/2021-justice-for-exposed-radiation-nuclear-weapons?contactdata=E1Osb44SJrgJ1EUiiPBHqkl%2byoiIVG%2fAXGYdwtRzH9tLK6mPBSi5v2CtnllkpF5oOg5TbiHUSIXz6NOxZva1FBZF%2f1eJU173CuNvohHkHDJZhu%2bTFtKSv82mtmDZHD3HZj38uU5WYeQsE2SL6FtoUGDLxd6cMJxhgfm7M7OoerYRJSKrXDln8NKq%2fq82akjPftW5gMnWq%2fV05rZ9Ce%2b1WiCd1spTRDHB5jmjnu6IzLYMesU3GUywXYE3HTWfq5uHszilhIekIFki%2fDj0g%2bXuiw%3d%3d&utm_campaign=email&utm_medium=email&utm_source=email&emci=99b68e91-6d36-ec11-9820-c896653b26c8&emdi=06679bde-a636-ec11-9820-c896653b26c8&ceid=1031605), stated, **"Since the earliest days of the nuclear age, US nuclear weapons testing and uranium mining has killed and sickened tens to hundreds of thousands of people across the country.**

**Because of this history of harm, the United States established the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA) in 1990, which provides restitution to individuals with illnesses likely caused by nuclear weapons testing and uranium mining. RECA is a valuable program, but it still has serious flaws and is set to expire in July 2022. This cannot be allowed to happen. The good news is that legislation has been introduced to extend and expand RECA.**

Write today and tell your member of Congress to fully support legislation to provide justice for communities impacted by radiation exposure from nuclear weapons testing and production."

The basic letter which can be edited by those sending it, reads,

"As your constituent, I would like to sincerely thank you for cosponsoring HR 5338, the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA) Amendments (of 2019 or 2021). For generations, radiation-exposed individuals have suffered for the medical harms they endured due to US nuclear weapons policy, and thanks to you, they now have the chance to receive the assistance they need and deserve.

Passing this bill would extend RECA to allow those who are currently eligible to apply, and would allow thousands of radiation-exposed individuals to apply for the first time by expanding the eligibility to additional uranium workers and nuclear testing downwinders in Idaho, Montana, Colorado, Guam, New Mexico, and in additional counties in Utah, Nevada, and Arizona.

RECA is a life-changing program that can help those who have been most harmed by US nuclear weapons activities to get the care they so desperately need. Thank you for your support of extending and expanding this program. I hope you will continue to fully support this legislation by encouraging your colleagues to cosponsor it as well and by voting in favor of the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act Amendments (of 2019 or 2021) - HR 5338/S 2798."

"Protect Indigenous Sacred Sites Now, President Joe Biden, Congressional Leaders," Action Network, sponsored by numerous groups, July 16, 2021, [https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/support-and-uphold-native-peoples-free-prior-informed-consent?source=direct\\_link&redirect=https://secure.actblue.com/donate/e\\_s21\\_july\\_king-protectindigenoussacredsites\\_redirect\\_c4%3Frecurring%3D1](https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/support-and-uphold-native-peoples-free-prior-informed-consent?source=direct_link&redirect=https://secure.actblue.com/donate/e_s21_july_king-protectindigenoussacredsites_redirect_c4%3Frecurring%3D1), stated, **"For too long, Native peoples have been forced to the frontlines to defend their lands, waters, and resources, from destruction and degradation for all of us. Sacred sites across Indian Country have been desecrated by resource extraction and industrial development projects that move ahead without the consent of affected Native Nations or communities.**

**This has created a very real and growing crisis.**

**There is no time to waste to protect the most sacred places where Indigenous peoples pray, gather traditional foods and medicines, get drinking water, and visit to remind themselves of the ways their ancestors lived since time began.**

**We call on President Biden to issue an executive order directing all federal agencies to require the engagement and consent of affected Native Nations, early in the planning process, and before a project is approved.**

Native Nations must be a part of the decision process. No more oil pipelines threatening reservation water supplies without the consent of tribes. No more oil and gas drilling at Indigenous burial sites, without the express permission of Native Nations and Indigenous Peoples. No more moving ahead on large-scale projects without Native Nations' early participation in planning processes and consent in decision-making.

**The U.S. must uphold the rights of Native Nations and Indigenous Peoples to Free, Prior & Informed Consent**, as guaranteed by the United Nations' Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Sign our petition telling President Biden and Congressional leaders to recognize the traditional, legal, and moral rights of Native Nations and Indigenous Peoples to protect sacred places."

"Urge COP26 Climate Negotiators to Make a Binding Commitment to Source Transition Minerals Responsibly," Cultural Survival, October 14, 2021, <https://www.culturalsurvival.org/news/urge-cop26-climate-negotiators-make-binding-commitment-source-transition-minerals-responsibly>, stated, **"Urge COP26 Climate Negotiators to Make a Binding Commitment to Source Transition Minerals Responsibly**

The 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference, or COP26, will be held between November 1-12 in Glasgow, Scotland. **During those two weeks, there will be a lot of necessary momentum around climate targets and climate justice. At this key juncture, we urge decision-makers, climate activists and clean energy advocates to also center and respond to the human rights and environmental justice impacts of mining for battery minerals and renewable energy technologies.**

**We are looking for organizational support for a joint declaration**, below and linked here, which calls on climate negotiators at COP26 to make a binding commitment to source transition minerals responsibly, and urges climate justice allies and clean energy advocates to join us in ensuring a clean, just and equitable energy transition.

**Minerals demand for renewable energy technologies is projected to skyrocket, particularly for battery metals being used in electric vehicles - and the associated environmental and human impacts are likely to rise steeply as well. Metals mining is one of the world's dirtiest industries, responsible for at least 10% of anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions.**

Please sign on no later than 5pm ET, November 1, 2021.

**We know that this is a critical moment for the climate, and it is essential we center on clean energy solutions that are clean, equitable & just for all - including communities, workers and ecosystems affected by mining. Without these conversations, we risk repeating many of the same injustices these solutions seek to fix.**

Please add your organization to the sign on letter here.

**Declaration on Mining and the Energy Transition for COP26**

We, the undersigned organizations, support a just and rapid transition away from fossil fuels and towards a renewable energy system. We are concerned about the impacts of extracting minerals, such as lithium, cobalt, nickel and copper for renewable energy technologies on communities, workers and ecosystems around the world.

Minerals demand for renewable energy technologies is projected to skyrocket, particularly for battery metals being used in electric vehicles - and the associated environmental and human impacts are likely to rise steeply as well. Metals mining is one of the world's dirtiest industries, responsible for at least 10% of anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions. Mining is linked to environmental destruction, freshwater contamination and depletion, human rights abuses, forced displacement, loss of livelihood, violent conflict, unsafe working conditions, and illicit financial flows in many parts of the world. It increasingly poses threats to ocean health through the risky practices of mine waste dumping and deep-sea mining.

Dangerous mine waste storage and disposal have led to deaths and catastrophic destruction of downstream environments as well as the contamination of fragile marine ecosystems, fisheries and coastal communities. Mining for battery minerals such as cobalt, lithium and nickel causes disproportionate harm to Indigenous peoples.

Our transition to renewable energy sources must be just and equitable and accompanied by a simultaneous transformation away from irresponsible mining by:

Centering the human rights of Indigenous, frontline communities, and workers at mining, recycling, reclamation, manufacturing and renewable energy projects, by prioritizing the right to Free, Prior and Informed Consent, including the right to withhold consent as aligned with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Prioritizing low-impact circular economy solutions that reduce the overall demand for primary metals such as reuse, reduction, recycling, and design for disassembly while ensuring health and safety protections for workers and communities.

Ensuring responsible minerals sourcing at existing mining operations, by demanding mandatory human rights due diligence and adherence to all legal requirements and stringent international environmental and human rights standards with independent, third-party verification of compliance (such as the IRMA Standard for Responsible Mining).

Implementing transformative, rather than merely technological, solutions that shift away from disposable consumption and private transportation to more equitable access to services and low-carbon public transit.

We call on climate negotiators at the UNFCCC COP26 to make a binding commitment to source minerals responsibly. We call on businesses, financial institutions, investors and governments to ensure a clean, just and equitable energy transition by implementing these measures and urge clean energy advocates and climate justice allies to echo these demands in climate change platforms.

**A truly clean, just and equitable energy economy will require not just a transition to cleaner sources of energy, but transformation on an individual and collective level. We urge you to join us and ensure that the move to clean energy doesn't recreate the same systems it aims to destroy and helps to build climate change solutions that put communities, workers and the environment first."**

"Combatting the Climate Crisis, Recognizing Indigenous Peoples Rights and Knowledge: Some Shortfalls And Some Advances At Cop 26," The International Treaty Council, November 21, 2021, <http://hosted.verticalresponse.com/1383891/5f10cff502/545546365/aa063f1824/>,

reported, "As in past years, the most recent United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of the Parties (COP), which concluded November 13 in Glasgow, Scotland, fell short of achieving the strong commitments needed from State Parties (countries) to halt the growing climate crisis.

But there were also some advances. The COP 26 outcome document affirmed that greenhouse gas emissions must be significantly reduced to levels that will limit the global temperature increase to no more than 1.5 degrees centigrade over pre-industrial levels. The scientific community has confirmed that if this level is exceeded, the extinction of a million species, the decimation of many ecosystems, and the destruction of Indigenous Peoples' traditional lifeways and food systems cannot be averted.

The final COP decision adopted on November 13 by consensus of the State Parties also recognized for the first time that fossil fuels were the primary driver of the climate crisis and committed to cut back on government subsidies for non-sustainable energy production. However, after two weeks of hard negotiations among almost 200 State Parties, China and India waited until the final plenary session to object to draft language regarding coal, the dirtiest of fossil fuels, insisting that the language be changed from 'phasing out' to "phasing down'. Many Parties, including the European Union and the Small Island Developing States, expressed their disappointment with the watered-down language and lack of transparency in the decision-making, but could do little about it since the outcome document had to be agreed by consensus of all the State Parties. 'They decided to accept progress over perfect' in the words of one Indigenous observer who witnessed the process until its conclusion.

Other issues of great concern to the over 150 Indigenous Peoples' delegates from all regions of the world were kicked down the road until COP 27, which will take place in Egypt in 2022. This included compensation for Loss and Damage caused by climate change, including 'non-economic losses' such as sacred sites and culturally-important places, cultural practices, and traditional food and ecosystems.

Indigenous Peoples achieved a significant victory in the final hours of COP 26 after a 6-year battle to achieve recognition of their rights in Article 6 of the Paris Rulebook, which provides the details for implementation of the 2015 Paris Agreement. Article 6, the last section to be agreed, addresses market and non-market approaches and international cooperation for the mitigation of climate change. Of great concern to many Indigenous Peoples are its provisions regarding market mechanisms such as carbon trading and forest offsets, which they see as false solutions.

Indigenous Peoples were firmly united regarding the need to ensure the inclusion of rights safeguards in Article 6 to prevent negative impacts on Indigenous Peoples as a result of projects initiated through this process. Those could include mega projects such as dams and plantations, forced relocations, and forest protections in some regions being used by states and corporations to 'offset' destructive development projects impacting Indigenous Peoples in other regions. At the end of the day, Indigenous Peoples and their allies from a range of rights-based constituencies as well as many of the State Parties insisted on including safeguards for human rights and the rights of Indigenous Peoples in the text. The language that was already agreed in the Paris Agreement preamble states in part that 'Parties should, when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on human rights, the right to health, the rights of indigenous peoples...' This language was inserted as a 'chapeau', or opening paragraph, in

**the final adopted text of Article 6 and was also referenced in several of its provisions as the criteria that a 'supervisory body' will use to approve projects carried out under this Article. There is also a grievance mechanism for Indigenous Peoples and others who have suffered damages as a result of such projects.**

Ghazali Ohorella from Maluku, Pacific region, was one of the leaders for the International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change (the Indigenous caucus) on this issue. He pointed out that while we achieved the inclusion of Indigenous Peoples' rights in the 2015 Paris Agreement preamble, we were not able to get it into the operative sections due to the opposition of some states. 'This language is now included in the operative sections of the Paris Rulebook, a big advance for us in this process,' he stated.

**The Indigenous Caucus was disappointed, however, that they were not able to achieve stronger language regarding a consultation provision under paragraph 6.4. The language that was adopted by the States provides for consultation with Indigenous Peoples and others who might be affected according to 'applicable domestic arrangements'.** Indigenous delegates worked to include a reference to international standards to ensure compliance with the right of Indigenous Peoples to free, prior, and informed consent but were not able to gain the support of all State Parties for this addition as required in this consensus-based State negotiating process.

In another notable advance, the **COP 26 President announced a new \$1.7 billion fund to support Indigenous Peoples in the protection of tropical forests through contributions from States and private funders.** Details regarding the timeline and the process for applications and distributions were not provided. Indigenous Peoples, while recognizing the global importance of the tropical forests, requested that it be provided directly to Indigenous Peoples, rather than passing through the States; include support for Indigenous Peoples in other types of forests (boreal, etc.) and other vital ecosystems; be available to Indigenous Peoples from all regions, and include Indigenous Peoples in its development and implementation.

In what was perhaps the most historic achievement at COP 26, the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform's Facilitative Working Group (FWG), a UNFCCC constituted body made up of 7 representatives of Indigenous Peoples and 7 representatives of State Parties, organized a Global Gathering of 28 Indigenous Knowledge Holders, 4 from each of the 7 regions. The two-day activity included a closed meeting for Indigenous Peoples in which the knowledge holders, which included elders, youth, women, spiritual leaders, and traditional food producers, shared their wisdom, insights, lived experiences, and traditional understandings about climate change. On the second day, they met with a number of State Parties as well as the COP Presidency to share their recommendations and solutions. These included strong messages to the State Parties about the urgent need to begin living in ways that respect and safeguard the natural world and that also respect the rights, lands, waters, food, and knowledge systems of Indigenous Peoples as an essential part of the solution.

Andrea Carmen, Yaqui Nation, Executive Director of the International Indian Treaty Council and one of the three FWG co-leads for this activity, shared the challenges of bringing 24 knowledge holders from around the world, some from very remote locations, while dealing with the COPs' strict COVID-19 measures, on the ground logistics and a range of languages spoken. But she confirmed that 'the outcomes, especially the closed meeting for Indigenous Peoples with the knowledge holders where they could share directly among themselves, was so inspiring, emotional, and informative for us all. It was well worth all the struggles it took to make it happen'.



A core aspect of this activity was the inclusion of 7 Indigenous youth from North America, Africa, Latin America, Russia, and Arctic regions among the 24 knowledge holders who attended in person (4 shared virtually due to language and COVID-19 concerns). Chris Honahnie, a traditional Hopi youth farmer, stated, 'It was an honor to attend the LCIPP activities of COP 26 as an invited Indigenous youth knowledge holder from North America. I left the COP with more confidence in our Indigenous youth than I have in the States to take meaningful and effective action in adapting to Climate Change. It is us, the Indigenous youth, who will continue to experience the worst effects brought on by Climate Change, and it is us who will take the most effective action in addressing this global crisis.'

Anders Oskal, a Sámi from Norway and Secretary-General of the Association of World Reindeer Herders, was one of the knowledge holders selected to participate in this activity by the Arctic region. He shared with the other knowledge holders and with the States the Sámi traditional teaching for resource use which is “to not take more than you need, use all that you take, and share what you have” as a principle that could be applied by the States in solving the climate crisis based on a sustainable relationship with Nature. He also affirmed the importance of bringing Indigenous traditional food producers and knowledge holders together to share information and experiences with each other, and in doing so, also provide guidance for the deliberations of the States. Anders added, 'I sincerely hope that the UNFCCC will continue and expand this type of engagement in future COPs because Indigenous Peoples can provide real solutions.’”

Kenny Stancil, "Shell Slammed for Plan to Blast South African Coastline for Oil and Gas During Whale Season, 'We cannot allow climate criminals, like Shell, to plunder in the name of greed,' said Greenpeace," Common Ground, November 29, 2021, [https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/11/29/shell-slammed-plan-blast-south-african-coastline-oil-and-gas-during-whale-season?utm\\_term=AO&utm\\_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_content=email&utm\\_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_medium=Email](https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/11/29/shell-slammed-plan-blast-south-african-coastline-oil-and-gas-during-whale-season?utm_term=AO&utm_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_content=email&utm_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_medium=Email), reported, **"Environmentalists responded with outrage to reports that oil giant Shell plans to spend the next several months conducting underwater explosions to search for deep-sea oil and gas reserves off South Africa's coastline—a move that threatens to worsen the fossil fuel-driven climate crisis, undermine the livelihoods of fishers, and harm marine life."**

"NCAI President Fawn Sharp's Statement on California Oil Spill," National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), October 4, 2021, <https://www.ncai.org/news/articles/2021/10/04/ncai-president-fawn-sharp-s-statement-on-california-oil-spill>, stated, "NCAI President Fawn Sharp's Statement on California Oil Spill:

**"The large oil spill that occurred this weekend off the coast of California is an environmental catastrophe whose devastating impacts on millions of people, animals, fish, plants – all of the living things that make up the Pacific ecosystems – may last for years to come. As Native people, we are charged with sacred duties to respect and live in harmony with all of creation, and as nations in the American family of governments, we have a responsibility to take care of our environment as it takes care of us. We are inextricably linked and when our waters suffer, we all suffer; tribal and coastal economies suffer.**

**NCAI supports swift, aggressive, and continued action to clean up the contaminated areas of the Pacific coast, and urges the federal government and other actors to take this**

**opportunity to engage with Tribal Nations to protect our natural resources and find solutions to prevent these devastating events from happening again."**

Environmental Defense Fund stated in a July 8, 2021 E-mail, "**Health News, This month's highlights include:**

- **Six influencers set out to end beauty's toxic equity problem;**
- **Getting chemical safety back on track five years after reform;**
- **New momentum in the fight to get rid of lead pipes;**

**And don't forget to scroll to the bottom for rapid-fire news**

**Six influencers set out to end beauty's toxic equity problem**

Last month, EDF launched its first-ever influencer campaign on clean beauty justice. Six Black and Latina beauty influencers shared personalized ad content on Instagram to help raise awareness about the disproportionate amount of toxic ingredients in beauty and personal care products marketed to women of color.

Over the course of a month, the influencers are using their networks to tell over 5 million young women of color that they deserve the same access to safer beauty products as white women. They deserve **#cleanbeautyjustice**.

**Check out the website.** Take a stand. And demand **#cleanbeautyjustice**

**Getting chemical safety back on track five years after reform**

Five years ago, President Obama **signed into law the Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act**, which overhauled the country's chemical safety law to better protect people from toxic chemicals. In a welcome change to the dismal **anniversaries of the law's passage** during the Trump administration, this year we are able to highlight some signs of progress we have seen from the Biden EPA that are getting chemical safety back on track.

Here are 5 ways the Biden EPA has started to turn things around on chemical safety:

- Naming leaders committed to scientific integrity and public health protection,
- Closing loopholes and committing to strengthen the new chemicals program,
- Refusing to use the Trump EPA's deeply flawed approach to reviewing scientific studies of chemical risks,
- Committing to improve transparency and public access to chemical information, and  
Advancing the scientific assessment of cancer-causing formaldehyde.

**Get the full details in the latest EDF Health blog.**

**New momentum in the fight to get rid of lead pipes**

It's clear that replacing lead pipes is a priority for both the White House and Congress. This is welcome news for our health, the country's infrastructure, and the economy. **Watch EDF's new animated video** that explains why lead pipe replacement is important and why Congress should fund this work!

With bills in both the House and the Senate focusing on funding lead pipe replacement, it's important we keep pushing to ensure the federal government follows through on getting the lead out of our drinking water.

Watch our new animated video and take action to tell Congress to fund lead pipe replacement."

"A total halt to new Protected Areas': campaigners issue Marseille Manifesto for the future of conservation," Survival International, October 14, 2021, [https://www.forestpeoples.org/sites/default/files/documents/HR%20Env\\_signatory%20letter\\_eng](https://www.forestpeoples.org/sites/default/files/documents/HR%20Env_signatory%20letter_eng)

lish.pdf, reported, **"Participants in the world's first Congress to decolonize conservation have released a manifesto** (<https://assets.survivalinternational.org/documents/2019/211013-olon-manifesto-en-es-fr.pdf>) **calling for a total halt to new Protected Areas which exclude Indigenous and local communities.**

The **'Marseille Manifesto: a people's manifesto for the future of conservation'** has been released today by many Indigenous and non-Indigenous activists and experts who gathered for last month's ground-breaking **'Our Land Our Nature'** congress.

They also demand:

- **that governments 'fully respect, protect and uphold Indigenous peoples' land and forest rights, respect collective customary land and forest use by local communities, to ensure protection of that land in accordance with their wishes' as the primary means of protecting the world's biodiversity**

- **'Governments and conservation organisations must acknowledge the huge toll that strictly protected conservation areas have taken on the lands, livelihoods and rights of many communities worldwide; they must make concrete plans for reparations of past wrongs, including through transferring control back to the historical and local guardians'**

- **'High income countries... must cease funding conservation programmes which destroy local people and livelihoods, including by failures of FPIC, irrespective of whether this is intentional or not.'**

The manifesto calls for **'a conservation model that fights against the real causes of environmental destruction and is prepared to tackle those most responsible: overconsumption and exploitation of resources led by the Global North and its corporations.'**

The demand for a radical change to the current model of conservation has grown louder in recent months. **The UN's Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment released a strongly-worded policy brief** (<https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Environment/SREnvironment/policy-briefing-1.pdf>) **in August, arguing that achieving environmental goals 'demands a dramatic departure from 'conservation as usual'.** His brief calls instead for a radically different, rights-based approach.

**Many organizations and institutions, however, claim to endorse these calls while simultaneously promoting aggressive 'fortress conservation' projects.** The European Commission, for example, talks in its Biodiversity Strategy of 'strengthen[ing] the links between biodiversity protection and human rights ... and the role of indigenous peoples and local communities' – but continues to fund conservation projects in Africa that exclude them.

Likewise, **150 NGOs recently published an open letter** ([https://www.forestpeoples.org/sites/default/files/documents/HR%20Env\\_signatory%20letter\\_english.pdf](https://www.forestpeoples.org/sites/default/files/documents/HR%20Env_signatory%20letter_english.pdf)) **calling on world leaders to put human rights at the centre of environmental policy – but the group included WWF, whose 'secret war' of funding “vicious paramilitary forces” has been the subject of multiple media exposés and human rights investigations."**

Mike Phelan, Progress America, August 25, 2021, [https://actionnetwork.org/forms/sign-the-petition-to-congress-support-the-polluters-pay-climate-fund-act?source=2021PollutersPay\\_PA&referrer=group-progress-america&redirect=https://secure.actblue.com/donate/climateprogress&link\\_id=1&refcodeEmailReferrer=email\\_1270733\\_\\_subject\\_1679040&can\\_id=77b09df18c25582be779f2e209efa4cc&e](https://actionnetwork.org/forms/sign-the-petition-to-congress-support-the-polluters-pay-climate-fund-act?source=2021PollutersPay_PA&referrer=group-progress-america&redirect=https://secure.actblue.com/donate/climateprogress&link_id=1&refcodeEmailReferrer=email_1270733__subject_1679040&can_id=77b09df18c25582be779f2e209efa4cc&e)

mail\_referrer=email\_1270733\_\_subject\_1679040&email\_subject=who-should-pay-for-the-green-new-deal, stated, **"Tell Congress: Polluters must pay to help clean up the mess they caused. Support the Polluters Pay Climate Fund Act.**

Exxon has known for decades that climate change was real, and that their product was one of the main causes. But instead of acting to protect us, they spent millions on lobbying and dark money campaigns to empower climate deniers and keep their profits rolling in.

Now, after the UN's International Panel on Climate Change has made it clear that we have no choice but to stop burning fossil fuels, who should pay for the transition? The answer is clear: **Make polluters pay.**

The corporations that caused the climate crisis have enriched themselves massively—they must use their blood money to fund a transition toward clean energy.

SIGN NOW: Congress must pass the Make Polluters Pay Act and force Big Oil to clean up its mess!

Democratic U.S. Sens. Chris Van Hollen, Bernie Sanders, Ed Markey, Sheldon Whitehouse, Elizabeth Warren, and Jeff Merkley **announced the Polluters Pay Climate Fund Act.** U.S. Rep. Jamaal Bowman will sponsor the House companion legislation.

**Their plan would raise an estimated \$500 billion by collecting fees from corporations for their past pollution and establish a Polluters Pay Climate Fund that directs the money towards the advancement of clean energy infrastructure, climate projects, and more.**

It's time to make these big polluters pay for the damage they've done. The Polluters Pay Climate Fund would be a move in the right direction, which is why groups across the country have endorsed the plan and are pushing Democrats to include it as part of their budget reconciliation package.

Sign the petition: Polluters must pay to help clean up the mess they caused. Support the Polluters Pay Climate Fund Act ([https://actionnetwork.org/forms/sign-the-petition-to-congress-support-the-polluters-pay-climate-fund-act?source=2021PollutersPay\\_PA&referrer=group-progress-america&redirect=https://secure.actblue.com/donate/climateprogress&link\\_id=1&refcodeEmailReferrer=email\\_1270733\\_\\_subject\\_1679040&can\\_id=77b09df18c25582be779f2e209efa4cc&email\\_referrer=email\\_1270733\\_\\_subject\\_1679040&email\\_subject=who-should-pay-for-the-green-new-deal](https://actionnetwork.org/forms/sign-the-petition-to-congress-support-the-polluters-pay-climate-fund-act?source=2021PollutersPay_PA&referrer=group-progress-america&redirect=https://secure.actblue.com/donate/climateprogress&link_id=1&refcodeEmailReferrer=email_1270733__subject_1679040&can_id=77b09df18c25582be779f2e209efa4cc&email_referrer=email_1270733__subject_1679040&email_subject=who-should-pay-for-the-green-new-deal))."

Kari Hamerschlag, Christopher D. Cook, "Banks Worldwide Must End Funding of Factory Farms to Halt Climate Damage: Public development banks are directly undermining UN and Paris climate goals by channeling billions of taxpayer dollars into multinational meat corporations," *Common Dreams*, October 20, 2021, [https://www.commondreams.org/views/2021/10/20/banks-worldwide-must-end-funding-factory-farms-halt-climate-](https://www.commondreams.org/views/2021/10/20/banks-worldwide-must-end-funding-factory-farms-halt-climate-damage?utm_term=AO&utm_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_content=email&utm_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_medium=Email)

[damage?utm\\_term=AO&utm\\_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_content=email&utm\\_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_medium=Email](https://www.commondreams.org/views/2021/10/20/banks-worldwide-must-end-funding-factory-farms-halt-climate-damage?utm_term=AO&utm_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_content=email&utm_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_medium=Email), "As the climate crisis boils over, new research shows that reducing methane emissions is our best hope to rapidly stem the crisis. It's time to turn up the heat on the industrial meat industry and dramatically curtail its climate harm, which includes 32% of global methane emissions. Yet instead development banks are using public funds to expand this sector that generates 16.5% of total greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs).

On 19 and 20 October, hundreds of public development banks (PDBs) will gather for the second Finance in Common Summit to make pledges to advance Paris climate and UN sustainable development goals (SDGs). The summit—which will also focus on agriculture and agribusiness transformation—presents a vital opportunity for these banks to put their money where their mouth is and align their agriculture investments to meet these goals.

**Development banks on every continent are directly undermining the UN SDGs and Paris goals by channeling billions of public dollars into multinational meat corporations. While undermining the livelihoods of small-scale producers, this heavily polluting industrial meat system is fueling the climate crisis, destroying precious ecosystems, promoting animal cruelty and increasing the risk of antibiotic resistance and future pandemics.**

**With vast documented evidence of factory farming's destructive effects, a new global campaign, Divest Factory Farming, is calling on PDBs to immediately stop financing industrial livestock operations and shift their investments towards a more equitable and sustainable food system."**

"347 Organizations Sign Letter To Protect Rooftop Solar Power In California: Influential grassroots organizations across the state and sectors come together in asking Governor Newsom and CPUC to prioritize rooftop solar and storage for a more equitable and resilient energy grid," *CleanTechnica*, September 5, 2021, <https://cleantechnica.com/2021/09/05/347-organizations-sign-letter-to-protect-rooftop-solar-power-in-california/>, reported, **"347 organizations** (list: [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1eB85J3qRSeFn6dz5mPG\\_un34s7Q5IJ4c/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1eB85J3qRSeFn6dz5mPG_un34s7Q5IJ4c/edit)) **representing a true grassroots movement—spanning business to housing to environmental advocacy groups, issued a statement of support to protect rooftop solar in California.**

The open letter signed by a diverse coalition of organizations, sent to Governor Newsom and the California Public Utilities Commission, demands state leaders keep solar affordable in California as the Newsom Administration considers changes to 'net energy metering' (NEM), the state policy that defines how solar users send energy back to and interact with the electric grid."

Some builders and developers had complained that requiring rooftop solar would make construction too expensive.

"Indigenous leaders from India denounce Modi over coal hypocrisy," Survival International, November 9, 2021, <https://www.survivalinternational.org/news/12692>, reported, **"Representatives of India's Adivasi (Indigenous) people have denounced PM Narendra Modi for proclaiming his green credentials at COP, whilst simultaneously planning a massive expansion of coal mining on their lands.**

**The lands and livelihoods of tens of thousands of tribal people will be destroyed under Modi's plan to open 55 new coal mines, expand 193 existing ones, and produce 1 billion tonnes of coal a year. Eighty per cent of the new mines will be on Adivasi land.**

**Vast areas of tribal forests are being sold off without the people's consent. Corporations including Adani, Jindal and Vedanta are snapping up coalfields which are being auctioned as part of Modi's coal rush.**

**One of the areas targeted is the priceless Hasdeo Forest in Chhattisgarh, home to twenty thousand Adivasis. Two mines are already operational there, and a third, Parsa, has just been approved. The Parsa mine will be operated by mining giant Adani, whose subsidiary was recently announced as a sponsor of London's Science Museum.**

Shakuntala, an Oraon leader from Hasdeo, said: **'If the mine comes to Hasdeo forest, the entire region, including the Adivasi villages will be destroyed. The forest gives us everything we need – if the mine is opened there will be nothing left. Everything will be uprooted.** The Earth is our Mother. We are the sons and daughters of the Earth. So how can we watch anyone destroy our Mother? We are ready to give our lives for Mother Earth.

'Whenever the government wants, it gives our land away for industries and coal mining. So we Adivasis are not free. We do not accept this slavery. We will give everything we have to resist this slavery: our bodies, our souls, our lives, but we will never accept it. We will not give our forests and lands away. If we do, the Adivasi existence will be lost forever.'

Phillip, an Oraon activist. His people's land (behind him) has been sliced in two by a giant coal mine.

Phillip, an Oraon activist from Jharkhand, said: 'We Adivasi people can save the Earth... but they see no value for this. They just want us to be dead... That waste dump you see behind me, that is how Modi sees us Adivasis. I want to say to Modi: You cannot sit in power long. To Adani and Ambani: big corporations like you people need to also pay attention. We Adivasi people will not just leave our lands to you. Because, if anything can save the world, it is the worldview of the Adivasi people. There is no other way. You are destroying the environment, which is Adivasi people's life, by mining. Hear me straight: Change yourself, or nature will change you for the better.'

Athram, a Gond lawyer and leader from Andhra Pradesh, said: 'Now, there is a world COP summit going on, and I want to warn the COP leaders attending the summit: You talk about environmental protection, but Adivasi people are the real protectors of the environment. The government is bringing in so many projects to destroy Adivasi people. The environment is getting destroyed. Our culture, our lifestyle and our forests are being destroyed by this government.

'The same leaders of the government go to these summits, to lie that 'I save the environment' and so on. How big a lie can they get away with? Destroying our communities and destroying environment by imposing destructive projects on our lands, is against the [Paris] agreement. Here you are destroying our people and there [Glasgow] you are speaking about environment protection as if you are protecting it on your own. Why are you lying like this? We Adivasis... can take care of our lands; we know how to protect it. We want our lands, our territory. Who are you? You sit somewhere in Delhi and then go to meetings like this and speak as if you are a "great environmental protector." Don't lie like this.'

And Mukesh, a Ho activist from Jharkhand, said: 'I want to send this message to the COP leaders who are of the opinion that they can save our environment, while also continuing to push mining and industrialization. Because of mining, our forests will be deforested, our rivers silted up. If our forests and ecosystems, which are our schools, are destroyed, then our knowledge will also be destroyed. If our knowledge gets destroyed, the future of the planet will be in danger. So, that's why, to save the planet, you have to save the Adivasi people living in their ecosystems.'

Survival recently launched, in collaboration with Adivasi representatives, its Adivasis Against Coal campaign (<https://www.survivalinternational.org/campaigns/adivasisagainstcoal>), to press the Indian authorities to stop coal mining on Adivasi land without their consent."

Earth Justice stated in a September 5, 2021 E-mail, **"The toxic legacy of uranium mining from the Cold War era continues to haunt communities throughout the American**

West. Hundreds of mines were dug, especially on Indigenous lands. Many of the miners themselves were from tribes such as the Navajo, and few were given sufficient protection, or warnings about the toxins they blasted out of the rock, inhaled and brought into their homes after work. **Today, water wells in these areas contain hazardous levels of uranium beyond the federal limit considered safe for drinking water. High levels of uranium persist in the soil, which is linked to everything from autoimmune diseases to reproductive problems to lung and bone cancer.**

**Millions of federal dollars have yet to make a dent in implementing adequate clean-up plans for Indigenous communities — so why attempt to revive a polluting industry with even more tax dollars and put even more Indigenous communities at risk of more contamination?**

**In 2020, the Trump administration endorsed spending millions on creating a uranium stockpile to boost domestic mining after years of industry lobbying. Now, Biden's Department of Energy is following through on that proposal even though it conflicts with the White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council's recommendations to do no harm to frontline communities.**

**Another uranium boom is not what our communities need, nor what our already parched earth needs. Not only does uranium mining pollute water, it also uses up water that plants and animals depend on for survival.**

**We cannot use tax dollars to subsidize uranium companies that have already perpetrated environmental injustices toward Indigenous communities and polluted our precious water resources. Please urge the Department of Energy not to create a uranium reserve**

([https://earthjustice.org/action/stop-new-uranium-mining?ms=email&utm\\_source=crm&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=action&utm\\_campaign=210901\\_Action\\_UraniumReserve\\_DOE&utm\\_content=HTMLTakeActionButton1&emci=bb4ce668-220c-ec11-981f-501ac57ba3ed&emdi=689f0ec0-550e-ec11-981f-501ac57ba3ed&ceid=1379097](https://earthjustice.org/action/stop-new-uranium-mining?ms=email&utm_source=crm&utm_medium=email&utm_term=action&utm_campaign=210901_Action_UraniumReserve_DOE&utm_content=HTMLTakeActionButton1&emci=bb4ce668-220c-ec11-981f-501ac57ba3ed&emdi=689f0ec0-550e-ec11-981f-501ac57ba3ed&ceid=1379097))."

The Nuclear Information Service stated in an October 8, 2021 E-mail, **"We cannot allow the federal government to continue to harm Indigenous communities impacted by the toxic dangers of uranium mining.**

**Protect Indigenous Communities and the Environment - Stop New Uranium Mining**

**The Biden administration is moving forward with a Trump-era proposal to establish a nuclear fuel stockpile — otherwise known as a strategic uranium reserve (SUR) — that would encourage more mining and put many frontline Indigenous communities and treasured, sacred places like the Grand Canyon, Bears' Ears, and the Black Hills at risk from uranium contamination.**

**President Biden promised voters to invest in environmental justice and clean energy, but uranium mining would undermine both.**

Take Action! Demand that the Biden administration prioritize environmental justice, NOT subsidies for uranium companies (<https://nirs.salsalabs.org/nouraniumreserve/index.html?eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=03b742b2-e460-4941-82fa-289ee31af023>).

Hannah Grover, "Navajo group alleges U.S. violated human rights in uranium mine licensing," *New Mexico Political Report*, October 22, 2021,

<https://nmpoliticalreport.com/2021/10/22/navajo-group-alleges-u-s-violated-human-rights-in-uranium-mine-licensing/>, reported, "**With historic uranium mine sites already polluting communities**, members of the Navajo Nation have been fighting for 27 years to stop a new mining initiative from starting in the Crownpoint and Church Rock areas.

On Thursday, **the Eastern Navajo Diné Against Uranium Mining took that fight to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, arguing that the United States and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's approval of Hydro Resources Inc. mines violated the human rights of Navajo Nation residents.**"

Andrea Germanos, "Scientists Warn Experimental Nuclear Plant Backed by Bill Gates Is 'Outright Dangerous': 'Gates has continually downplayed the role of proven, safe renewable energy technology in decarbonizing our economy,'" *Common Dreams*, November 17, 2021, [https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/11/17/scientists-warn-experimental-nuclear-plant-backed-bill-gates-outright-dangerous?utm\\_term=AO&utm\\_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_content=email&utm\\_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_medium=Email](https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/11/17/scientists-warn-experimental-nuclear-plant-backed-bill-gates-outright-dangerous?utm_term=AO&utm_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_content=email&utm_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_medium=Email), reported, "Officials announced Tuesday that **the small city of Kemmerer, Wyoming would be the site of a new Bill Gates-backed nuclear power project—an initiative whose proponents say would provide climate-friendly and affordable energy but which some scientists warn is a dangerous diversion from true energy solutions.**

'Gates has continually downplayed the role of proven, safe renewable energy technology in decarbonizing our economy.'

**The experimental Natrium nuclear power plant will be at the site of the coal-fired Naughton Power Plant**, slated for retirement in 2025, though siting issues are not yet finalized. The company behind the project is TerraPower. Gates, who helped found TerraPower, is chairman of the board.

'Mr. Gates,' nuclear expert Arnie Gunderson wrote in an open letter in August, Natrium 'is following in the footsteps of **a 70-year-long record of sodium-cooled nuclear technological failures**. Your plan to recycle those failures and resurrect liquid sodium again will siphon valuable public funds and research from inexpensive and proven renewable energy alternatives.'

The project in October received an \$80 million U.S. Department of Energy grant."

Julia Conley, "Despite Outcry, Japanese Prime Minister Urges Swift Release of Fukushima Wastewater Into Sea: South Korea has said the release of the radioactive wastewater poses a 'grave threat' to marine life.," *Common Dreams*, October 18, 2021, [https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/10/18/despite-outcry-japanese-prime-minister-urges-swift-release-fukushima-wastewater-sea?utm\\_term=AO&utm\\_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_content=email&utm\\_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_medium=Email](https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/10/18/despite-outcry-japanese-prime-minister-urges-swift-release-fukushima-wastewater-sea?utm_term=AO&utm_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_content=email&utm_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_medium=Email), reported, "**A South Korean official on Monday denounced Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida's call to begin releasing contaminated wastewater from the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant into the sea starting in 2023.**

**Kishida, who took office last month, visited the plant over the weekend and said the plan to release more than one million tonnes of water into the sea over 30 years should not be delayed.**



**The radioactive wastewater has continued to accumulate at the power plant site since three nuclear reactors melted down** after the March 2011 tsunami, forcing the evacuation of more than 150,000 people.

'Japan's decision was made without enough consultation with the neighboring nations.'

'I felt strongly that the water issue is a crucial one that should not be pushed back,' Kishida told reporters.

**According to The Times, South Korean officials, who continue to ban seafood imports from the region due to safety concerns, were not consulted by Kishida's government before the announcement.**

'Japan's decision was made without enough consultation with the neighboring nations,' a South Korean diplomat told the outlet.

**According to the prime minister, the government will make extensive efforts to ensure the water is safe, despite the fact that the Advanced Liquid Processing System used by the Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO) to treat the wastewater is not able to remove tritium, a radioactive isotope of hydrogen.**

**Experts say tritium is only harmful to humans in large doses, but South Korean officials have said the release of the water poses a 'grave threat' to marine life in the Pacific Ocean."**

The plan to move forward with the release of wastewater represents a 'radioactive assault' on the ocean 'and all those who share its shores,' tweeted Alex Mihailovich, a correspondent for RT America."

Jessica Corbett, "New Legal Campaign Aims to Protect People and Nature From Polluters' Irreparable Damage:' 'States must listen to communities' demands to recognize the human right to a healthy environment and better regulate businesses with respect to the impacts of their operations,'" *Common Dreams*, September 23, 2021, [https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/09/23/new-legal-campaign-aims-protect-people-and-nature-polluters-irreparable-damage?utm\\_term=AO&utm\\_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_content=email&utm\\_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_medium=Email](https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/09/23/new-legal-campaign-aims-protect-people-and-nature-polluters-irreparable-damage?utm_term=AO&utm_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_content=email&utm_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_medium=Email), reported, **"Frontline communities in Latin America and advocacy groups on Thursday announced a new global campaign that targets major polluters and aims 'make the right to a healthy environment an internationally recognized human right' through court action.**

Launched ahead of United Nations climate talks scheduled for next month, the campaign kicked off with a pair of lawsuits filed in Chile and Colombia by the Paris-based International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and member organizations in each country.

**'#SeeYouInCourt** (<https://twitter.com/hashtag/SeeYouInCourt>) is not just a hashtag or a publicity campaign," FIDH said in a statement. **'It launches a series of actions to hold companies accountable for their harmful practices that prevent tens of thousands of communities around the world from living in a healthy, safe, and clean environment.'**

A campaign video released Thursday calls out polluters for not only disregarding human rights and the environment but also pressuring governments "to conduct business at any cost."

Kenny Stancil, "'Unconscionable': Despite Outcry Over Lead Poisoning, New Asphalt Plant Approved in Flint, Michigan: 'Our community, our families, our children, cannot and should not take more chemical pollution,'" *Common Dreams*, November 15, 2021,

[https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/11/15/unconscionable-despite-outcry-over-lead-poisoning-new-asphalt-plant-approved-flint?utm\\_term=AO&utm\\_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_content=email&utm\\_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_medium=Email](https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/11/15/unconscionable-despite-outcry-over-lead-poisoning-new-asphalt-plant-approved-flint?utm_term=AO&utm_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_content=email&utm_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_medium=Email), reported, **"Less than a week after a federal judge approved a \$626 million settlement for thousands of lead poisoning victims in Flint, Michigan, state officials on Monday rubber-stamped an air permit for a new asphalt plant in the city despite strong opposition from residents and advocates, who denounced the decision as another manifestation of environmental injustice.**

**'The plant will be an additional source of air pollution in a community of color that already has one of the highest rates of asthma hospitalizations in the state.'**

According to Earthjustice, **"The Ajax asphalt plant will be located in Genesee Township, less than 1,600 feet from public housing in a low-income Black neighborhood in Flint that is already overwhelmed by high levels of air toxics, particulate matter from the concentration of industrial activity.** Nearby facilities include Genesee Power Station, Universal Coating, Inc., Ace-Saginaw Paving Company, Buckeye Terminals, Superior Metals, RJ Industrial Recycling, and many others."

Hannah Grover, New Mexico Political Report, November 11, 2021, <https://mailchi.mp/nmpoliticalreport.com/environment-wrap-up-474782?e=cde7993ced>

**"Groundwater flow into the Colorado River is expected to decline by about 30 percent over the next 30 years, according to a study recently published in the journal Geophysical Research Letters.**

This study comes as levels in Colorado River Basin water reservoirs decline to historic lows, putting hydropower generation in jeopardy and leading to water shortages.

Amid these impacts of climate change, U.S. Senators Martin Heinrich and Ben Ray Lujan **reintroduced legislation that would protect the Gila River as a wild and scenic river.** The Gila River starts in New Mexico and eventually joins the Colorado River near Yuma, Arizona. However, the river is mostly dry and intermittent in Arizona below a dam.

The wild and scenic river designation would prevent large diversions and dams that would impact the Gila's free-flowing characteristics.

**While reservoirs are often used to store water for communities, Heinrich said aquifers are a better place for storage.** Read my story here: <https://nmpoliticalreport.com/2021/11/05/heinrich-lujan-see-wild-and-scenic-river-designation-for-the-gila/>."

Brett Wilkins, **"Half-Measures Are No Longer Enough': Haaland Urged to Sign Order to Halt Extinction Crisis:** "The United States can restore its position as a global leader in conservation and prevent many of these extinctions, but it must take swift action that matches the extent and scale of the problem," *Common Dreams*, October 18, 2021, [https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/10/18/half-measures-are-no-longer-enough-haaland-urged-sign-order-halt-extinction-crisis?utm\\_term=AO&utm\\_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_content=email&utm\\_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_medium=Email](https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/10/18/half-measures-are-no-longer-enough-haaland-urged-sign-order-halt-extinction-crisis?utm_term=AO&utm_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_content=email&utm_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_medium=Email) reported, **"Noting that a million species around the world face extinction in the near future, more than 100 conservation groups on Monday implored U.S. Interior Secretary Deb Haaland to issue a secretarial order "that sets**

concrete action" to "stem the extinction crisis and restore abundant wildlife and plant populations" worldwide.

**'The massive challenge of confronting the global wildlife extinction crisis requires the United States to take bold, transformative action,'** the groups wrote in a letter led by the Center for Biological Diversity.

**'The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recently made a heartbreaking announcement that it is proposing to remove 22 animals and a plant from the endangered species list because of extinction,'** the letter continued. **'An additional one million animal and plant species here and around the world are facing extinction within the coming decades. Millions more are declining.'**

**'The United States can restore its position as a global leader in conservation and prevent many of these extinctions, but it must take swift action that matches the extent and scale of the problem,'** the signers wrote.

**The proposed secretarial order includes the following steps the letter's signatories say will avert extinction:**

**Restoring healthy ecosystems to address habitat loss and degradation by establishing new protected areas, expanding existing ones, and increasing connectivity between them;**

**Recovering endangered species and rebuilding populations by using emergency authority to protect any species where there is a "significant risk" to its wellbeing, and implementing protections for all other animals and plants that warrant safeguarding under the Endangered Species Act no later than the end of 2023;**

**Accounting for climate change in the recovery of endangered species by requiring the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to update or develop recovery plans that integrate greenhouse gas emissions reductions to avoid extinctions; and**

**Cracking down on the global wildlife trade.**

**'This is a pivotal moment for the Biden administration,'** Stephanie Kurose, a senior policy specialist at the Center for Biological Diversity, said in a statement. **'We're watching so many unique animals and plants disappear before our very eyes. Policy half-measures are no longer enough. Our leaders need to commit to doing everything they can to save life on Earth.'**

**'Secretary Haaland cares deeply about protecting our natural heritage,'** she added, **'so we're hopeful that she'll do the right thing and sign this secretarial order.'**

**However, conservationists lamented the conspicuous absence of the United States from last week's United Nations Biodiversity Conference in China, as well as the fact that the U.S. is the only nation on Earth that hasn't ratified the Convention on Biological Diversity.**

**'It reinforces the notion,'** said one critic, **'that the U.S. is a fair-weather partner when it comes to environmental conservation, including issues of climate change.'**

**Our work is licensed under Creative Commons (CC BY-NC-ND 3.0"**

Mighty Earth wrote in a November 4, 2011, E-mail, "BREAKING NEWS: Mighty Earth, together with the *Financial Times* exposed the British conglomerate Jardine Matheson as driving the rarest orangutan in the world further to the edge of extinction.

BUT – we've heard this story has provoked worry inside Jardines. This means our actions are working. Our secret intel tells us the company is getting nervous and on the brink of finally committing to protecting this rare species.

Let's make them really scared. Can you add your voice to our petition?

The Financial Times named and shamed **Jardines and their subsidiaries for continuing to clear Tapanuli orangutan forest to extract gold from the open pit Martabe mine, saying that “they cut down areas where there were orangutans, that were within their known range’.**

This could be our moment. We need one more big people-powered effort and we can push the company over the line, and help save the Tapanuli orangutan.

Can you please sign this petition and add your voice demanding Jardine Matheson acts?

Thanks for standing mighty,

Martin, Julian and the rest of us at Mighty Earth

More Information:

Mighty Earth: <https://www.mightyearth.org/2021/11/02/jardines-caught-clearing-forest-now-in-rare-orangutan-habitat/>

Financial Times: <https://www.ft.com/content/74d17c47-fc3f-47db-a717-e1a2780986fb>

Original Email

**The Tapanuli orangutan, the rarest great ape in the world, is on the brink - there are less than 800 of these charismatic primates left and their habitat is under attack.**

**Jardine Matheson, a British conglomerate, is expanding a gold mine into the habitat of the Tapanuli orangutan putting at risk the entire species.**

The next few months are going to be critical to help protect this species. If Jardine Matheson manages to keep this issue out of the limelight, then it will most likely get away with the expansion. But if we can raise a storm and force this secretive firm out into the glare of public accountability – we have got a really good chance of stopping the expansion.

Can you help by signing this people-powered petition saying “we know what you’re doing and we’re here to stop you” ([https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/jardine-matheson-protect-the-tapanuli-orangutans/?link\\_id=7&can\\_id=2304a48b2891e77b9b6c14d1ce535f4f&source=email-soooooo-cute-2&email\\_referrer=email\\_1345822\\_\\_subject\\_1774124&email\\_subject=re-orangutans](https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/jardine-matheson-protect-the-tapanuli-orangutans/?link_id=7&can_id=2304a48b2891e77b9b6c14d1ce535f4f&source=email-soooooo-cute-2&email_referrer=email_1345822__subject_1774124&email_subject=re-orangutans)).

**Since early 2019, the Martabe mine has destroyed at least 40 hectares of Tapanuli orangutan rainforest habitat -- an area of the Batang Toru forest equivalent to 75 football fields.**

Jardine Matheson could act to save this beautiful species, and be seen as a global leader in species protection. But instead, it only thinks about its bottom line.

Mighty Earth was created to stop egregious companies from exploiting our tropical forests, so critical to life on earth, from destruction. When our global community rises up, we can achieve incredible things. Can you help us now defend the habitat of the Tapanuli orangutan?

Jardine Matheson STOP clearing rainforests and protect the Tapanuli orangutan habitat NOW."

Andrea Germanos, "'Ban Neonicotinoids Right Now,' Say Conservationists After EPA Pesticide Review: 'The EPA doesn't need any more proof,' said one expert after agency analyses detailed threat to endangered species," *Common Dreams*, August 27, 2021, <https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/08/27/ban-neonicotinoids-right-now-say->

conservationists-after-epa-pesticide-review?utm\_term=AO&utm\_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\_content=email&utm\_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\_medium=Email, **"Environmental and food safety advocates highlighted Thursday the decline in iconic pollinators following new analyses released by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency showing three widely used neonicotinoid insecticides are 'likely to adversely affect' the majority of the endangered plants and animals the agency assessed.**

**'These extremely toxic pesticides are causing drastic ecological harm, both the collapse of bee populations as well as putting literally hundreds of endangered species at extinction risk across the country.'**

**'Now the EPA can't ignore the fact that these popular insecticides are wiping out our country's most endangered plants and animals,'** Lori Ann Burd, environmental health director at the Center for Biological Diversity, said in a statement.

**'Neonicotinoids are used so widely, and in such large quantities,' she said, 'that even the EPA's industry-friendly pesticide office had to conclude that few endangered species can escape their toxic effects.'**

Burd's comments came in response to draft biological evaluations for three neonicotinoids, or 'neonics,' which are: clothianidin, imidacloprid and thiamethoxam. The evaluations, which now face a 60-day public comment period, were required by settlements the agency reached earlier this year with NRDC and the Center for Food Safety (CFS).

**Neonics have come under the repeated scrutiny of environmental watchdogs and scientists, with previous studies linking their use to harm to insects, including bees and butterflies, as well as birds and freshwater marine species.**

In its Thursday statement, the Center for Biological Diversity summarized the EPA's damning findings on the neonics' adverse impacts to threatened species and their habitats :

**Nearly 80% of all endangered species—1,445 different kinds of plants and animals—are likely to be 'adversely affected' by imidacloprid, and the pesticide will adversely modify the designated critical habitats of 658 species. For thiamethoxam, 1,396 (77% of all) endangered species are likely to be adversely affected, and the pesticide will adversely modify the designated critical habitats of 644 species. About two thirds of all endangered species, 1,225, are likely to be adversely affected by clothianidin, and the pesticide will adversely modify the designated critical habitats of 644 species.**

**CFS also noted the "remarkable levels of harm" the evaluations found with regards to the neonics.**

According to George Kimbrell, legal director of the group, the analyses 'confirm what scientists have told EPA and industry for over a decade: These extremely toxic pesticides are causing drastic ecological harm, both the collapse of bee populations as well as putting literally hundreds of endangered species at extinction risk across the country.'

In light of that confirmation, Kimbrell urged the Biden administration 'to complete its process with all due speed in order to start protecting these iconic species.'"

The Pew Charitable Trust asks in, [https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/trust/archive/summer-2021/can-we-protect-the-ocean-by-2030?utm\\_campaign=2021-09-21+Latest+\(national\)&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=Pew&subscriberkey=0030e00002JdGmGAAY](https://www.pewtrusts.org/en/trust/archive/summer-2021/can-we-protect-the-ocean-by-2030?utm_campaign=2021-09-21+Latest+(national)&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Pew&subscriberkey=0030e00002JdGmGAAY), Septeber 9, 201, **"Can We Protect the Ocean by 2030? Trust Magazine, "From pervasive plastic pollution to illegal fishing, threats to ocean health are becoming more and**

**more urgent. An ambitious conservation goal is emerging—but what's actually needed to conserve 30% of our global ocean by 2030?"**

Wild Earth Guardians wrote in a December 14, 2021 E-mail, **"Tell the Bureau of Land Management to stop a new highway through Red Cliffs National Conservation Area Four-lane highway is incompatible with the conservation area,"**

**"Despite receiving thousands of letters of opposition from many of you, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has so far ignored our call to withdraw a right-of-way across public lands in southwest Utah.**

The right-of-way had been granted by the Trump administration, just before it left office, through the Red Cliffs National Conservation Area outside St. George—a rapidly sprawling city. Trump's BLM did this despite clear instruction from Congress in 2009 that Red Cliffs was designated to conserve and protect the plants and wildlife, including the threatened Mojave desert tortoise, that live where the Mojave Desert, Great Basin, and Colorado Plateau converge.

This past June, Guardians and our partners sued BLM for failing to uphold its responsibilities to manage the Red Cliffs. Construction hasn't started on the four-lane highway—yet—so the Biden administration still has an opportunity to correct this terrible decision by its predecessors.

To get the Biden administration's attention, Guardians and allies have created a shared website asking the public to join together to voice its opposition to this destructive and unnecessary highway across fragile desert habitat.

The overall goal is 80,000 signatures. With the help of Guardians' great supporters, I'm confident we can reach that goal.

Please take action and tell the BLM that the Red Cliffs National Conservation Area is too valuable to destroy with a highway (<https://www.protectredcliffs.com>)."

Kenny Stancil, "Plastic Pollution in Waterways Could Triple by 2040, Warns UN: 'This assessment provides the strongest scientific argument to date for the urgency to act, and for collective action to protect and restore our oceans from source to sea,' *Common Dreams*, October 22, 2021, [https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/10/22/plastic-pollution-waterways-could-triple-2040-warns-](https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/10/22/plastic-pollution-waterways-could-triple-2040-warns-un?utm_term=AO&utm_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_content=email&utm_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_medium=Email)

[un?utm\\_term=AO&utm\\_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_content=email&utm\\_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_medium=Email](https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/10/22/plastic-pollution-waterways-could-triple-2040-warns-un?utm_term=AO&utm_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_content=email&utm_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_medium=Email), reported, **"As the global pollution crisis continues to endanger the world's ecosystems, people, and climate, the United Nations warned Thursday that 'a drastic reduction in unnecessary, avoidable, and problematic plastic'—achieved through a rapid transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy and a shift to more sustainable patterns of production and consumption—is key to cutting down on waste at the needed scale.**

**'Continuing with business-as-usual is simply not an option.'**

*From Pollution to Solution: A Global Assessment of Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution* (<https://www.unep.org/resources/pollution-solution-global-assessment-marine-litter-and-plastic-pollution>), a new comprehensive assessment and visualization from the U.N. Environment Program (UNEP), shows that **plastic pollution in aquatic ecosystems has risen substantially in recent years and is projected to more than double by 2030, exacerbating detrimental ecological, public health, and economic consequences.**

'This assessment provides the strongest scientific argument to date for the urgency to act, and for collective action to protect and restore our oceans from source to sea,' Inger Andersen, executive director of UNEP, said in a statement. **'A major concern is the fate of breakdown products, such as microplastics and chemical additives, many of which are known to be toxic, and hazardous to both human and wildlife health, and ecosystems.'**

**Plastic accounts for 85% of marine litter, the report notes, and without meaningful interventions, plastic pollution in waterways and on coastlines could nearly triple by 2040—with 23 to 37 million metric tons of plastic waste flowing into seas each year, up from the current annual volume of 11 million metric tons."**

"Greenpeace USA Responds to New NOAA Report on Global IUU Fishing," Greenpeace USA, August 13, 2021, [https://www.commondreams.org/newswire/2021/08/13/greenpeace-usa-responds-new-noaa-report-global-iuu-fishing?utm\\_term=AO&utm\\_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_content=email&utm\\_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_medium=Email](https://www.commondreams.org/newswire/2021/08/13/greenpeace-usa-responds-new-noaa-report-global-iuu-fishing?utm_term=AO&utm_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_content=email&utm_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_medium=Email), stated, **"Yesterday, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) issued its new report to Congress** (<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/feature-story/noaa-issues-2021-report-global-iuu-fishing-and-bycatch-protected-marine-life-resources>) **on international illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing and bycatch. The report, which identifies 31 nations with vessels engaged in illegal, unreported, or unregulated fishing activities on the high seas, is the next installment in a series of publications regarding international fisheries management improvement.** It additionally references cases documented in Choppy Waters— Greenpeace East Asia's landmark report on forced labor and illegal fishing in Taiwan's distant water fisheries.

In response, Greenpeace USA Senior Oceans Campaigner J. Park said:

**'NOAA's report to Congress confirms that pirate fishing is a global problem that implicates the US seafood market. As investigations from Greenpeace and others have documented for years, the use of forced labor is closely linked to illegal fishing. In order to protect people and the planet from the commercial fishing industry, Congress needs to take action and pass the Illegal Fishing and Forced Labor Prevention Act. As long as the US market remains open to illegal, unreported, and unregulated seafood, widespread human rights and environmental violations will continue to occur at sea.**

**'While bycatch is certainly a serious concern in the 29 countries identified in NOAA's report, it should be noted that US fleets also have a lot of progress to make on this front. US fisheries must tackle the problem of reducing bycatch and habitat damage from bottom trawling and other destructive fishing methods.'**

**Illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing is a top contributor to the loss of marine biodiversity and the depletion of the world's fisheries, and is connected to human rights abuses of people around the globe.** Greenpeace USA and its allies are calling on Congress to pass the Illegal Fishing and Forced Labor Prevention Act, an imperative step for the United States' leadership in tackling illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing and human rights abuses in the commercial fishing sector."

Jenna McGuire, "Industrial Fishing Ban Needed, Says Renowned Ocean Defender Sylvia Earle, "All of that wildlife taken out of the ocean not only affects biodiversity and fosters extinctions at an accelerated rate. It breaks the carbon cycle—the nutrient chain that maintains

the fabric of life on Earth." *Common Dreams*, November 10, 2021, [https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/11/10/industrial-fishing-ban-needed-says-renowned-ocean-defender-sylvia-earle?utm\\_term=AO&utm\\_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_content=email&utm\\_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_medium=Email](https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/11/10/industrial-fishing-ban-needed-says-renowned-ocean-defender-sylvia-earle?utm_term=AO&utm_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_content=email&utm_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_medium=Email) reported, **"Renowned oceanographer Sylvia Earle is calling for world leaders at the United Nations climate summit to support a ban on industrial fishing in international waters to safeguard the blue heart of the planet."**

**'All of that wildlife taken out of the ocean not only affects biodiversity and fosters extinctions at an accelerated rate. It breaks the carbon cycle—the nutrient chain that maintains the fabric of life on Earth,'** said Earle, who was at COP26 this week, *The Guardian* reported Wednesday.

The deep-sea researcher said tackling **the issue of overfishing is as important to the climate crisis as curbing fossil fuel emissions. A industrial fishing ban, said Earle, would help protect oceans 'in a stroke.'**

Due to poor management and regulation, overfishing occurs when fish species are removed from the ocean at such high rates they become too depleted to recover, destroying fish populations around the world. **Commercial fishing also employs tactics that perpetuate unnecessary waste, when massive amounts of unwanted fish and animals are caught in nets and then discarded.**

According to a 2018 report by the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization, **a third of commercial fish populations are being harvested at biologically unsustainable levels and the world's fisheries are in deep trouble.**

**While three billion people worldwide rely on wild-caught or farmed seafood as a food source, Earle noted that just five nations were 'benefiting disproportionately on an industrial scale from the wild animals that live [in international waters],' for means of profit. Earle argued that the coastal communities who survived on fishing could do so within national waters.**

Eighty-six-year-old Earle, president of Mission Blue, an organization that aims to establish marine protected areas (MPAs), welcomed COP26's '30x30' initiative to secure at least 30% of world's oceans by 2030, but says the proposal does not go far enough.

**'We must protect nature as if our lives depend on it,' she said. 'Achieving 30% of full protection for land and sea... doesn't mean we can trash the rest.'**

Our work is licensed under Creative Commons (CC BY-NC-ND 3.0)."

Kenny Stancil, "Groups Tell UN Food Agency to Ditch 'Toxic Alliance' With Pesticide Association: 'This partnership with CropLife is in direct conflict with FAO's mandate as a U.N. institution to fulfill human rights to health, adequate food, clean water and environment, and safe working conditions,'" *Common Dreams*, December 3, 2021, [https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/12/03/groups-tell-un-food-agency-ditch-toxic-alliance-pesticide-association?utm\\_term=AO&utm\\_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_content=email&utm\\_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_medium=Email](https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/12/03/groups-tell-un-food-agency-ditch-toxic-alliance-pesticide-association?utm_term=AO&utm_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_content=email&utm_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_medium=Email), reported, **"A global coalition of food justice advocates on Friday urged the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization to sever ties with CropLife International, a trade association representing agrochemical corporations.**



In  
a letter ([https://www.panna.org/sites/default/files/Petition%20to%20FAO%20RE%20CropLife%20Partnership\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.panna.org/sites/default/files/Petition%20to%20FAO%20RE%20CropLife%20Partnership_FINAL.pdf)) **addressed to FAO Director-General Qu Dongyu and attached to a petition signed by more than 187,300 people from 107 countries, nearly a dozen groups wrote that 'CropLife's sole purpose is to advocate for use of its members' products.'**

**Those products, says the letter, 'are both antiquated chemical solutions and technofixes (genetically modified seeds) that lock farmers into ever-escalating use of pesticides, in conjunction with proprietary seeds that have systematically undermined the rights and welfare of the majority of the world's food producers.'**

**'A partnership with CropLife represents a perpetuation of this deeply unjust and unsustainable system,'** said the coalition, whose members include the petition organizers—Pesticide Action Network (PAN) International, the Center for International Environmental Law, and Friends of the Earth—plus several other groups fighting for food sovereignty, trade justice, and workers' rights."

The Democratic Conservation Alliance stated, September 24, 2021, [https://secure.democraticconservationalliance.com/a/deb-haaland-recycling?source=MS\\_EM\\_PET\\_2021.09.05\\_B1\\_Haaland-Recycling\\_X\\_F1\\_S1\\_C1\\_30-cl&emci=c3be0ce6-a31c-ec11-981f-0050f271a1a2&emdi=c9a897b1-bb1c-ec11-981f-0050f271a1a2&ceid=1324702](https://secure.democraticconservationalliance.com/a/deb-haaland-recycling?source=MS_EM_PET_2021.09.05_B1_Haaland-Recycling_X_F1_S1_C1_30-cl&emci=c3be0ce6-a31c-ec11-981f-0050f271a1a2&emdi=c9a897b1-bb1c-ec11-981f-0050f271a1a2&ceid=1324702), reported on an **effort to have significant federal support for recycling**, following a statement calling on the need for it by Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland, **"Interior Secretary Deb Haaland is calling on the E.P.A to BOOST funding for local recycling programs and SAVE our planet!"**

**Recycling is one of the easiest ways Americans can positively impact the environment.**

So we're standing strong with Sec. Haaland to DEMAND the E.P.A take action and fund recycling programs. If you're with us, sign on before midnight. 10,000 SIGNATURES NEEDED: SIGN NOW.

**Fact: Only 32% of Americans recycle their waste.**

**Fact: 91% of plastic is NOT recycled -- tons of recyclable goods go to landfills every year.**

**Fact: Communities across the country lack funding for recycling plants -- they can't properly recycle plastics!**

**If we were able to reach a 75% recycling level in the U.S, it would be the equivalent of taking 50 million cars off the road each year!**

**With fully-funded recycling programs, we could drastically reduce greenhouse gas emissions, decrease ocean and landfill waste, and create over a MILLION new jobs.**

If you agree with us, sign now to stand with Sec. Haaland and DEMAND the E.P.A fund recycling programs."

Friends of Earth Action wrote in an October 29, 2021 E-mail, **"Animals need YOU to stand up to Big Ag.**

**As you read this, giant corporations like Tyson, Marfrig, and Smithfield Foods are profiting off factory farms where animals live in filthy, crowded, inhumane conditions.**

Calves are taken from their mothers and put into crates where they can't move, hens are CRAMMED into tiny cages where they can't spread their wings, pregnant mother pigs are kept in metal pens so small they're unable to turn around.

**Factory farming is one of the worst perpetrators of animal cruelty, air and water pollution, public health harm, and climate-harming emissions. ...., please add your name NOW to demand an end to all public support for factory farms and the harm they cause to animals, people, and the planet."**

"Lesser prairie-chickens need the safety net of the Endangered Species Act," Food and Water Watch, August 19, 2021, <https://secure.wildearthguardians.org/site/Advocacy?cmd=display&page=UserAction&id=1171>, stated, **"WildEarth Guardians has been fighting for more than two decades to get Endangered Species Act (ESA) protections for the lesser prairie-chicken, a charismatic grassland bird that now occupies approximately 15% of its historic range and has seen its numbers dwindling toward extinction.**

Thanks to our efforts—and following our 2016 listing petition and 2019 settlement agreement—the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has announced its proposal to provide ESA protections to the lesser prairie-chicken. The proposed rule includes listing the lesser prairie-chicken in two distinct population segments (DPS), with the Northern DPS—encompassing Kansas, Texas, Colorado, and Oklahoma—proposed to be listed as 'threatened' and the Southern DPS—consisting of birds in New Mexico and Texas—proposed to be listed as 'endangered.'

USFWS is accepting public comments on their proposal until September 2, so please sign this petition urging the USFWS to provide the strongest ESA protections possible and provide the critical habitat these iconic dancing birds need to survive and thrive."

**With the support of the Duwamish Nation, activists in Washington State - mostly non-Native - were carrying out a floating protest to have dams removed on the snake River in order to "save the salmon," in fall 2021("Paddling to Save the Salmon," *In These Times*, October 2021).**

"Speak Up For Nature and Stand With The Wilderness Society," The Wilderness Society, October 17, 2021, [https://act.wilderness.org/a/wilderness\\_bill\\_of\\_rights\\_nl?contactdata=v3nnkWncj%2bFKHF3eyYPA2vvMpvVVwyBD53pehrzFCUtDxN7Vqx9F8VBwn6zSQR7OKsu15WD%2fhbBCLNMb0VKOnyX0Mbhyb0sozZ7fY9C2dsriaKRH2LVclZM3NEqjIFyt4A%2bAkGeEsNexT8F%2br3REXNsQ%2bBWGJXU8tQAWpltN%2bI%3d&emci=08d885f3-f2a8-eb11-85aa-0050f237abef&emdi=0f0ee097-5c2f-ec11-981f-c896653b9208&ceid=1703828](https://act.wilderness.org/a/wilderness_bill_of_rights_nl?contactdata=v3nnkWncj%2bFKHF3eyYPA2vvMpvVVwyBD53pehrzFCUtDxN7Vqx9F8VBwn6zSQR7OKsu15WD%2fhbBCLNMb0VKOnyX0Mbhyb0sozZ7fY9C2dsriaKRH2LVclZM3NEqjIFyt4A%2bAkGeEsNexT8F%2br3REXNsQ%2bBWGJXU8tQAWpltN%2bI%3d&emci=08d885f3-f2a8-eb11-85aa-0050f237abef&emdi=0f0ee097-5c2f-ec11-981f-c896653b9208&ceid=1703828), stated, **"Our nation's public lands—national parks, wildlife refuges, national forests, deserts and grasslands, as well as state and local parks—are vital for creating a livable future for us all: they provide clean air and water, support valuable outdoor recreation and tourism economies, are important cultural and spiritual places for communities, give us opportunities to connect with nature and the many health benefits it provides, and are the home of precious wildlife.**

**Now is the time for all of us to speak up about the many ways the places we share and treasure can help answer the tough challenges facing our natural world.**

**Show your support for conserving our nation's public lands and wild places by signing your name to the Nature Bill of Rights.**

**Add your name now to the Nature Bill of Rights.**

I. We are part of nature and must protect the ecosystems that sustain us.

II. Public lands should benefit all people, and everyone must have equitable access to them.

III. The federal government must prioritize the needs and rights of tribes, people of color, working-class communities and others who have been historically excluded from public lands decision-making.

IV. Our nation's public lands need to transition away from fossil fuel development that degrades lands and waters, to sustainable energy solutions that increase their fighting power against climate change.

V. Public lands and waters can be a solution to the climate crisis and should capture and store as much or more climate change emissions than they produce.

VI. Public leaders must work with communities to restore, protect and connect at least 30 percent of U.S. lands and waters by the year 2030 to absorb climate-changing emissions, help the hardest hit communities adapt to the impacts of a changing climate and sustain wildlife."

### **U.S. Activities**

"Two National American Indian Organizations Message to Senate on Reauthorization of VAWA: "We Cannot Afford to Wait," *Native News Online*, October 6, 2021, <https://www.nativenewsonline.net/currents/two-national-american-indian-organizations-message-to-senate-on-reauthorization-of-va-wa-we-cannot-afford-to-wait>, reported, "In a joint statement issued on Wednesday, **the National Congress of American Indians and the National Indigenous Women's Resource Center called in the United States Senate to pass the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA).**

The bill passed the House of Representatives in March 2021.

**"Every day a bipartisan VAWA bill is not passed is another day that our women and children remain vulnerable in their own homes. The time to act is now. We cannot afford to wait,"** the two national American Indians tells the Senate."

**Here is the text of the full joint statement:**

The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) and the National Indigenous Women's Resource Center (NIWRC) are encouraged by the bipartisan calls to modernize, reauthorize, and strengthen the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) made during the U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary's hearing yesterday.

A key component of VAWA reauthorization must be reaffirming Tribal Nations' jurisdiction to prosecute non-Indians who commit crimes of sexual violence, child abuse, elder abuse, stalking, sex trafficking, and assaults against law enforcement officers in Indian Country. Since VAWA's reauthorization in 2013, Tribal Nations have successfully prosecuted non-Indian perpetrators in Indian Country, making their communities safer for American Indian and Alaska Native women, as well as the non-Indians who live among and with them.

However, Tribal Nations have identified jurisdictional gaps, which continue to leave many Native victims of violence vulnerable and without access to justice. To truly modernize and strengthen VAWA, we must build on the success of the 2013 VAWA tribal provisions by

closing these gaps and increasing resources available to Tribal Nations to protect their communities.

We thank members of the Committee who shared their experiences listening to domestic violence survivors and victim service providers and called for VAWA legislation that would protect all victims including those that are citizens of Tribal Nations. Senators, from both sides of the aisle, called for child predators to be brought to justice and spoke at length about how child abuse victims must receive much needed support. We agree, as true justice will not be achieved until tribal criminal jurisdiction over anyone who abuses an Indian child on tribal lands is fully restored.

VAWA reauthorization must also include additional resources and reimbursements for Tribal Nations. As U.S. Deputy Attorney General Monaco shared, “demand is outpacing supply” when we look at domestic violence resources and services. Today, the high demand for resources, services, and justice can be found all across Indian Country.

In March 2021, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 1620, a bipartisan VAWA reauthorization bill with strong tribal provisions that builds on the restoration of tribal criminal jurisdiction, which began in VAWA 2013. The Senate must do the same and act quickly to support victims and survivors across the country.

NCAI and NIWRC call on the Senate to ensure that VAWA is modernized, reauthorized, and strengthened by reaffirming tribal jurisdiction and increasing resources for Indian Country, in 2021. Every day a bipartisan VAWA bill is not passed is another day that our women and children remain vulnerable in their own homes. The time to act is now. We cannot afford to wait."

"Amicus Briefs Filed to Uphold the Indian Child Welfare Act and Support Indian Children and Families in *Brackeen v. Haaland* (formerly *Brackeen v. Bernhardt*)," National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), October 12, 2021, <https://www.ncai.org/news/articles/2021/10/12/amicus-briefs-filed-to-uphold-the-indian-child-welfare-act-and-support-indian-children-and-families-in-brackeen-v-haaland-formerly-brackeen-v-bernhardt>, stated, "On Friday, **180 tribal nations and 35 Native organizations, 25 states and the District of Columbia, and Casey Family Programs and 10 child welfare and adoption organizations filed briefs to protect the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) before the United States Supreme Court. These three amicus briefs were filed in support of the United States and tribal intervenors' petitions asking the United States Supreme Court to review the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals' decision in *Brackeen v. Haaland*, a case challenging the constitutionality of ICWA.**

The briefs provide important context for the Court's decision, expected by early to mid-January, about whether to review the lower court's ruling. The Tribal Amicus Brief focuses on the Indian child welfare crisis that led Congress to enact ICWA. **The States' Brief** ([https://sct.narf.org/documents/cherokee\\_v\\_brackeen/cert\\_amicus\\_california.pdf](https://sct.narf.org/documents/cherokee_v_brackeen/cert_amicus_california.pdf)) **describes how ICWA has become a critical tool for protecting Indian children and fostering state-tribal collaboration.** **And the Casey Family Programs Brief** ([https://sct.narf.org/documents/cherokee\\_v\\_brackeen/cert\\_amicus\\_casey.pdf](https://sct.narf.org/documents/cherokee_v_brackeen/cert_amicus_casey.pdf)) **highlights how ICWA exemplifies child welfare best practices and leads to better outcomes for Indian children.**

**The Protect ICWA Campaign advocates to uphold ICWA and its critical protections for Indian children and families who are in state court child custody**

proceedings. For more than 40 years, ICWA has helped tens of thousands of Indian children and families by supporting the role of tribal governments in determining the best interests of Indian children and keeping Indian children connected to their family, community, and culture whenever possible.

Copies of all of the petitions and amicus briefs can be found on the Tribal Supreme Court Project website ([https://sct.narf.org/caseindexes/chokeoke\\_v\\_brackeen.html](https://sct.narf.org/caseindexes/chokeoke_v_brackeen.html))."

"FY 2022 Indian Country Budget Request:" Restoring Promises," National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), December 2021, <https://www.ncai.org/resources/ncai-publications/indian-country-budget-request/fy2022>, stated, **"This Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Budget Request outlines federal programs and services that are critical components of strong tribal governments, economies, and communities. The programs highlighted in this document are an integral part of fulfilling the federal government's treaty and trust obligations.** They have been identified by experts from across the country and through federal budget formulation processes between tribal leaders and federal agencies.

A section on supplemental appropriations in response to COVID-19 is included in this year's publication. While pandemic response legislation has included Indian Country, the duration and severity of the COVID-19 pandemic necessitates significantly more resources to protect and preserve human life and address the grave social and economic impacts faced by tribal nations as they close government operations and tribal enterprises to protect the health of their citizens and surrounding communities.

#### **Restoring Promises:**

Tribal nations seek only those things promised to them and their citizens by the solemn treaties and agreements reached between tribal nations and the United States. Tribal nations paid in full for the federal promises exchanged when they ceded millions of acres of land that made the United States what it is today. Tribal nations are resilient and have demonstrated their resolve and dedication since time immemorial; however, tribal nations are uniquely reliant on the federal government to fulfill the promises made in exchange for the land that is the foundation of the bounty and wealth of the United States.

The federal trust responsibility, one of the most important doctrines in federal Indian law, derives from the treaties between tribal nations and the U.S. government. It is the obligation of the federal government, including all of its branches and agencies, to protect tribal self-governance, tribal lands, assets, resources, and treaty rights, and to carry out the directions of federal statutes and court cases. The Supreme Court has defined this trust responsibility as a "moral obligation of the highest responsibility and trust" (*Seminole Nation v. United States*, 1942).

Funding this trust responsibility is critical to the fulfillment of the fiduciary relationship of the United States with tribal nations. This funding supports the express support of the United States for tribal self-determination and self-governance, which is critical to redressing the socio-economic disparities experienced by American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/ ANs). In support of this collective goal, tribal nations call for the inclusion of the following recommendations in FY 2022 appropriations.

**Download the FY 2022 document (PDF):** [https://www.ncai.org/resources/ncai-publications/NCAI\\_IndianCountry\\_FY2022\\_BudgetRequest.pdf](https://www.ncai.org/resources/ncai-publications/NCAI_IndianCountry_FY2022_BudgetRequest.pdf)."

"NCAI Encouraged by President Biden's Support for Bipartisan Infrastructure Framework," National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), June 24, 2021, <https://www.ncai.org/news/articles/2021/06/24/ncai-encouraged-by-president-biden-s-support-for-bipartisan-infrastructure-framework>, stated, **"The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) is encouraged by the Biden Administration's support for the \$1.2 trillion Bipartisan Infrastructure Framework** (<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/06/24/fact-sheet-president-biden-announces-support-for-the-bipartisan-infrastructure-framework/>), **in what would be a historic, long-term investment in clean solutions for transportation, water, broadband, and power infrastructure. For decades, the federal government has recognized that Indian Country has substandard and chronically underfunded** (<https://www.usccr.gov/files/pubs/2018/12-20-Broken-Promises.pdf>) **infrastructure in every sector.**

'We are encouraged to hear of the Biden-Harris Administration's support for the Bipartisan Infrastructure Framework, which has the potential to bring transformational change to the crumbling infrastructure which plagues Indian Country and many other communities,' said NCAI President Fawn Sharp. 'The Administration's recent investment in tribal broadband is a positive step forward, and the American Jobs Plan and the funding it would provide to fix and build roads, water systems, schools, hospitals, and all the other things we need to foster thriving tribal communities, is significant and long-overdue.'

On April 13, 2021, NCAI and 30 American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) organizations, which collectively serve more than 574 federally recognized tribal governments, sent a letter to Congress and the White House requesting resources to urgently address neglected and dilapidated infrastructure that requires improvements to meet the health, safety, welfare, and development needs of AI/AN communities. On May 28, 2021, the President released his Fiscal Year 2022 budget request to Congress. This budget proposal included substantial investments in tribal infrastructure, which Tribal Nations are urging Congress to include in any upcoming budget negotiations."

Lakota People's Law Project stated in a July 1, 2021 E-mail, "I've just returned from a productive, week-long trip in Washington, D.C. **At the behest of Carol Gokee, president of the International Leonard Peltier Defense Committee, I joined people from around the nation in taking action to raise awareness about Leonard's imprisonment, in hopes that he's eventually freed.** I encourage you to watch a speech (<https://lakotalaw.org/resources/free-leonard-chase->

[dc?ms=ea&utm\\_source=ea&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=cflp&utm\\_content=textlink&sourceid=1047999&contactdata=Hd6vP0cIvWdm99GeRc2aO9JBgvuQgp2qtkL1bvBGMk6NY4uyb69cER6kvEW8YvnHRO1rIPZ50OM%2f1PNEzSRbA6vc%2b%2fztJ6WTWaz07DCIuOUcrHi8QqPE2aPUZ8ERAln5RObE3K7ayXzda%2bpGVfJcng81sdN3mlX%2frOHWSCEPWswCf%2b6advoOcYDGAkdvUGe5ICROddOProPyew7rSrf3AqLhXGN0y9hGJtZvjwZz%2fbfBO31z5DZQ8c8bjynwYC2i&emci=cdf6c5c5-c6da-eb11-a7ad-501ac57b8fa7&emdi=d471f5fb-d0da-eb11-a7ad-501ac57b8fa7&ceid=2626553](https://lakotalaw.org/resources/free-leonard-chase-dc?ms=ea&utm_source=ea&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=cflp&utm_content=textlink&sourceid=1047999&contactdata=Hd6vP0cIvWdm99GeRc2aO9JBgvuQgp2qtkL1bvBGMk6NY4uyb69cER6kvEW8YvnHRO1rIPZ50OM%2f1PNEzSRbA6vc%2b%2fztJ6WTWaz07DCIuOUcrHi8QqPE2aPUZ8ERAln5RObE3K7ayXzda%2bpGVfJcng81sdN3mlX%2frOHWSCEPWswCf%2b6advoOcYDGAkdvUGe5ICROddOProPyew7rSrf3AqLhXGN0y9hGJtZvjwZz%2fbfBO31z5DZQ8c8bjynwYC2i&emci=cdf6c5c5-c6da-eb11-a7ad-501ac57b8fa7&emdi=d471f5fb-d0da-eb11-a7ad-501ac57b8fa7&ceid=2626553)) I gave on a Black Voters Matter stage in D.C., in which I express our solidarity for all political prisoners everywhere. Watch: I talk to the crowd about Leonard from the Black Voters Matter stage in D.C.

The events in the capital were scheduled around this past Saturday, which marked the 46-year anniversary of the shooting deaths of two FBI agents at Pine Ridge, for which Leonard was falsely convicted and sentenced in 1977. I have met with Leonard — an enrolled member of the

Turtle Mountain Chippewa Tribe and an original American Indian Movement activist who fought hard to combat racism and police brutality. I visited him in Coleman, FL, at the federal prison where he has been incarcerated for more than 43 years. He is a good man. The movement to free Leonard is strong, and people showed up from all around the U.S. this past weekend.

Though President Obama denied his petition for clemency in 2017, the list of those who have voiced support for Leonard's freedom includes the Dalai Lama, Mother Teresa, Bishop Desmond Tutu, Nelson Mandela, and Amnesty International. 55 members of Congress and counting have also called for his clemency, as has our first Indigenous U.S. Secretary of the Interior, Deb Haaland. After Robert Redford visited Leonard in prison, he made the powerful documentary "Incident at Oglala — the Leonard Peltier Story," which I strongly recommend you watch, if you have not already done so.

**It's a grave miscarriage of justice that Leonard remains behind bars, even after the FBI admitted that nobody knows who actually killed the agents. And it's not right that Leonard was never allowed to present evidence about 57 unsolved murders of Native people at Pine Ridge, a true reign of terror against AIM during the early 1970s. That's why I and Lakota Law will continue to work with a diverse coalition of partners — including Carol and her committee, Leonard's lead counsel, Kevin Sharp, and AIM activist Jean Roach — to ensure we're doing everything possible to get him out.**

Wopila tanka — thank you for standing with us for fairness!

Chase Iron Eyes

Co-Director and Lead Counsel

The Lakota People's Law Project"

Susan Dunlap, "Coalition of Native women urge the public to keep wearing masks," *New Mexico Political Report*, July 6, 2021, [https://nmpoliticalreport.com/2021/07/06/coalition-of-native-women-urge-the-public-to-keep-wearing-masks/?mc\\_cid=0fc426ff4d&mc\\_eid=cde7993ced](https://nmpoliticalreport.com/2021/07/06/coalition-of-native-women-urge-the-public-to-keep-wearing-masks/?mc_cid=0fc426ff4d&mc_eid=cde7993ced)," reported, "On Thursday **the state ended COVID-19 restrictions, including mask mandates, but Indigenous leaders with the Coalition to Stop Violence Against Native Women urge the public to keep wearing the mask.**"

"Angel Charley, Laguna and executive director of CSVANW, said ...'**It requires a lot of sacrifice from all of us as individuals; it's how we made this much progress,**'" she said. "**But until we reach herd immunity, until there is vaccination access for kids under 12, until there is true equitable access to vaccinations then we're asserting this is a safety precaution.**"

The World Health Organization recommended that vaccinated people continue to wear masks, especially in light of the spread of the Delta variant of COVID-19, which is more contagious than other variants. Charley said the **Navajo Nation is following WHO guidance and is continuing its mask mandate.**"

"NCAI Reiterates Longstanding Opposition to Atlanta Braves' Mascot and 'Tomahawk Chop' Fan Ritual as Team Plays in World Series," National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), October 27, 2021, <https://www.ncai.org/news/articles/2021/10/27/nci-reiterates-longstanding-opposition-to-atlanta-braves-mascot-and-tomahawk-chop-fan-ritual-as-team-plays-in-world-series>, stated, "**Today, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) issues the following statement in light of the Atlanta Braves' participation in the World Series**

and yesterday's comments by Major League Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred condoning the team's continued use of its mascot and performance of its 'tomahawk chop' fan ritual:

**'Yesterday, Commissioner Manfred stated that the question of whether the 'Braves' mascot and 'tomahawk chop' fan ritual are offensive to Native people is only a local issue. He similarly asserted the league does 'not market our game on a nationwide basis.' Nothing could be further from the truth. Major League Baseball is a global brand, it markets its World Series nationally and internationally, and the games played in Atlanta this weekend will be viewed by tens of millions of fans across the country and around the world. Meanwhile, the name 'Braves,' the tomahawk adorning the team's uniform, and the 'tomahawk chop' that the team exhorts its fans to perform at home games are meant to depict and caricature not just one tribal community but all Native people, and that is certainly how baseball fans and Native people everywhere interpret them,'** said NCAI President Fawn Sharp. "Consequently, the league and team have an obligation to genuinely listen to Tribal Nations and leaders across the United States about how the team's mascot impacts them. NCAI, a consensus-based congress composed of hundreds of Tribal Nations from every region of this country, has made its categorical opposition to Native 'themed' mascots abundantly clear to sports teams, schools, and the general public for more than five decades. In our discussions with the Atlanta Braves, we have repeatedly and unequivocally made our position clear – Native people are not mascots, and degrading rituals like the 'tomahawk chop' that dehumanize and harm us have no place in American society. **NCAI calls on the team to follow the example set by the Cleveland Guardians, and we call on Major League Baseball and the FOX Broadcasting Company to refrain from showing the 'tomahawk chop' when it is performed during the nationally televised World Series games in Atlanta.'**"

"Advance the Massachusetts Indigenous Legislative Agenda!" Cultural Survival, September 27, 2021, <https://www.culturalsurvival.org/news/advance-massachusetts-indigenous-legislative-agenda>, reported, " **ACTION ALERT: A bill to change Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples Day is currently under consideration at the Massachusetts State Legislature and we need your help to write to the Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight to show your support! While some cities and towns across the state have been passing Indigenous Peoples Day resolutions and celebrating the holiday, there is an immense need for this statewide bill** to pass locally, and be a part of the growing movement of changing this holiday across the United States. On September 28, the Committee will host a hearing on this important bill from the MA Indigenous Legislative Agenda: H.3191/S.2027 An Act establishing an Indigenous Peoples Day. If you are a Massachusetts resident, the Committee needs to hear your voice in support of H.3191/S.2027, both leading up to and after this hearing. Send your letter today!

**Steps you can take now:**

Go to the Action Network link <https://bit.ly/IPDMA2021> where you will find the text of the bill, an automated letter that you can send to legislators, and information about how to send your own letter if you do not want to use the automated Action Network letter. Please plan to modify the Action Network letter to tell the legislators why this bill is so important to you -- personalization helps a lot! Sending this will only take a few minutes of your time.

**Support 651/S.382: An Act relative to celebrating and teaching Native American culture and history**



The time is long overdue for Massachusetts public schools to educate all students about Native American cultures, histories, and current issues, and we need your help to get this act passed!

Steps you can take now:

1. Go to the Action Network link and find the text of the bill, an automated letter that you can send to legislators, and also information about how to send your own letter if you do not want to use the automated Action Network letter. Please plan to modify the Action Network letter to tell the legislators why this bill is so important to you -- personalization helps a lot! Sending this will only take a few minutes of your time.

Please **go to MAIndigenousAgenda.org for information about all five legislative priorities this session, including eliminating Native American mascots, honoring Indigenous Peoples Day, celebrating and teaching Native American culture & history, protecting Native American heritage, and supporting the education and futures of Native youth.**"

"Statement: NCAI President Sharp's Statement of Support for Juneteenth," National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), June 17, 2021, <https://www.ncai.org/news/articles/2021/06/17/statement-ncai-president-sharp-s-statement-of-support-for-juneteenth>, stated, "NCAI President Sharp's Statement of Support for Juneteenth:

**'Today, we honor and celebrate Juneteenth as a national holiday.** On June 19th, 1865, Union troops arrived in Galveston, Texas with the news the Civil War ended and slaves were now free.

**A Civil War continues to this day and it never really ended. Truth be told, we remain sharply divided as a country and, along with our Black brothers and sisters, we have yet to break free from the shackles of centuries of systemic and institutional racism, oppression, and marginalization.**

Our day of freedom and emancipation will no doubt come. Until then, we will continue to speak our painful truths, demand justice and equality for all, and rise toward God's perfect glory for each of us, individually, and this great nation, collectively."

Monique "Muffie" Mousseau, Via the Lakota People's Law Project. E-mail, August 9, 2021, stated, "I write to you today to share both some hard facts and some good news. I'm sure you're aware that, because of systemic issues that go back centuries, **being Native in America comes with many extra challenges. That's even more true here in Rapid City, South Dakota, where — rather than being 100 percent dedicated to the service of our community — police commonly use racial profiling to subjugate Native people.**

I recently gave an interview to CNN to help get the word out on a wider scale. Please read this article (<https://www.cnn.com/2021/08/05/us/racial-profiling-native-americans-south-dakota/index.html>). It details **a case where an officer (since let go) saw what he believed was a Native person driving a Mercedes — and that was enough for him to follow the vehicle and report suspicious activity.**

**This mirrors my own experience perfectly, except in my case, the extra measure was also taken of pulling me over and bringing me to the station. During a period of just a couple years, I was stopped more than 11 times, brought in twice, and given drug and alcohol tests despite being completely sober and showing no outward signs of intoxication.**

And I'm a former police officer! It eventually got to the point where I insisted on having my day in court. I'm happy to say that **the judge took my side and wound up passing along my concerns to the Highway Patrol. After that, a lieutenant called me to apologize. Of course, he wouldn't admit that racial profiling was involved — but those cops were reassigned. I find the local police want nothing to do with me now.** I wish all Native people around here could say the same!

As long as I have your attention, I'd also like to give you two great updates on the work my wife, Felipa, and I continue to do on behalf of LGBTQ2S rights. **First, we've been invited to speak and participate in an induction ceremony of the Montana Two Spirit Society — a huge honor! And second, we expect our hate crime legislation to pass a final vote at the Sisseton-Wahpeton Tribal Council meeting in early September.** We recently were on the phone for the first vote, which went our way unanimously.

This is a wonderful step, since we continue to see way too much violence toward Native and two spirit people — even at the hands of those meant to protect us. As I asked the judge after all those stops: who is policing the police? Maybe it has to be us. So, while Felipa and I can't be everywhere at once, we won't stop doing everything we can to spread the word, get good laws on the books, and protect our relatives.

Wopila tanka — thank you for standing with us!"

Seth Gladstone, [sgladstone@fwwatch.org](mailto:sgladstone@fwwatch.org), "White House Climate Czar Gina McCarthy Must Resign: Her support for “all-of-the-above” energy policy is dangerous and absurd," Food & Water Watch, August 19, 2021, [https://www.commondreams.org/newswire/2021/08/19/white-house-climate-czar-gina-mccarthy-must-resign?utm\\_term=AO&utm\\_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_content=email&utm\\_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_medium=Email](https://www.commondreams.org/newswire/2021/08/19/white-house-climate-czar-gina-mccarthy-must-resign?utm_term=AO&utm_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_content=email&utm_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_medium=Email), stated, **"In public comments made on Tuesday in California, White House National Climate Advisor Gina McCarthy clearly stated the Biden administration's support for natural gas as part of an “all-of-the-above strategy” for power generation in the country. She went on to state that the administration would not be “picking and choosing winners” when it came to prioritizing particular types of energy.** This comes on the heels of a report from the UN's International Panel on Climate Change, released last week, that stressed the depth and urgency of the climate crisis. **The 'all-of-the-above' reference was also used by President Obama more than a decade ago to describe his administration's support for fossil fuels like coal and gas as part of the nation's power generation mix.** In response, Food & Water Watch Executive Director Wenonah Hauter issued the following statement:

**'When Gina McCarthy stated her support for an ‘all-of-the-above’ energy plan, she knew exactly what she was saying. She was clearly and consciously endorsing filthy, polluting fossil fuels as a part of our country's energy future. Given all we know about the disastrous impacts of coal, oil and gas on our perilous climate condition, such a statement is dangerous and absurd. Ms. McCarthy must take responsibility for this unacceptable policy position and resign immediately.'**"

"New Mexico deserves stronger rules for cleaner air," Environmental Defense Fund, September 7, 2021, [https://act.edf.org/kjqxokc?p2asource=1629304967&utm\\_id=1629304967&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=edf\\_none\\_upd\\_mem&utm\\_source=EDF+action+network&contact\\_channel=e](https://act.edf.org/kjqxokc?p2asource=1629304967&utm_id=1629304967&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=edf_none_upd_mem&utm_source=EDF+action+network&contact_channel=e)

mail&bxid=7918086, stated, "New Mexico is ground zero for oil and gas development in the country. Every year, these industries release more than 337,500 tons of smog-forming pollution and 1.1 million tons of methane — an incredibly powerful climate change pollutant.

**That's why the New Mexico Environment Department's rule to slash oil and gas pollution is so important. By enacting stronger rules New Mexico can significantly reduce air and methane pollution from the most prominent offenders — clearing the air for our state to meet Governor Lujan Grisham's ambitious climate goals.**

Send a powerful message to the EIB demanding strong rules that cut harmful pollution from oil and gas now."

"What We're Listening To: Grappling with the Land Grant Truth," *This Week@First Nations*, August 20, 2021, via E-mail, reported, "**First Nations is working with leaders at The Ohio State University to examine the dispossession of tribal lands at this land-grant university and the effects it has had on the economic, educational, and health disparities of Ohio's Native peoples. A recent episode of The Ohio State University Inspire Podcast talks about this project to acknowledge and rectify the taking of Native lands through the Morrill Act of 1862.** Listen to the podcast on Podbean ([https://ohiostateuniversityinspire.podbean.com/e/grappling-with-the-land-grant-truth/?bbeml=tp-pck9Q6QNPEiuBt3JmyTokQ.j8HXBW1aUk6EUgorTAZtSQ.rInsAjBjdGUyofvcp\\_MjWLg.luV9bUoUq\\_0eeCUi2DPSPRQ](https://ohiostateuniversityinspire.podbean.com/e/grappling-with-the-land-grant-truth/?bbeml=tp-pck9Q6QNPEiuBt3JmyTokQ.j8HXBW1aUk6EUgorTAZtSQ.rInsAjBjdGUyofvcp_MjWLg.luV9bUoUq_0eeCUi2DPSPRQ)) or Spotify ([https://open.spotify.com/episode/6Bb1EqNeEhULWox4o1vnRc?si=RZbZfDXiSZS2w2ZNpcXFWg&dl\\_branch=1&nd=1&bbeml=tp-pck9Q6QNPEiuBt3JmyTokQ.j8HXBW1aUk6EUgorTAZtSQ.rInsAjBjdGUyofvcp\\_MjWLg.lQAlS3ur4902Bo666LFik6g](https://open.spotify.com/episode/6Bb1EqNeEhULWox4o1vnRc?si=RZbZfDXiSZS2w2ZNpcXFWg&dl_branch=1&nd=1&bbeml=tp-pck9Q6QNPEiuBt3JmyTokQ.j8HXBW1aUk6EUgorTAZtSQ.rInsAjBjdGUyofvcp_MjWLg.lQAlS3ur4902Bo666LFik6g)), and to learn more, register for the October 6, 2021, webinar 'Land-Grab Universities: Owning the Truth and Sharing the Path to Making Amends' ([https://u.osu.edu/landgranttruth/speaker-series/?bbeml=tp-pck9Q6QNPEiuBt3JmyTokQ.j8HXBW1aUk6EUgorTAZtSQ.rInsAjBjdGUyofvcp\\_MjWLg.lpDucJQnz5U-KHQa\\_lfda9w](https://u.osu.edu/landgranttruth/speaker-series/?bbeml=tp-pck9Q6QNPEiuBt3JmyTokQ.j8HXBW1aUk6EUgorTAZtSQ.rInsAjBjdGUyofvcp_MjWLg.lpDucJQnz5U-KHQa_lfda9w))."

Madonna Thunder Hawk, Cheyenne River Organizer, The Lakota People's Law Project, said in an October 16, 2021 E-mail, "Many thanks to all of you who, over the past months, read our blog about **the discoveries of mass graves of Indigenous children at Indian boarding school campuses**. Thanks also to you who signed our **petition to the president and Congress to form a Truth and Healing Commission**. Today, I write to you with some good news and a follow-up action to take!

On Sept. 30 — the National Day of Remembrance for Native American Children — Sen. Elizabeth Warren and Reps. Sharice Davids and Tom Cole **reintroduced a bill that will form just such a commission**. This bill was formerly introduced by Sen. Warren and U.S. Interior Secretary Deb Haaland (when she was a N.M. congresswoman). Now, it's time for all of us to make sure this important legislation gets passed! Please write to your congressional reps and tell them: vote to enact the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies in the United States Act!

Stolen babies: Generations of Native children were forced to attend boarding schools like the Carlisle Indian Industrial School, which stripped them of their cultures and identities — and, too often, their lives.

I shared with you a couple months ago about my own familial experiences with boarding schools. I told you about the horrific practices that endangered and took the lives of Native children across Turtle Island. Now, against the backdrop of these mass grave discoveries, we must do all we can to ensure lawmakers take genocide seriously. It's time to begin an official reckoning with America's true history and a process that can aid in the healing of our tribal communities.

Please show your solidarity with me, my ancestors, and the generations to come. Your advocacy matters. Together, we can begin to make things better."

"NCAI Heartened by Conversation, Actions Surrounding Federal Indian Boarding Schools on the National Day of Remembrance," National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), September 30, 2021, <https://www.ncai.org/news/articles/2021/09/30/ncai-heartened-by-conversation-actions-surrounding-federal-indian-boarding-schools-on-the-national-day-of-remembrance>, stated, **"On a day recognized by many as the National Day of Remembrance for Indian Boarding Schools, federal, congressional, and community partners took action toward truth and reconciliation for Indian Boarding Schools. On this Day of Remembrance, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) solemnly acknowledged the occasion and was heartened by these actions.**

'Today we join our relatives in Canada to recognize September 30, 2021, as a National Day of Remembrance for Indian Boarding Schools, and reaffirm our commitment to truth and reconciliation for Tribal Nations,' said NCAI President Fawn Sharp. 'We, along with the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition and our brothers and sisters across the continent, pay homage to our elders and the losses they were forced to endure. We mourn for our communities, our cultures and languages, and the innocence that was stolen. NCAI will continue to work to ensure that none of our American Indian and Alaska Native children are ever forgotten and to ensure the wrongs imposed upon both past and present generations will never be repeated.'

**Today, in one of several actions taken on to reconcile with the legacy of federal boarding schools, the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) released a Dear Tribal Leader Letter announcing three tribal consultations on the implementation of the Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative. The Initiative will culminate in a report due to the Secretary of the Interior by April 1, 2022. In June, Secretary Deb Haaland announced the Department of the Interior's Federal Boarding School Initiative to review the legacy of federal boarding school policies on American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) communities at the NCAI 2021 Mid-Year Conference.**

**NCAI applauds this historic first step from DOI and calls upon Congress to take further action and conduct an official Congressional Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies.**

In this vein, Senator Elizabeth Warren, alongside Representatives Sharice Davids and Tom Cole, introduced mirror, bipartisan legislation to establish a commission to investigate Indian Boarding School policies and practices, protect unmarked graves, support repatriation, and stop modern-day assimilation practices.

'The Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies in the United

States Act would provide an important avenue for an investigation about the losses that occurred through the Indian Boarding School Policies and the lasting consequences of the violence of this attempted genocide,' said Juana Majel Dixon, NCAI Board Secretary and Traditional Councilwoman of the Pauma Band of Mission Indians. 'Only through a formal investigation which includes meaningful consultation with Tribal Nations and significant input from survivors and their descendants, can the U.S. begin to reconcile with the past and can tribal communities begin to move toward healing from the egregious abuses which occurred.'

Additionally, **Senator Lisa Murkowski introduced a concurrent formal resolution to officially designate September 30, 2021, as a National Day of Remembrance for U.S. Indian Boarding Schools to recognize, honor, and support the lost children, survivors, and their families.** In her remarks on the Senate floor, Senator Murkowski acknowledged the lasting impact of federal boarding school policies on AI/AN communities.

'Our Nation's history and the treatment of Native American people is not an easy one to tell, it's not easy to hear, or to acknowledge, but our discomfort in sharing painful collective history probably pales in comparison to the lived experience and the realities that so many Native people continue to face today... The impact of these actions authorized by our government upon Native American people and cultures is something that we never can truly make whole. In many respects, Native cultures were gutted by the impact and loss of Native children, and that is something that we as American people need to acknowledge, learn from, and reckon with in order to support Indian self-determination and healing.'

NCAI will host a session to further discussion on this topic titled "Boarding Schools: Our Truth, Our Reconciliation" on October 11, 2021 during its 78th Annual Convention."

"NCAI Commends Announcement by Major League Baseball's Cleveland Franchise of Its New Name 'Guardians,'" National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), July 23, 2021, <https://www.ncai.org/news/articles/2021/07/23/ncai-commends-announcement-by-major-league-baseball-s-cleveland-franchise-of-its-new-name-guardians>, stated, **"The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) commends today's announcement by the Major League Baseball (MLB) franchise in Cleveland of its new team name and mascot, the "Guardians." The announcement by the Cleveland Guardians comes seven months after its decision to retire its long-used "Indians" name and mascot, a decision it reached following an extensive process to engage with and learn from tribal leaders, leading scholars, local and national Native organizations, and community stakeholders.**

'With today's announcement, the Cleveland baseball team has taken another important step forward in healing the harms its former mascot long caused Native people, in particular Native youth,' said NCAI President Fawn Sharp. **'We call on the other professional sports teams and thousands of schools across the country that still cling to their antiquated Native 'themed' mascots to immediately follow suit. NCAI also looks forward to continuing its work with the Cleveland Guardians to help grow the national movement of respect for Tribal Nations, cultures, and communities, a movement that values, teaches, and validates who Native people are today, what makes us unique, the many important contributions we make to this country, and our rightful place in the diverse mosaic that is America.'**

NCAI is the oldest, largest, and most representative national organization serving American Indian and Alaska Native Tribal Nations and their citizens. It has been leading Indian Country's movement to eradicate offensive Native "themed" mascots from sports and popular culture for more than 50 years."

"NCAI Supports the Nomination of Charles Sams III as Director of National Park Service," National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), August 20, 2021, <https://www.ncai.org/news/articles/2021/08/20/ncai-supports-the-nomination-of-charles-sams-iii-as-director-of-national-park-service>, stated, **"NCAI Supports the Nomination of Charles Sams III as Director of National Park Service"**

On August 18, 2021, the White House announced its intention to nominate Charles 'Chuck' Sams III, a citizen of the Confederated Tribes of Umatilla with 25 years of experience in tribal and state conservation and land management, as Director of the National Park Service. The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) recognizes Sams as a uniquely qualified candidate, and supports his nomination as it moves to the U.S. Senate for consideration.

'Chuck Sams knows the importance of protecting our precious natural resources, wildlife, and habitats while balancing the challenges of welcoming millions of visitors per year to our pristine National Parks,' said NCAI President Fawn Sharp. 'As the Park Service's first Native American director, Chuck is well-positioned to balance recreational uses and stewardship with our Tribal Nations' needs to maintain our traditional and ancestral ties to these lands.'

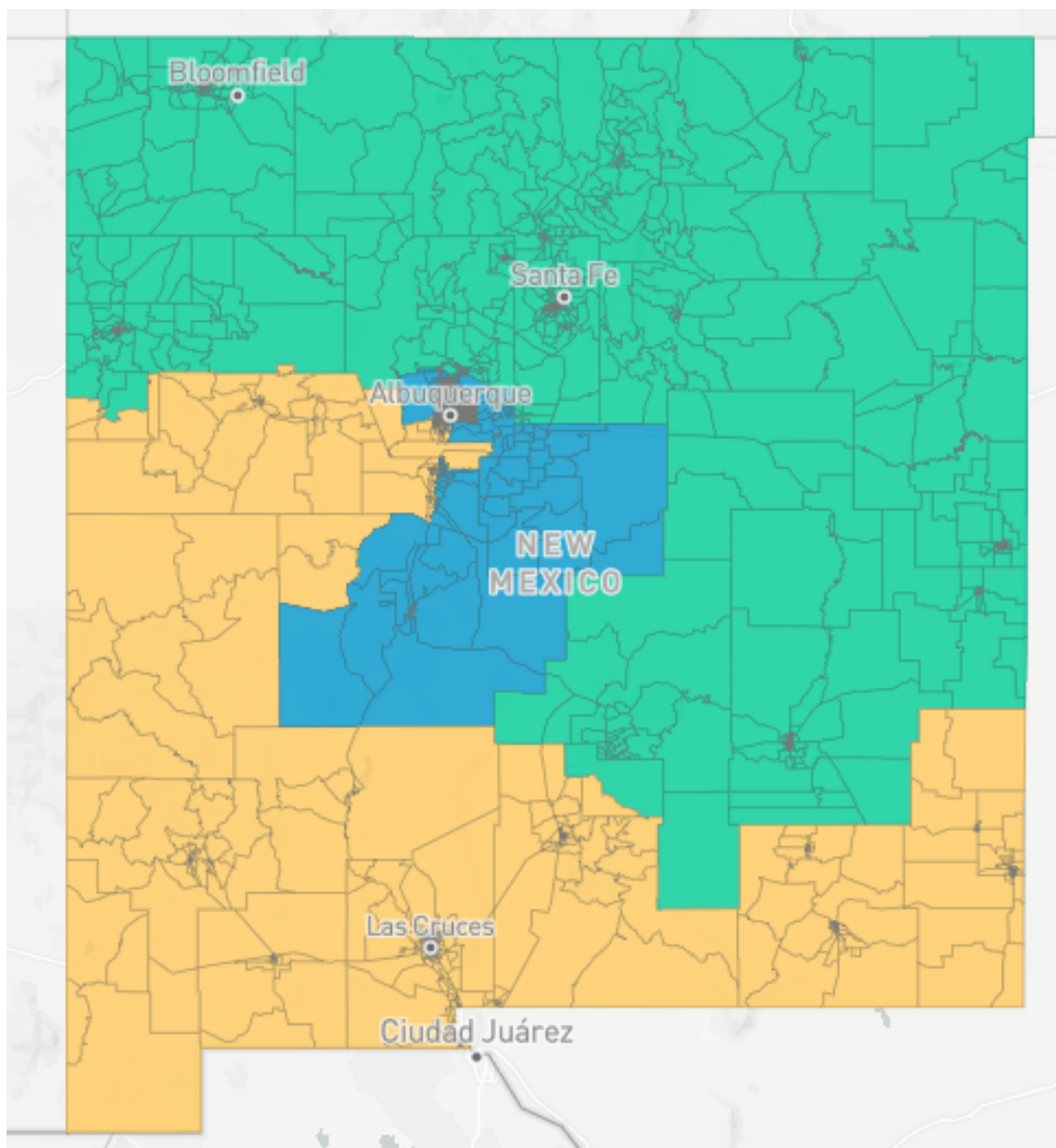
Writers and historians have called our National Parks 'America's best idea,' saying their values of conservation, environmental stewardship and historic preservation 'reflect us at our best rather than our worst.' Likewise, **the nomination of Sams as the first Native American to lead the National Park Service and its first permanent director in more than four years is another excellent idea.**

NCAI urges the Senate to swiftly confirm President Biden's nomination of Charles "Chuck" Sams III as the National Park Service Director. The department deserves his thoughtful brand of leadership and vision to continue earning the title of America's Best Idea."

"NCAI Congratulates Bryan Newland on Confirmation as Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs," National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), August 9, 2021, <https://www.ncai.org/news/articles/2021/08/09/ncai-congratulates-bryan-newland-on-confirmation-as-assistant-secretary-indian-affairs>, "Statement from National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) President Fawn Sharp:

**'The confirmation of Bryan Newland as the Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs is an important step forward in strengthening the nation-to-nation relationship between the United States and Tribal Nations,** and we congratulate the Assistant Secretary on this achievement. We are in a time of great opportunity to make inroads on critical issues such as growing tribal economies, developing infrastructure, building healthy communities, and protecting sovereignty. This confirmation places someone with the experience and a unique understanding of these issues into this key role and NCAI looks forward to working closely with Assistant Secretary Newland on advancing Indian Country's priorities.'

Morgan Lee, Associated Press, "Native Americans Aim To Boost Voting Power In New Mexico: New Mexico's Pueblos Propose Redrawing New Mexico's Political Map," *The Paper*, September 21st, 2021, [https://abq.news/2021/09/native-americans-aim-to-boost-voting-power-in-new-mexico/?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=The+Paper.+Subscriber&utm\\_campaign=04b079fea2-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2021\\_09\\_21\\_10\\_30&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_f8e2121d66-04b079fea2-68116799&mc\\_cid=04b079fea2&mc\\_eid=822e39214e](https://abq.news/2021/09/native-americans-aim-to-boost-voting-power-in-new-mexico/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=The+Paper.+Subscriber&utm_campaign=04b079fea2-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2021_09_21_10_30&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f8e2121d66-04b079fea2-68116799&mc_cid=04b079fea2&mc_eid=822e39214e), reported,



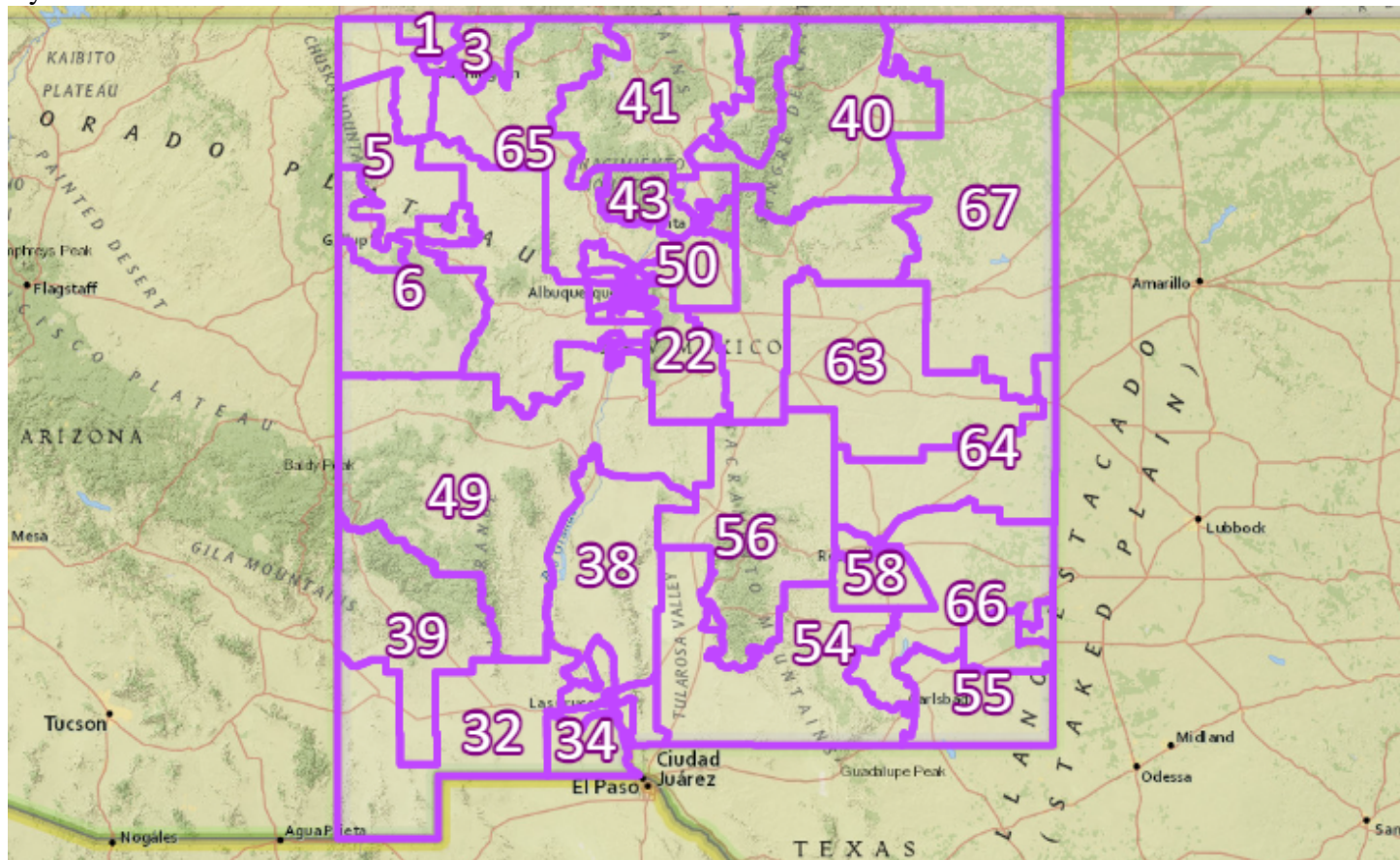
New Mexico Native American Redistricting Map Proposal

**"A coalition of Native American communities has proposed redrawing New Mexico's political map to boost Indigenous voters' influence in elections.**

**The proposed changes from New Mexico's 19 Native American pueblos and the Jicarilla Apache Nation, outlined Monday, would reshape a congressional swing district where Republicans regained control in 2020. They would also bolster Native American majorities among eligible voters in six state House and three Senate districts in northwestern New Mexico."**



Hannah Grover, "State House passes redistricting map supported by Indigenous communities, *New Mexico Political Report*, December 10, 2021, [https://nmpoliticalreport.com/2021/12/11/new-mexico-house-passes-redistricting-map-supported-by-indigenous-communities/?mc\\_cid=72c726df50&mc\\_eid=cde7993ced](https://nmpoliticalreport.com/2021/12/11/new-mexico-house-passes-redistricting-map-supported-by-indigenous-communities/?mc_cid=72c726df50&mc_eid=cde7993ced), reported, By



Proposed state House map as part of HB8 in the 2021 second special legislative session.

**The New Mexico House of Representatives passed a bill Friday night adopting a redistricting map based on a consensus from Native American communities including Navajo Nation and the Pueblos."**

The Bill was passed on to the New Mexico Senate. See Tribal Governments and State and Local Governments, below, for update.

Justin Schatz, "Tribal Leaders Call For LESC Director To Step Down: Tribal Leaders And New Mexico Legislators Make Message Loud and Clear," *The Paper*, July 30th, 2021, [https://abq.news/2021/07/tribal-leaders-call-for-lesc-director-to-step-down/?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=The+Paper.+Subscriber&utm\\_campaign=e209f7c7e3-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2021\\_07\\_30\\_11\\_09&utm\\_term=0\\_f8e2121d66-e209f7c7e3-68116799&mc\\_cid=e209f7c7e3&mc\\_eid=822e39214e](https://abq.news/2021/07/tribal-leaders-call-for-lesc-director-to-step-down/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=The+Paper.+Subscriber&utm_campaign=e209f7c7e3-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2021_07_30_11_09&utm_term=0_f8e2121d66-e209f7c7e3-68116799&mc_cid=e209f7c7e3&mc_eid=822e39214e), reported that **in New Mexico, "The All Pueblo Council of Governors hosted a press conference that boasted a number of prominent legislators, tribal leaders, and education advocates who came together in unprecedented numbers to call for the Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC)**



**Director Rachel Gudgel to step down after allegations of racist, homophobic and sexist remarks surfaced."**

Organize For, visited October 15, 2021,  
[https://campaigns.organizefor.org/petitions/black-and-indigenous-farmers-need-emergency-debt-relief-now/?akid=52280.3082.VecO8v&rd=1&source=ib\\_mailer\\_headerbutton\\_random\\_stage1&t=6](https://campaigns.organizefor.org/petitions/black-and-indigenous-farmers-need-emergency-debt-relief-now/?akid=52280.3082.VecO8v&rd=1&source=ib_mailer_headerbutton_random_stage1&t=6),  
Campaign created by National Black Food Justice Alliance, stated, "To: President and Secretary of Agriculture, Thomas Vilsack & the Democrats on the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, **Black and Indigenous farmers need emergency debt relief now.**

**We urge Secretary Vilsack and the Democrats on the Senate Committee on Agriculture to continue its vigorous defense of the USDA emergency debt relief program for Black farmers, Indigenous farmers and farmers of color.**

Click here to read NBFJA's full public comment to the USDA in support of the program: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/18rDgNMAVvRVzfA0Dj4c8xRi5wkrAtl6O1SYqd-Ex5s0/edit>

#### **Why is this important?**

Black farmers need emergency debt relief now. Over the past century, Black people have lost over 12 million acres of land and today, Black farmers account for less than 2% of all land-owning producers in the United States. And in the midst of a public health crisis that has sped up corporate greed and left millions of Black people houseless and food insecure, Black farmers continue to lose their land at faster rates than any other group. But we have the opportunity to change that. **Black, Indigenous, and farmers of color continue to experience discrimination with respect to the requirements, availability, and timing of loans, as well as denial of access to USDA resources based on race. Billions of dollars in federal aid, including 97% of the most recent aid given in response to COVID-19, have gone disproportionately to large-scale white farmers, as well as to a handful of agribusiness corporations. As a result, many Black farmers and farmers of color still struggle to access and hold on to land, making it difficult for them to continue to get fair returns on their labor and investments.** But this year, Congress created an emergency debt relief program that could be a crucial intervention -- allowing Black farmers, Indigenous farmers, and farmers of color to finally begin to see a fair return on their investment & labor. Debt relief helps small and medium farmers stay in business, keep their land and continue to feed nutritious food to communities across the country as we recover from the pandemic. If you believe in Black people's right to self-determination, will you leave the Senate Committee on Agriculture a message of support for debt relief for Black farmers, and other farmers of color today?

This is the message we'll send:

Dear Secretary Vilsack,

As someone that believes that all people, no matter what we look like or where we come from, deserve a fair return on our labor and investment in our work, I am writing in support of debt relief for socially disadvantaged farmers. Section 1005 of the American Rescue Plan Act, stipulates that this debt relief is critical to Black, Indigenous, and other farmers and ranchers of color due to:

- decades of racial discrimination in USDA programs;
- the failure of the U.S. government to ensure adequate funding reached farmers of color in other relief efforts

— even though billions reached White farmers; and -disproportionate COVID-19 impacts on farmers of color.

Black, Indigenous, and farmers of color continue to experience discrimination with respect to the requirements, availability, and timing of loans, as well as denial of access to USDA resources based on race. As a result, many farmers of color still struggle to access and hold on to land, making it difficult for them to continue to get fair returns on their labor and investments.

Debt relief helps small and medium farmers stay in business, keep their land and continue to feed nutritious food to communities across the country as we recover from the pandemic. I urge you to continue your support of initiatives like debt relief that call for greater equity in agriculture for Black, Indigenous, and other farmers of color."

Supporters of having an official Asian American, Pacific Islander And Native Hawaiian Day in New Mexico, this fall, stated, "Support the Recognition of "Asian American, Pacific Islander And Native Hawaiian Day" for the state of New Mexico," [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeO7PUSyX1KhUQ5K2DgNzveI\\_vbwfocAahq9G-HKxFI\\_kgRo\\_w/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeO7PUSyX1KhUQ5K2DgNzveI_vbwfocAahq9G-HKxFI_kgRo_w/viewform), **"At this time, New Mexico does not recognize Asian American, Pacific Islander, and Native Hawaiian day in statute. There is proposed legislation for the 2022 state legislative session that would change this, ensuring we get closer to embracing NM as a multi-cultural state.** Given the continued assaults against these communities as the pandemic continues, it is beyond time for the state to formally recognize and honor these communities. We are seeking wide-ranging individual and organizational support for this legislation.

This below proposed bill is sponsored by Representative Kay Bounkeua, Senator Sedillo Lopez, and Senator Mimi Stewart.

By completing this form, you are authorizing the bill sponsors and the New Mexico Asian Family Center (NMAFC) to include your organization name in a list of supporters of this bill.

Your endorsement and support is greatly appreciated!  
Please find the draft of this proposed legislation below:

'AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC HOLIDAYS; DESIGNATING EVERY FIRST SATURDAY OF MAY AS "ASIAN AMERICAN, PACIFIC ISLANDER AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN DAY"; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. [NEW MATERIAL] ASIAN AMERICAN, PACIFIC ISLANDER AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN DAY.--The first Saturday of May of each year shall be known and celebrated as "Asian American, Pacific Islander and Native Hawaiian Day" in recognition of the many cultural and economic contributions and sacrifices Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, Native Hawaiians, East Asians, Southeast Asians, South Asians and all other groups who have migrated from, have historical ties to or identify themselves as from Asia have made to New Mexico. This day shall be observed by the people of New Mexico in efforts and undertakings that celebrate the diversity of cultural heritage of New Mexicans; recognize that May is Asian American and Pacific Islander heritage month; honor all past, present and future leaders in New Mexico who are Asian American, Pacific Islander, Native Hawaiian, East Asian, Southeast Asian and South Asian and all other groups who have migrated from, have historical ties to or identify themselves as from Asia; and are in

harmony with the general character of the day so established.

SECTION 2. EMERGENCY.--It is necessary for the public peace, health and safety that this act take effect immediately."

Richard Walker, "Journey Unites Generations, *ICT*, June 17, 2021, [https://mcusercontent.com/ee83519a17075b9d5a2c44042/files/e0ecb8c6-e91e-41ae-c10c-224d5bda1087/6.17.21\\_The\\_Weekly.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/ee83519a17075b9d5a2c44042/files/e0ecb8c6-e91e-41ae-c10c-224d5bda1087/6.17.21_The_Weekly.pdf), reported, **"The effort to change the name of a Pacific Northwest waterway that now honors a 19th century U.S. Army general [Williams S. Harney] with a violent history against Black and Native peoples has gained the support of a notable ally.**

**One of the general's descendants [Paul Stover Soderman] has joined the call."**

**A new generation of Native Scientists has been exploring the governing and use Indigenous biological and cultural data in the U.S.** ("Sabrina Imbler, "A New Generation of Indigenous Data Scientists," *The New York Times*, June 29, 2021).

**Travel destination themes with Native references for publicity purposes have become public issues when they are deemed offensive for Native people. For example, the chair and members of the Coconino County, AZ Indigenous People' Advisory Council complained for some months about a zoning change proposal for a 250 acre development outside Flagstaff until the Native American theme was removed** (Karen Schwatz, "Is Travel Next in the Fight Over Profiting From Indigenous Culture," *The New York Times*, August 9, 2021).

"Northwest Area Foundation CEO Talks About Investing in Native Communities," First Nations Development Institute E-mail, "November 13, 2021, reported, **"At the Northwest Area Foundation, 40% of grant dollars go to Native-led groups.** President and CEO Kevin Walker says this commitment is based on the foundation's approach of engaging with Native communities in a respectful and sustainable way: showing up and building relationships; listening; honoring people's expertise, values, and lived experience; recognizing assets; doing what you say you're going to do; and giving instead of taking. Here: [https://www.nwaf.org/2021/11/03/how-to-give-to-native-communities-its-about-good-grantmaking-and-partnership/?bbeml=tp-pck9Q6QNPEiuBt3JmyTokQ.j3P-ZWm9tCEy0JNUPSe\\_k0A.rpf1f5rx33EOZgzWPvE55bA.lh-2BitSDVkJcUK\\_75cAJnQ](https://www.nwaf.org/2021/11/03/how-to-give-to-native-communities-its-about-good-grantmaking-and-partnership/?bbeml=tp-pck9Q6QNPEiuBt3JmyTokQ.j3P-ZWm9tCEy0JNUPSe_k0A.rpf1f5rx33EOZgzWPvE55bA.lh-2BitSDVkJcUK_75cAJnQ), Kevin shares more insights about how funders can make the most of their relationships with Native nonprofits and tribal programs."

**Americans for Indian Opportunity (AIO) continues to collaborate with various Albuquerque, NM Indian organizations and people to develop a well working Indian network in the city. "Reciprocal Community-Building and Collaborative Networks," Americans for Indian Opportunity, 505-842-8677, aio@aio.org, www.aio.org, reported, "Drawing on 51 years of implementing an Indigenous values-based approach to community organizing, AIO is working to build capacity in the urban Indian community of our hometown—Albuquerque.**

In collaboration with the AIO-led Native Leadership Collective of ABQ (NLC), the community provided assistance jointly, we gave away Backpacks and school supplies to working

Native families. Over the last couple of years, staff and volunteers found food and supply distributions very rewarding as we implement our values.

**AIO Ambassador alum Tracy Goodluck (Wisconsin Oneida/Muscogee Creek), who is working on detail to the White House, coordinated the first ever briefing on urban Indian issues for the White House Domestic Policy Council. Teaming up with AIO Ambassador alum, Janeen Comenote (Quinalt/Hesquiaht/Oglala), Executive Director of the National Urban Indian Coalition (NUIFC), NUIF Chair Patricia Hibbler, and several urban Indian leaders and activists, the high-powered group presented key challenges and proposed actions that the Biden Administration can take to help us address our concerns."**

**"Cultivating Indigenous Values-Based Leaders,"** "When a diverse group of leaders envisioned the Ambassadors Program, Native Americans seeking to improve their leadership skills might be selected for a "mainstream" program. Usually the only Native person in their cohort, they learned leadership from a Euro-American perspective.

AIO's Indigenous values-based initiative can boast more than 350 Graduates, 150 Tribe, 40 States and 8 Countries.

**This year, AIO's model was recognized by the Center for Creative Leadership and the American Express Foundation.** Along with other premier POC leadership programs, AIO provide training for a special American Express Leadership Academy for social justice nonprofit leaders. Not only did AIO share our 'Medicine' with the national cohort, we also insured that 12 Native social justice leaders participated—probably the largest Native American participation in this type of training. **"Redistributing Resources and Knowledge,"** "In 2021, we have been nearly overwhelmed with requests for AIO's Indian 101--a transformative presentation of Native American history and our experience in the United States. AIO's Indian 101 helps Natives and non-Natives overcome the mythology taught in U.S. schools. AIO presents the truth about our sophisticated ancient societies and our journey that shaped us into the contemporary peoples we are today.

Because you support our work, this year, AIO has helped change the national narrative for hundreds of Americans who have transformed their understanding of Indigenous peoples and how we continue to influence American society."

**"Building Movement for Systemic Change in 2022,"** "In the coming year, we will continue to advance the rights of Indigenous peoples through our work toward regenerative systemic change and cultivating Indigenous values-based leaders. AIO will work with leaders to ensure that we implement our core values as we re-think biased systems, harmful institutions/policies, and outdated structures."

### **International Activities**

Kenny Stancil, "Global People's Summit on Food Systems Kicks Off to Challenge 'Corporate Agenda' of UN Meeting: 'The people are hungry for real change, and are willing to do whatever it takes to fight for and reclaim their land, their rights, and the future of food systems,'" *Common Dreams*, September 21, 2021, [https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/09/21/global-peoples-summit-food-systems-kicks-challenge-corporate-agenda-un-meeting?utm\\_term=AO&utm\\_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_content=email&utm\\_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_medium=Email](https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/09/21/global-peoples-summit-food-systems-kicks-challenge-corporate-agenda-un-meeting?utm_term=AO&utm_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_content=email&utm_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_medium=Email), reported, **"Decrying the "corporate agenda" of the upcoming United Nations Food Systems Summit, thousands of farmworkers and food**

**sovereignty advocates on Tuesday launched a three-day counter-mobilization 'to expose and oppose the control of big corporations over food and agriculture.'**

'Corporations are out to further consolidate their control of land, seeds, agricultural inputs, and markets by embedding themselves even deeper into policymaking processes of the U.N. and its member states.'

—Sarojeni Rengam PAN Asia Pacific

The Global People's Summit on Food Systems (GPS)—a series of online and in-person gatherings assembled by an international coalition of 22 civil society groups—is set to run through September 23, when the U.N. Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) is scheduled to take place in New York City."

"AFN National Chief Archibald launches a strategic direction toward positive and evolutionary change for First Nations and all Canadians in 'The Healing Path Forward: 2021 Federal Priorities for Strengthening and Rebuilding First Nations,'" Assembly of First Nations (AFN), August 31, 2021, <https://www.afn.ca/afn-national-chief-archibald-launches-a-strategic-direction-toward-positive-and-evolutionary-change-for-first-nations-and-all-canadians-in-the-healing-path-forward-2021-federal-priorities-fo/>, stated, **"Today, The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) National Chief RoseAnne Archibald launched 'The Healing Path Forward,'" a platform outlining the priority areas for strengthening, rebuilding and healing First Nations. The document identifies a series of commitments federal parties must make to First Nations in order to strengthen relationships and pursue nation-building.**

'On behalf of the AFN Executive Committee, I am pleased to relay the priorities of First Nations for the next general government, which offers a strategic direction toward positive and evolutionary change for First Nations and all Canadians,'" said National Chief Archibald. "These priorities are set out in The Healing Path Forward: 2021 Federal Priorities for Strengthening and Rebuilding First Nations. First Nations priorities are an integral part of the national electoral narrative and should be top of mind for all the candidates and party platforms.'

National Chief Archibald **detailed the following five priorities as part of The Healing Path Forward, asking that the next federal government commit to taking action in these areas:**

**1. Truth, Reconciliation and Healing for First Nations and all Canadians**

All levels of government must work with urgency on the issue of the burial sites across this country and in finding ways to heal the trauma that our peoples have experienced for generations. Each party must outline how they will stand shoulder-to-shoulder with First Nations to rebuild, recover, heal and move forward, together.

**2. Climate and Conservation Leadership with First Nations**

The AFN calls on all political parties and candidates to endorse commitments to reducing emissions, working with First Nations as full and effective partners in the implementation of the Government of Canada's climate plan and related decision-making processes, and supporting the application of First Nations knowledge, among other things.

**3. Economic Growth, Prosperity and Wealth Building for First Nations**

The economic impacts of the pandemic were devastating for many. First Nations, already among the most vulnerable, were particularly hit hard. The pandemic continues to affect new development projects, trade, natural resources development, human resources development,

procurement, fisheries, tourism, agriculture, connectivity, transportation, and other sectors. Sustained investments are needed to support growth and sustainability.

#### **4. Promoting Peace by Respecting First Nations' Jurisdiction**

It is time that Canada's promises were made concrete through commitments to recognize, respect and promote First Nations rights while, at the same time, providing justice for First Nations citizens, both within Canada's legal framework and through the recognition of First Nations laws.

#### **5. Rebuilding and Strengthening First Nations**

With respect to the many sectors that First Nations administer, the AFN calls on all political parties and candidates to endorse self-government, UNDRIP, Treaty rights, land rights and title, child wellbeing, and other facets of self-determination and success.

'According to our internal polling, the Canadian electorate is more engaged and supportive of our priorities than ever before. Our research further indicates that First Nations voters will make a significant impact on the results of this election,' said National Chief Archibald.

'I commit to working with all parties after the election to ensure that Canada does all it can to support healing and justice for our children. I know that all Canadians share in our vision of happy healthy children surrounded by the love and care of their families living in vibrant and safe communities. Strengthening and rebuilding First Nations will result in a strong, fair and better Canada for all of us. I call on all federal political parties – and all Canadians – to commit to a Healing Path Forward.'

*The Healing Path Forward: 2021 Federal Priorities for Strengthening and Rebuilding First Nations* document, and other information on First Nations priorities and concerns, can be found on the AFN's website at <https://www.afn.ca/the-healing-path-forward/>."

"AFN National Chief Roseanne Archibald Says Throne Speech Vague on a True Healing Path Forward," Assembly of First Nations (AFN), November 23, 2021, <https://www.afn.ca/afn-national-chief-roseanne-archibald-says-throne-speech-vague-on-a-true-healing-path-forward/>, stated, **"Assembly of First Nations (AFN) National Chief RoseAnne Archibald says today's Speech from the Throne, the first from Governor General Mary Simon, lacks concrete actions and strong enough commitment to building a true healing path forward for First Nations and all Canadians.**

**'While this Throne Speech provides commentary on a number of priority areas for First Nations, it is short on detailed action,'** said AFN National Chief RoseAnne Archibald. "First Nations are on the cusp of transformative change and as everyone works to recover from the ongoing pandemic, today's Speech from the Throne needed to chart a healing path forward for First Nations and all Canadians, and it fell short on that today.'

The Throne Speech, titled Building a Resilient Economy: A Cleaner & Healthier Future for Our Kids was delivered in the House of Commons today, opening the first session of the 44th Parliament.

**'The Government of Canada has prioritized housing and childcare, yet many First Nations require predominantly social housing and many even don't have daycare centres in which to administer \$10/day childcare. We will seek stronger commitments and specific action plans in those areas.** We welcome promises made to addressing climate change and biodiversity loss, and the acknowledgement of the role of Indigenous traditional knowledge. At the same time, it's a reasonable and fair expectation that the commitments on gender-based

violence and the development of an anti-racism strategy will have First Nations involvement and perspectives. Ultimately, we look forward to working with the federal government on building joint action plans for First Nations priorities.'

**The commitments set out in today's Speech from the Throne also include:**

Creating a Canada Water Agency to safeguard water resources

Developing a National Adaptation Strategy to address environmental emergencies

Accelerating work with Indigenous partners to end violence against Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQQIA+ People

Ensuring Indigenous communities have the support they need to keep families together and fair and equitable compensation to those harmed by the First Nations Child and Family Services Program

During the recent general federal election, the AFN launched The Healing Path Forward: 2021 Federal Priorities for Strengthening and Rebuilding First Nations platform, which outlines the priority areas for strengthening, rebuilding and healing First Nations and can be found here: The Healing Path Forward | Assembly of First Nations (afn.ca)."

"ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS BULLETIN – Child and Family Services Compensation and Fundamental Reform," Assembly of First Nations, December 15, 2021, <https://www.afn.ca/assembly-of-first-nations-bulletin-child-and-family-services-compensation-and-fundamental-reform/>, stated,

"SUMMARY:

**The AFN is participating in negotiations for a global settlement with the Government of Canada on compensation and long-term reforms to the federal First Nations Child and Family Services (FNCFS) Program and Jordan's Principle.**

**The Government of Canada announced December 13, 2021 it has budgeted up to \$40 billion to settle the class action lawsuit and the human rights complaint before the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal related to discrimination against First Nations children.**

**The negotiations on a proposed settlement are ongoing and the completion of formal agreements will be subject to the approval of the Federal Court of Canada.**

Once an Agreement-in-Principle has been concluded, the AFN will schedule regional meetings regarding long-term reforms to ensure all aspects of a reformed FNCFS Program will be responsive to and reflect regional interests.

The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) is pleased to share with Chiefs and First Nations a major step toward compensation for First Nations children who experienced discrimination in the federal government's First Nations Child and Family Services (FNCFS) Program and its failure to properly implement Jordan's Principle. The AFN, together with parties to a March 2019 class action lawsuit and the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal (CHRT) proceedings, are engaged in settlement discussions. The Government of Canada has budgeted up to \$40 billion to implement a Final Settlement Agreement on compensation and long-term reforms of the FNCFS Program and Jordan's Principle.

**The parties are finalizing an Agreement-in-Principle** that will guide ongoing discussions toward reaching a Final Settlement Agreement. The Final Agreement(s) will require the approval of the Federal Court of Canada and the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal. The Final Settlement Agreements will outline the process in which direct compensation will be paid to the survivors of the federal government's discriminatory practices.

A framework will be shared with AFN Chiefs in Assembly for discussion and decision and will include regional processes and dialogue with First Nations.

This major milestone for First Nations children and families was achieved by the long-standing advocacy of First Nations children and families, the AFN and its allies. AFN Regional Chief Woodhouse shared an update on this matter with AFN Chiefs in Assembly at the AFN Special Chiefs Assembly last week.

In 2016, the CHRT ruled that the Government of Canada was discriminating against First Nations children in the FNCFS Program. In 2019 at the request of the AFN, the CHRT ordered Canada to pay compensation for First Nations children and their family members impacted by discriminatory practices and approaches of the FNCFS Program and its narrow application of Jordan's Principle.

The AFN filed a class action lawsuit in January 2020 aimed at securing compensation for harms inflicted on all First Nations children and families under the federal government's discriminatory FNCFS Program and Jordan's Principle. This included seeking compensation for First Nations children involved in the system since 1991 who were not included in the 2019 CHRT compensation order. The proposed settlement will allow for compensation to all children affected.

The AFN will share additional information when available. For more information please contact [fncchildcompensation@afn.ca](mailto:fncchildcompensation@afn.ca)."

"Collaborative Study Urges Decision-Makers to Address First Nations Food Insecurity and Sovereignty," Assembly of First Nations (AFN), October 21, 2021, <https://www.afn.ca/collaborative-study-urges-decision-makers-to-address-first-nations-food-insecurity-and-sovereignty/>, stated, **"The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) is pleased to announce the release of the Key Findings and Recommendations for Decision-makers of the First Nations Food, Nutrition and Environment Study (FNFNES). The 10-year study was led by principal investigators and researchers from the AFN, the University of Ottawa and Université de Montréal.**

Built on collaborative research with 92 First Nations across the country, the FNFNES highlights that traditional foods remain foundational to First Nations' health and well-being, and that the quality of traditional food is superior to store bought food. However, due to environmental degradation, socioeconomic, systemic and regulatory barriers, many First Nations face three to five times the rate of food insecurity than the Canadian population overall. Families with children are affected to an even greater degree.

The FNFNES partners urge decision-makers to use the key findings and recommendations, being released the week after World Food Day, to inform policies and programs to address First Nations food insecurity and sovereignty. The **six primary recommendations are:**

**Support initiatives promoting First Nations rights, sovereignty, self-determination, values and culture.**

**Prioritize protecting the environment, First Nations lands, waters and territories.**

**Build capacity to eliminate barriers to proper nutrition, reducing food insecurity.**

**Improve partnerships, collaboration and communication between First Nations and all levels of government, as well as partnerships between First Nations to support sharing information about food, nutrition and the environment.**

**Support continuing research, education and public awareness.**



**Create a First Nations-led joint national task force or committee to plan how to implement these recommendations.**

'For First Nations, traditional food represents much more than nutrition, it plays important cultural, spiritual and ceremonial roles. There is an urgent need to address systemic problems and barriers relating to First Nations food systems, security and sovereignty in a way that honours First Nations knowledge, leadership and rights. New programs, policies and legislation must be created to protect the environment from further degradation and ensure that First Nations have access to a healthy diet, including traditional food,' says AFN Senior Director of Environment Lands and Water and FNFNES Principal Investigator Tonio Sadik.

'This first of its kind study can only be accomplished because of the strong partnership between the AFN, the government officials and the academic researchers. In particular, we are grateful for the collective wisdom of the nearly 7,000 participants and team members from the 92 communities throughout the country over the last 10 years. We sincerely hope the findings of FNFNES will contribute to improving the nutritional quality of food and the health of First Nations for generations to come,' says Dr. Laurie Chan, FNFNES principal investigator, University of Ottawa professor and Canada Research Chair in Toxicology and Environmental Health.

'This participatory research was possible because it emanated from a need expressed by First Nations to shed light on the nutrition and environmental situation in their communities. First Nations face disproportionate challenges in terms of access to healthy, culturally relevant food. FNFNES points to the need for guaranteeing improved access to traditional food which has a potential role in countering the rise in chronic disease and combating food insecurity,' says Dr. Malek Batal, FNFNES principal investigator, professor in the Nutrition Department of the Faculty of Medicine of Université de Montréal, and Canada Research Chair in Nutrition and Health Inequalities.

Studies like the FNFNES can support First Nations to make informed decisions about nutrition, the environment and environmental stewardship, lead to further research and advocacy safeguarding First Nations' rights and jurisdiction and provide a baseline for measuring environmental changes.

Now complete, the FNFNES identified areas needing further study. Its core partners are collaborating on another multi-year research project called the Food, Environment, Health and Nutrition of First Nations Children and Youth (FEHNCY) study. Like the FNFNES, this study is being funded by Indigenous Services Canada's First Nations and Inuit Health Branch."

"National Chief Urges Thoughtful Dialogue, Not Destruction," Assembly of First Nations (AFN), July 2, 2021, <https://www.afn.ca/national-chief-urges-thoughtful-dialogue-not-destruction/>, stated, **"Assembly of First Nations (AFN) National Chief Perry Bellegarde says thoughtful dialogue is the way through the frustration and anger many are feeling after the revelations of the past few weeks related to recoveries at residential school sites across the country.**

'As a Cree leader whose father and grandfather and several more family members attended Indian Residential Schools, I fully understand the frustration and anger many are feeling after the revelations of the past few weeks have laid bare the miseries of the Residential School system. These are tragedies of an almost unimaginable nature for most Canadians. We need to understand what happened and learn to speak openly about it. Destroying property will not help us build the peaceful, better and accepting Canada we all want and need. I believe in processes

that unite rather than divide. Violence must be replaced by turning to ceremony and all that our old people taught us about peaceful co-existence and mutual respect. Thoughtful dialogue not destruction is the way through this.'

The National Indian Residential Schools Crisis Line is available for support: 1-866-925-4419."

"Horrible Discoveries Of Unmarked Graves Demands Urgent Action And Support From Allies Says National Chief, Assembly of First Nations (AFN), June 24, 2021, <https://www.afn.ca/horrific-discoveries-of-unmarked-graves-demands-urgent-action-and-support-from-allies-says-national-chief/>, stated, "Assembly of First Nations (AFN) National Chief Perry Bellegarde released the below statement following the announcement by Chief Cadmus Delorme about the work of Cowessess First Nation resulting in locating more than 600 unmarked graves on the grounds of the former Marieval Indian Residential School in Saskatchewan.

**'First Nations are greatly pained by this latest finding of unmarked graves on the site of an Indian Residential School. We grieve over the many children who never made it home after their forcible removal from their families and people.**

**We must never forget our children were targeted and placed in a racist system purposely designed to stamp out every aspect of who we are – our languages, our cultures, our teachings. I support Chief Delorme in his call for healing and for an apology from His Holiness, Pope Francis.**

The Assembly of First Nations supports all First Nations seeking the truth and the full **implementation of all the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.**

I know that First Nations across this country will continue the work to find, honour and commemorate the lost little ones. I call on all governments to support First Nations governments in this work and for all governments and the Catholic Church to respond to calls for resources and for information in their possession.

The families and the nations of all the children who never came home have the right to truth – and to know who lies in these unmarked graves and what happened to them.

First Nations will continue our search for our little ones and to honour and commemorate them.

I thank the many Canadians, and members of the international community, who have written to the Assembly of First Nations to express their condolences and concern.

I pray for healing for all of those impacted by the loss and the discovery of our precious children.

The Assembly of First Nations stands with all who are suffering at this time.'  
The National Indian Residential Schools Crisis Line is available for support: 1-866-925-4419."

"Federal Legislation to Implement UN Declaration Major Step Toward Addressing Racism And Discrimination In Canada, Assembly of First Nations (AFN), June 16, 2021, Assembly of First Nations (AFN), stated, **"Assembly of First Nations (AFN) National Chief Perry Bellegarde welcomes the passing of a federal bill to advance the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, urging its full implementation in Canada to meet standards necessary for the dignity, survival, and well-being of Indigenous peoples.**

**“This is a major step forward for First Nations and for Canada – this is concrete action, this is history in the making,”** said AFN National Chief Perry Bellegarde, adding the passing of this federal legislation comes after decades of advocacy by First Nations and indigenous peoples worldwide. **'This legislation to implement the UN Declaration on the Right of indigenous Peoples in Canada can be a pathway to reconciliation, guided by our inherent and Treaty rights. Its full implementation will see First Nations rights respected and implemented and is essential to addressing all forms of racism and discrimination in Canada.'**

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act passed June 16 by the Senate of Canada, **will require the federal government to work collaboratively with First Nations and other Indigenous peoples to develop a National Action Plan to implement the UN Declaration, including measures to address prejudice and eliminate all forms of violence and discrimination against Indigenous peoples. While the UN Declaration already has legal effect in Canada, this new legislation requires that Canadian laws be reviewed and reformed in order to meet Canada’s international human rights obligations and explicitly rejects the racist doctrines of discovery and terra nullius. It also requires regular reporting to Parliament on progress.**

'The passing of bill C-15, now the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act, means we now have a process that requires laws and policies to change so that First Nations rights are respected and implemented,' said National Chief Bellegarde. 'First Nations will determine their own priorities and how they wish to work with Canada. And I urge all governments in Canada to work to ensure full implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.'

The implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples by all levels of government, including developing a national action plan, strategies, and other concrete measures to achieve the goals set out in the Declaration, is the focus of two of the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action and is also included in the Calls for Justice of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.

The AFN is the national organization representing First Nations people in Canada. Follow AFN on Twitter @AFN\_Updates."

"AFN BULLETIN – August 5, 2021 – "Lac Seul Wins Supreme Court of Canada Appeal, Decision Sets Precedent for Equitable Compensation," Assembly of First Nations, on August 5, 2021, <https://www.afn.ca/afn-bulletin-august-5-2021-lac-seul-wins-supreme-court-of-canada-appeal-decision-sets-precedent-for-equitable-compensation/>,

#### **SUMMARY:**

**Lac Seul First Nation has won an appeal to have damages reviewed for historical flooding on its lands and confirming the Crown’s fiduciary duties to Indigenous peoples. The Supreme Court of Canada on July 16, 2021 ruled the Government of Canada breached its fiduciary obligation to protect the reserve land at Lac Seul First Nation when the governments of Canada, Manitoba and Ontario decided without consent or consultation with the community to flood the reserve with the construction of a hydroelectric dam in 1929.**

More than 11,000 acres of Lac Seul First Nation were flooded, destroying nearly one-fifth of the reserve lands. Homes and fields were destroyed. Graves were submerged and portions of the reserve were severed from one another.

In an action initiated by Lac Seul First Nation in 1991, the community claimed damages from the Crown for losses caused to it and its members as a result of the flooding.

**Lac Seul First Nation is now entitled to equitable compensation for the lost opportunity to determine the use of their land at the time the hydroelectricity project was developed.**

The Supreme Court of Canada decision in *Southwind v. Canada* on July 16, 2021 marks an historic victory for Lac Seul First Nation located in Treaty 3 territory in northwestern Ontario and has profound implications for specific claims policy reform.

The ruling comes 30 years after Lac Seul First Nation originally filed a claim in Federal Court when one-fifth of the reserve land was flooded as a result of a hydroelectric dam where Lac Seul drains into the English River. This decision could greatly increase compensation owed to First Nations for specific claims related to reserve lands.

The 8-1 ruling confirmed the Crown's fiduciary duties to Indigenous Peoples and that a previous award of \$30 million was insufficient given the extensive damage and loss of land. The case has been ordered back to the Federal Court to reassess the compensation amount.

In the July 2021 ruling, the Supreme Court determined that:

**The common law principles of expropriation law are not the appropriate framework to determine compensation to a First Nation for breach of fiduciary duty related to reserve land.**

**Reserve land is not a commodity and First Nations' interests in land are fundamentally different from other Canadians. First Nations have a special relationship with the land, which is at the centre of the relationship between the Crown and Indigenous Peoples.**

**Equitable compensation seeks to restore a First Nation to the position it would have been in had the Crown not breached its fiduciary duty. Where restoring or returning the First Nation's land to its original condition is not possible, equitable compensation must be provided.**

The Government of Canada had a duty to make the most favourable use of the property it holds in trust for the First Nation. If the government fails to carry out this duty, the courts must seriously consider whether the total award to the First Nation will be an effective deterrent for the government's conduct, in addition to compensating lost opportunities.

The impact of public projects, such as a dam, places a duty on the Government of Canada to capture the full potential value of the land for the land's intended use.

Lac Seul First Nation was entitled to compensation based on the best price that could have been obtained for the land's use, namely generating hydroelectricity.

The AFN intervened in *Southwind v. Canada* to support the position that First Nations that are harmed when the Government of Canada fails to protect reserve land should be compensated for the land's original value and the full potential value of the land's use.

#### **AFN's Specific Claims Policy Reform Work**

For decades, First Nations have advocated for the creation of a fully independent specific claims process to facilitate the resolution of claims.

While the *Southwind v. Canada* decision went through the Federal Courts, the AFN anticipates implications for the specific claims process. **There are claims related to unauthorized use of reserve land across Canada, including 18 specific claims and several civil claims relating to flooding of reserve lands in Treaty 3 where Lac Seul First Nation is located.**

The Supreme Court Canada Decision on *Southwind v. Canada* can be accessed on the Supreme Court of Canada website. You can find information on AFN's Specific Claims Policy reform work online, and provide input on our proposed claims process.

For more information please contact Jesse Donovan, Policy Analyst, Lands Sector, at [jdonovan@afn.ca](mailto:jdonovan@afn.ca)."

"Assembly of First Nations Urges Swift Emergency Services to BC First Nations Impacted By Floods And Landslides," Assembly of First Nations (AFN), November 19, 2021, <https://www.afn.ca/assembly-of-first-nations-urges-swift-emergency-services-to-bc-first-nations-impacted-by-floods-and-landslides/>, stated, **The Assembly of First Nations (AFN) calls for the Government of Canada to send emergency funding directly to the First Nations Emergency Services Society (FNESS) in British Columbia to ensure quick service to First Nations impacted by catastrophic flooding and landslides, resulting in many First Nations now being under evacuation order.**

'It is imperative that First Nations concerns are addressed by Emergency Management BC (EMBC), the provincial program contracted to provide emergency services to First Nations, without delay. We saw the devastation caused when municipal emergencies were prioritized over First Nations during the summer wildfires. Everyone's life matters. First Nations have a reasonable request to be treated equally and equitably,' said AFN National Chief RoseAnne Archibald.

**The Province of BC signed a \$29-million Emergency Services Agreement with Indigenous Services Canada in 2018 to provide emergency services to First Nations in BC through EMBC.** This agreement included 28 Emergency Management Coordinator positions for First Nations, positions that have not yet been filled. EMBC contracted FNESS to provide emergency management and FireSmart training for wildfires, and to enact emergency plans for First Nations. Providing funding directly to FNESS will help ensure First Nations receive the help they need without delay.

**'First Nations jurisdiction must be recognized in all areas, including emergency management.** We are the most at risk during these catastrophic climate events, which are sadly no longer isolated incidents but ongoing repercussions of climate change,' said British Columbia Assembly of First Nations Regional Chief Terry Teegee. The Province of BC declared a State of Emergency on November 17, 2021, one day after Regional Chief Teegee and other BC First Nations leaders called on the province to do so.

**First Nations are 18 times more likely to be evacuated due to emergencies than non-First Nations and are still battling COVID-19 on top of flooding, the aftermath of wildfires and infrastructure damage as they move into the winter season.**

**'First Nations, especially remote, are often the first to directly feel the impacts of climate change. Sustainable planning for the future requires immediate and equitable investments that respond to our ever-changing climate. Our unique relation with the land and the water requires our voices to lead decision making required in response to this global emergency,'** said AFN Yukon Regional Chief Kluane Adamek."

"Help Wanted in the Journey for Life," Schools for Chiapas, July 14, 2021, <https://schoolsforchiapas.org/teach-chiapas/travel/travel-application/> "Greetings, compañeras, compañeros, compañeras... Since you last heard from us, so much has happened, new collaborations, delegations, and importantly, this is happening:

**The Zapatista maritime delegation, Squadron 421, aboard *La Montaña*, made landfall in Vigo, Galicia, and has now made its way to Paris and beyond!** This brilliantly creative feat is causing a great stir in Europe and to the left, igniting new forms of organization and resistance. In the communities of Chiapas, **this Journey for Life, as it is called, brings joy and hope - the feeling that they are not alone.** We celebrate this marvelous initiative in all of its courage.

However, **daily life in several communities remains tenuous.** In Nuevo San Gregorio, our June delegation heard testimonies of intimidation and the struggle to survive, due to ongoing threats by invaders.

So friends, **this is a call to action.** Schools for Chiapas, working closely with FrayBa Human Rights Center, is hoping to help fill vital posts in its Civil Observation Brigades (BriCo's) in places like Nuevo San Gregorio. If you are interested in living and learning in select communities of Chiapas, we encourage you to fill out our travel application and or to share this call to action with your friends and comrades. (this can be done through the above web address)"

Cesar Gomez (Maya Pocomam, CS Staff), "Indigenous Authorities in Guatemala Call Out Government for Lack of Access to Education, Justice, and Health," Cultural Survival, October 15, 2021, <https://www.culturalsurvival.org/news/indigenous-authorities-guatemala-call-out-government-lack-access-education-justice-and-health>, reported, **"Indigenous Ancestral Authorities, civil society organizations, and a large portion of the general public have been expressing their dissatisfaction with the President of Guatemala, Alejandro Giammatei, and the head of the Public Ministry, Consuelo Porras. This discontent has been generated by the ungovernability, corruption, and the July 23 dismissal of Juan Francisco Sandoval, who was in charge of the Special Prosecutor Office Against Corruption (FECI), for investigating acts of corruption by senior officials.**

At a press conference, **the 48 cantons of Totonicapán spoke out against the removal of prosecutor Sandoval, calling on the population to paralyze the country** from July 29, 2021. 'What overflowed the glass is the dismissal of the FECI prosecutor, (...) a person who was at the forefront of taking proceedings against corruption and through his dismissal we are left with the entire justice system breaking down,' said Aleizer Arana, Ancestral Authority of the Xinca Peoples.

'Unfortunately **we have a failed State, a State that does not represent us,**' said Ana María Top, from the Association of the Integral Group of Women from San Juan (AGIMS), who was at kilometer 28 of the highway to San Lucas Sacatepéquez, next to the organizations Waqib 'Keej and the Social and Popular Assembly, on July 29. According to Top, 'They [the government] make laws for their benefit, that is why we Indigenous Peoples go out to raise our voices, we are covering the streets, demanding justice as our grandparents have taught us.

Top adds, 'even though they tell us that we have nothing to do (...) although many times they tell us that there is someone who pays us, we are doing this; paralyzing the streets, (...) because of this failed state. The entire country knows that we do not have access to health care, in health centers there is no medicine. Where is the money approved in Congress through loans to mitigate the pandemic?'

'This political and economic crisis is not from now, it has been ongoing forever,' emphasized Rolando López Crisóstomo, member of the Mam Council of the department of San

Marcos. 'The only way to save the incipient democracy is through the resignation of Giammatei and Consuelo Porras, who do not represent the population but rather the corrupt pact.'

López stated that **the government is not responding to the demands of the people, 'It is not possible that the education sector has a minimum budget.'** The pandemic has made education move online. **"However, people do not have the technology and do not know how to use it," emphasizes the Xinca authority, adding that, 'the family bonus promised by the government did not reach everyone.** In my case, I received it, but... later I received a receipt for 350 quetzales for the electricity bill; usually, I pay between 90 to 110 quetzals a month.'

**Thousands of residents joined the call of the ancestral authorities, peacefully blocking the main roads of the departments of Alta Verapaz, Sololá, Huehuetenango, Escuintla, Chiquimula, Suchitepéquez, the capital city, among others, which lasted for several days.** They displayed banners and shouted: 'Giammatei resign!' and "Consuelo Porras resign!"

The Coordinating Committee of Agricultural, Commercial, Industrial, and Financial Associations (CACIF), in a statement dated August 9, 2021, demanded that the government, 'in accordance with the amparos filed and as ordered by the Constitutional Court, proceed to expedite the ways and citizen guarantees are respected. Likewise, it is necessary to investigate who is behind these mobilizations and what is the origin of their financing.'

Days later, exporters also spoke out, pointing out losses of more than 270 million quetzals a day due to the blockades, highlighting the economic reactivation of the country. 'To some, it does not seem that we are protesting. They tell us that we are blocking development, however, the real blockages come from the State, which has blocked education, justice, health from us for 200 years,' highlighted Aleizer Arana.

On August 13, 2021, the **Indigenous representatives delivered a memorandum at the presidential palace in which they requested the immediate resignation of the President due to his poor management, which has generated the weakening of public institutions and the increase in corruption. 'He no longer represents national unity, he only represents the dispossession, exclusion and misery of the majority of the population and since he is not above the rights of citizens and the laws, he must resign,'** stated the memo. They also traveled to the central offices of the Public Ministry, making the same request to Consuelo Porras, Attorney General of the Public Ministry, questioned for protecting officials involved in acts of corruption and interfering with criminal investigations.

**'Last year millionaire loans were approved for the purchase of vaccines; however, we are one of the most backward countries in the administration of vaccines,'** stated the Xinca authority. **'The government has not invested any of the loans,'** says María Top, **'they are only taking advantage of the pandemic to enrich themselves. They are not paying the doctors, the nurses, there are no supplies in the hospitals. The vaccines that are being administered are from donations.'** The ancestral authorities blame Giammatei for the mismanagement of the COVID-19 pandemic. **Thousands of people have died, hospitals are short of supplies; the medical staff is insufficient and the Russian vaccines have not arrived yet.** 'There is no registry that tracks the linguistic community and Indigenous population that has been affected. Nor are there details of the number of deaths, how many have been vaccinated, and how many have overcome COVID-19 tracked. On the other hand, the State has not created information on the pandemic in Indigenous languages, much less has it provided guidance on 'the importance of getting vaccinated,'" explains Top.

At a press conference on April 5, 2021, President Alejandro Giammatei announced the purchase of 16 million doses of the Sputnik V vaccine from Russia for the price of 160 million dollars, advancing 50 percent of the cost. On July 23, 2021, the Congress of the Republic reported on its website the progress in vaccination. In the first phase, the health agencies focused on reducing the mortality of medical personnel, nurses, firefighters, personnel who work in institutions, and funeral home workers. Next, people over 65 years of age and security agents were vaccinated, leaving the vaccination of people over 18 years old at the end.

The Law for the Financing and Acquisition of Vaccines against COVID-19, Decree 1-2021, obliged the Ministry of Health to create the National Vaccination Plan against COVID-19, establishing the Personal Identification Document (DPI) as the only requirement for qualify for immunization. On its Twitter account, the Ministry of Health announced on September 20, 2021, that 6,148,726 vaccines had been administered, of which 2,031,786 were second doses. According to the National Institute of Statistics (INE), the population of Guatemala exceeds 14 million inhabitants, according to the latest census. **That is only 14 percent of the population being fully vaccinated.**

**'On September 8, 2021, without an adequate response from the President and almost a month after the beginning of the peaceful demonstrations, the 48 cantons, the Xinca Peoples, the Palin Indigenous Mayor's Office, among other organizations filed a criminal complaint against President Alejandro Giammatei in the Public Ministry, holding him responsible for the mismanagement of the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, he is accused of discrimination and the possible anomalous purchase of Russian vaccines, among other irregularities,' Martin Toc of the 48 cantons and representative of the towns pointed out. 'As long as the State does not respond to the demands of the population, the authorities will continue to call for the defense of human rights, collective rights, and governance. The authorities call on the population to take all health precautions because we must be healthy to continue fighting for our rights,' concludes Aleizer Arana.'**

Amazon Watch and Some of Us stated, July 21, 2021, <https://actions.sumofus.org/a/mps-protect-the-indigenous-people-and-scrap-draft-bill-490-2007-1/?akid=92302.1918087.yPBj4&rd=1&source=fwd&t=9> "MPs: Protect the Indigenous People and SCRAP Draft bill 490/2007, **"Brazilian President Bolsonaro wants to pass a new law to open up the heart of the Amazon to devastating industrial projects, and legalise the expulsion of isolated indigenous tribes from their ancestral lands.**

He's pushing draft bill 490/2007 -- that will basically legalise genocide -- and it will be voted on in Congress any day now.

But there is hope. Even the greediest politicians are worried about their image, and we can use that to support the Indigenous activists fighting this new law.

**If we can show Brazilian MPs that people from all over the world are against the genocide of indigenous people, and destruction of the Amazon, our pressure could tip the balance.**

**Add your name now**, and join 6,000 SumOfUs members in Brazil who are already resisting the proposed new law.

#### **More information**

**Members of the ruralist caucus and allies to President Bolsonaro approve bill that paves the way for a new indigenous genocide**

Articulation of Indigenous Peoples of Brazil (APIB). 23 June 2021.



**Firing arrows, indigenous people in Brazil protest bill curtailing land rights**  
Reuters. 16 June 2021.

**Brazil police use teargas and rubber bullets against indigenous protesters**  
*The Guardian*. 23 June 2021."

Global Week of Action for the Amazon, September 5-11, "Amazon Watch, August 27, 2021, [https://amazonwatch.org/get-involved/events/2021-global-week-of-action-for-the-amazon?utm\\_source=Amazon+Watch+Newsletter+and+Updates&utm\\_campaign=c001c59062-2019-04-25-blk%2B\\_COPY\\_01&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_e6f929728b-c001c59062-342254273&mc\\_cid=c001c59062&mc\\_eid=8769095ac1](https://amazonwatch.org/get-involved/events/2021-global-week-of-action-for-the-amazon?utm_source=Amazon+Watch+Newsletter+and+Updates&utm_campaign=c001c59062-2019-04-25-blk%2B_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_e6f929728b-c001c59062-342254273&mc_cid=c001c59062&mc_eid=8769095ac1), stated, "**The Amazon is in a state of emergency due to attacks on the rights, lives, and territories of Indigenous and forest peoples. In response, we're inviting you to join us and take action during the Global Week of Action for the Amazon.**

**Join Indigenous organizations in Amazonía and allies around the world offering opportunities to get involved and collaborate with one another – all for the protection of the Amazon rainforest.** To create a stronger voice and presence, this year we're inviting you all to meet us on Noo.World, a site and app made for activists by activists that will allow us to unite worldwide. It's a trusted site created by partners in the resistance with you in mind. All the activist tools you could need, in one place.

Join Indigenous Earth Defenders calling for immediate and urgent action to permanently protect the Amazon and our global climate. We need your solidarity to spread the message during this week! Sign up on any or all of the days during the Global Week of Action for the Amazon on the Noo.World app or website."

"Global protests as Brazil's Supreme Court set to begin landmark indigenous rights ruling," Survival International, August 25, 2021, <https://www.survivalinternational.org/news/12635>, reported, "**Indigenous peoples from all over Brazil are protesting in a week-long action in Brasilia against the 'Marco Temporal' (or 'Time Limit Trick'), draft bill 490 known as the "Bill of Death", and a series of other genocidal plans and actions by the Bolsonaro government.**

The 'Struggle for Life' ('Luta pela Vida') global action is led by APIB – the Association of Indigenous Peoples of Brazil.

APIB have held a vigil outside the Supreme Court, which is due to restart voting on the Time Limit Trick, a proposal put forward by the agribusiness sector claiming that indigenous peoples only have the right to territory that they were physically occupying on October 5, 1988 – the day the current Constitution came into force.

A series of actions have taken place across the globe, including in San Francisco and London, by protestors calling for an end to the genocidal attacks being waged by President Bolsonaro and his supporters against Brazil's indigenous peoples.

**The Time Limit Trick poses a threat to hundreds of indigenous territories, hundreds of thousands of indigenous people and dozens of uncontacted tribes, including:**

- **The Xokleng:** one of their territories is the subject of the Supreme Court which will judge the validity, or not, of the Time Limit Trick.

Large parts of Xokleng land and other indigenous territories were allocated to Europeans settlers encouraged by the Brazilian government early last century. The

government also financed a so-called 'Indian-hunting militia', which accelerated the colonial land grab and the genocide of indigenous peoples.

The Supreme Court could now set the effects of these and subsequent evictions in stone, establishing a precedent which would have far-reaching consequences for indigenous peoples in Brazil.

- The Guarani: nearly all their land was stolen before 1988 and is now used for agribusiness. They would be among the hardest hit. Their campaign to get their land back, already a mammoth battle, would become even harder and bloodier.

- The uncontacted Kawahiva: their existence and location was officially confirmed after 1988, like many other uncontacted tribes.

- Many other uncontacted tribes, whose existence still hasn't been officially confirmed by the government, despite plenty of evidence. There are 86 such cases, one of which is the uncontacted people of Ituna Itatá indigenous territory, whose emergency Land Protection Order is due to expire imminently.

If approved, the Time Limit Trick would set indigenous rights back decades and could wipe out whole uncontacted tribes. The indigenous movement and their allies are campaigning for it to be scrapped.

APIB said: 'May the country listen to its indigenous peoples. Our lives are linked to the earth, as we live in communion with it. We are the guardians of the forests and all forms of life that live there. We are facing a Congress that continues to push its anti-indigenous agenda. We are fighting against the Time Limit Trick, scheduled to be voted by the Supreme Court on August 25th. We will resist!'

Caroline Pearce, director of Survival International said today: 'This is the most critical court ruling for Brazil's indigenous peoples for decades. The future of hundreds of thousands of people is at stake. It is also a crucial test of Brazil's judiciary and democracy. It is up to the Supreme Court judges to uphold the constitution which recognizes indigenous peoples' original rights to their lands as the country's first inhabitants.'

San Francisco protest on August 24 at Brazilian Consulate, 300 Montgomery Street, San Francisco, CA 94104-1901 by supporters of Brazil Solidarity Network, Women's Earth and Climate Action Network, Survival International and Amazon Watch.

London protest on August 25 at Brazilian Embassy, 14-16 Cockspur St, LONDON SW1Y 5BL by supporters of Amazon Rebellion, Brazil Matters, CAFOD, Greenpeace, Parents for Future and Survival International.

For more information contact:

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Greenpeace UK: [press.uk@greenpeace.org](mailto:press.uk@greenpeace.org);

CAFOD: Frances Leach – [fleach@cafod.org.uk](mailto:fleach@cafod.org.uk), Mobile: +447584 349 426; OR Nana

Anto-Awuakye – [nanto-awuakye@cafod.org.uk](mailto:nanto-awuakye@cafod.org.uk), Mobile: +447799477541;

Amazon Rebellion: [amazonreb@protonmail.com](mailto:amazonreb@protonmail.com);

Brazil Matters: [brazilmatters@gmail.com](mailto:brazilmatters@gmail.com), Mobile: +44 7793 451311,"

"Brazil: Only contacted member of threatened tribe denounces impending genocide," Survival International, August 12, 2021, <https://www.survivalinternational.org/news/12626>, reported, **"The only contacted member of the Amazon's Piripkura tribe has voiced her fears that loggers operating illegally inside her people's territory will soon kill her relatives.**

Rita Piripkura is the only Piripkura person in regular contact with outsiders. In a unique interview released today by Survival International, she **describes how nine of her relatives were massacred in one attack by loggers**, and says that her brother and nephew, Baita and Tamandua, are known to still live inside the territory.

Rita says: 'There are lots of land grabbers around... If they kill them, there won't be anyone left.'

The Piripkura's forest was deforested more than any other uncontacted tribe's territory in Brazil in 2020. It is believed other members of the tribe are also living in the territory, having retreated to the depths of the forest.

**The Piripkura's forest is currently shielded by a Land Protection Order – an official order used to protect uncontacted tribes' territories that have not been through the long process of official demarcation – but the order is due to expire on September 18.**

**A judge recently ordered the authorities to remove farmers and loggers inside the territory, but like most such edicts requiring government action, little has been done to comply.**

**Six other tribal territories are currently protected by similar Land Protection Orders, and in total they cover 1 million hectares of rainforest. But President Bolsonaro and his allies want to open up these territories, which remain vulnerable until they are fully demarcated as indigenous lands, as part of his government's all-out assault on indigenous rights.**

Sarah Shenker, head of Survival's Uncontacted Tribes campaign, said today: 'Rita Piripkura's harrowing and urgent appeal for the survival of her relatives should be heard far and wide. The Piripkura people have been decimated by decades of killings at the hands of outsiders. Now those few that are left face the same fate, as ranchers and politicians, boosted by President Bolsonaro's genocidal actions and proposals, are trying to rip up all protection of the Piripkura's forest.'

**'The Land Protection Orders – and proper enforcement of them – are the only thing standing between uncontacted tribes like the Piripkura and total extinction. They must be renewed, all invaders evicted, and the land fully protected.'**

"Sign the petition to Congress: Denounce Amazon's plan to build a HQ on sacred Indigenous land!" Daily Kos, September 7, 2021, [https://actionnetwork.org/forms/sign-the-petition-to-congress-denounce-amazons-plan-to-build-a-hq-on-sacred-indigenous-land?source=2021AmazonHQ\\_DK&redirect=https%3A%2F%2Fsecure.actblue.com%2Fdonate%2Fdckl2021%3Frefcode%3D20210831SWAmazonHQ&link\\_id=1&refcodeEmailReferrer=email\\_1281924\\_\\_subject\\_1694582&can\\_id=77b09df18c25582be779f2e209efa4cc&email\\_referrer=email\\_1281924\\_\\_subject\\_1694582&email\\_subject=amazon-didnt-choose-a-sacred-indigenous-site-by-accident-please-read](https://actionnetwork.org/forms/sign-the-petition-to-congress-denounce-amazons-plan-to-build-a-hq-on-sacred-indigenous-land?source=2021AmazonHQ_DK&redirect=https%3A%2F%2Fsecure.actblue.com%2Fdonate%2Fdckl2021%3Frefcode%3D20210831SWAmazonHQ&link_id=1&refcodeEmailReferrer=email_1281924__subject_1694582&can_id=77b09df18c25582be779f2e209efa4cc&email_referrer=email_1281924__subject_1694582&email_subject=amazon-didnt-choose-a-sacred-indigenous-site-by-accident-please-read), stated, **"South African Indigenous peoples -- the Khoi and San -- have battled colonialism for over 500 years. The area is a source of pride and cultural heritage, which also survived decades of oppression under apartheid. The earliest to inhabit that land, the Khoi and San people are now facing a huge challenge to their right to existence -- they're up against Amazon. Amazon is currently developing a new 70,000-square meter facility -- an African headquarters for U.S. retail giant.**

This continued American colonialism and borderline monopolistic behavior cannot stand. We will not sit by while major U.S. corporations bulldoze over sacred Indigenous land!

**Amazon didn't choose a sacred indigenous site by accident. They know it has historical, cultural, and environmental significance.** They just want to destroy and build on it anyway. But since Amazon is a US company, they're particularly vulnerable to grassroots pressure here in the U.S.

If U.S. elected officials publicly denounce this HQ project, Amazon will face an international political and PR nightmare. Activists here in the U.S. successfully blocked an Amazon HQ in New York City. Together we can show solidarity with Indigenous activists and help block this new Amazon HQ in South Africa.

Sign the petition: Urge Congress to denounce Amazon's plan to build a HQ on sacred indigenous land in South Africa!

Participating Organizations:

Chesapeake Climate Action Network

Civic Shout

Daily Kos

Demand Progress

Green America

The Juggernaut Project"

Edson Krenak Naknanuk, "Second Indigenous Women's March Takes Place in Brasilia," cultural Survival, September 17, 2021, <https://www.culturalsurvival.org/news/second-indigenous-womens-march-takes-place-brasilia>, reported, **"We want peace in our territories,' shouted Indigenous women marchers in Brazil's capital city of Brasilia** on September 7-11, 2021.

**For the second time, Indigenous women from all over the country, representing their biomes and families, organized the Indigenous Women's March in the capital city Brasília.** The first march was held in 2019.

**With a cry against the violence of the Brazilian State and those who attack and threaten Indigenous territories, Indigenous women, the 'warrior women of ancestry', as they call themselves, took to the streets in Brasília in a large march that brought together more than 5,000 Indigenous leaders belonging to 172 Peoples.**

This was an extremely important moment, as the important case of the Marco Temporal (timeframe) is pending decision at Brazil's Supreme Court. The case was brought by anti-Indigenous groups and agribusinesses which seek to limit the rights of Indigenous Peoples and their sovereignty over their lands, territories and natural resources. The case involving Xokleng Peoples' territory carries the potential to set a precedent for stripping territorial rights that were not officially recognized when the Brazilian Constitution was approved in 1988.

A young leader, Cristiane Pankararu (Pankararu) from APOINME (Northeast, Minas Gerais and Espírito Santo Indigenous People Articulation)-- a Cultural Survival Keepers of the Earth Fund grant partner, said the demand this year is for peace and healing in her territories. Pankararu says, "We want peace in our territories."

**The organization behind the women's march is the National Articulation of Indigenous Women Ancestrality Warriors (ANMIGA) and is composed of Indigenous Women from all biomes in Brazil,** bringing forth their shared knowledge, traditions, and struggles, which brought them together to fight for the rights and lives of Indigenous Peoples and their homes."

Edson Krenak Naknanuk, "Indigenous Peoples Sue Bolsonaro at the Hague for Genocide and Get Ready for Mass Mobilizations in Brazil," Cultural Survival, August 20, 2021, <https://www.culturalsurvival.org/publications/cultural-survival-quarterly/our-bodies-our-spirits-our-territories-indigenous-women>, reported, **"For the first time in history, Indigenous Peoples from Brazil are going directly to the International Criminal Court (ICC) at The Hague, with their Indigenous lawyers to fight for their rights."**

On Monday, August 9, 2021, the Articulation of Indigenous Peoples of Brazil (APIB) filed a statement at the International Criminal Court **to denounce the Bolsonaro government for genocide**. On the date that marks the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples, APIB is demanding that the prosecutor of the ICC examine the crimes committed against Indigenous Peoples by President Jair Bolsonaro since the beginning of his term in January 2019, with special attention to the period of the COVID-19 pandemic.

International news agency, Aljazeera, also reported, **'Chief Raoni Metuktire filed a separate case to the ICC asking the court to investigate Bolsonaro for crimes against humanity, saying the 'destruction of the Amazonian forest has accelerated without measure' under his government.'** This was, however, a case filed by an individual.

**What is different about the August 9th lawsuit is that the largest Indigenous organization in Brazil, representing the vast majority of the communities and other regional Indigenous organizations, the Articulation of Indigenous Peoples of Brazil (APIB), filed its own case at the ICC to denounce the Bolsonaro government for genocide.** On the day that marks the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples, APIB demanded that the prosecutor of the ICC examine the crimes committed against Indigenous Peoples by President Jair Bolsonaro since the beginning of his term in January 2019, with special attention to the period of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Based on the Rome Statute, APIB is seeking an investigation for crimes against humanity such as extermination, persecution, and other inhuman acts, and genocide for causing severe physical and mental damage and deliberately inflicting conditions aimed at the destruction of Indigenous Peoples.

**The main argument presented by the APIB is that Bolsonaro's policies towards Indigenous Peoples, widely informed and discussed in these previous articles, constitute crimes of genocide and ecocide. This step is important, especially, because of the inability of the current justice system in Brazil to investigate, prosecute, and judge the current government's conduct.**

**Since the first day of his government, Bolsonaro has been dismantling public structures for social and environmental protection, such as IBAMA, and for Indigenous Peoples, such as FUNAI, instigating invasions onto Indigenous lands. Deforestation and arson in Brazilian forests, increased mining and illegal logging in the territories have affected entire biomes and destroyed thousands of acres of land, flora, and fauna.**

**Indigenous Peoples in Brazil through their organizations, associations, and allies are steadily fighting for the right to exist.**

#### **The Fight for Indigenous Rights in August 2021**

**'The month of August will be marked by mobilizations of Indigenous Peoples in the fight for rights,'** says APIB's leader, Sonia Guajajara (Guajajara)

For five centuries, Indigenous Peoples in Brazil have been fighting colonialism and oppressive policies. The predatory colonialism that started with European settlers centuries ago

continues through extractive capitalism, where the State is privatized by corporations threatening Indigenous rights and lives.

According to Sonia Guajajara, APIB's Executive Director, **the month of August (2021) will be marked by the mobilizations of Indigenous Peoples in the fight for rights. By the end of this month, the Supreme Court is expected to decide a key case involving Xokleng Peoples' territory, which can set a precedent for stripping territorial rights that were not officially recognized when the Brazilian Constitution was approved in 1988, and the PL 490, a bill threatening Indigenous land rights.**

**The Xokleng Peoples are one of the most impacted communities in the southern region of the country. They have survived and resisted colonization, the advance of large farms, and urbanization on their territories-- a process that was so extremely violent that they had to hide in other lands and flee many times. This persecution and forced displacement explain why they were not in their traditional territory in 1988, at the end of the military government in Brazil.**

Cultural Survival is supporting **several grassroots communities that are leaving their villages to go to the capital city of Brasilia, to join the Fight for Life Camp, which will take place on August 22-28, 2021. The Fight for Life Camp is a protest against the approval of the Bill PL 490/2007, which deals with the Marco Temporal (a Temporal Framework) to definitively interrupt the demarcation of Indigenous lands in Brazil in order to it easier for large scale agribusiness, mining operations, and dams to takes place on Indigenous lands.**

**The planned mobilizations, protests, and manifestations will take place in cities, but the main manifestation will be in Brasilia, where more than 10,000 Indigenous people are expected to show up.** Mobilizing crowds in the midst of a pandemic is risky and dangerous, but the federal government's anti-Indigenous agenda represents a more lethal threat than the COVID-19 virus. One Indigenous leader shared that he would prefer to die in Brasilia fighting for their territories than dying in his village observing Bolsonaro destroying nature.

#### **The Indigenous Women's Movement in Brazil**

Since 2019, in the context of debates and demonstrations in Brasília and other cities and villages, women representatives of more than 132 Indigenous Peoples created a movement called the March of Indigenous Women (A Marcha das Mulheres). They wrote a manifesto stating: 'We are totally against the narratives, purposes, and actions of the current government, which has been making explicit its intention to exterminate Indigenous Peoples, aiming at the invasion and genocidal exploitation of our territories by the capital.' Also, they state: 'We are responsible for the fertility and care of our sacred soil. We will always be warriors in defense of the existence of our Peoples and Mother Earth.'

This year, A Marcha das Mulheres wants to make history by congregating the largest number of Indigenous women in Brasilia. Cultural Survival is supporting a group of 200 women from APOINME (Northeast Indigenous Association) to participate in the September 7th march.

**At the core of these struggles is the legal battle against the Brazilian government, the fight for self-determination, land rights, and survival.** The street demonstrations in August and September are acts of courage on the part of Indigenous Peoples. This is still not enough, international pressure and alarm are key. We, Indigenous Peoples in Brazil, ask for an international mobilization to protect the guardians of the forests, guarantee their rights to live, and exist in the ecological and cultural diversity of their choice."

Indigenous Leaders Speak Out About Criminalization and Silencing by Putin Administration," Cultural Survival, October 13, 2021, <https://www.culturalsurvival.org/news/indigenous-leaders-speak-out-about-criminalization-and-silencing-putin-administration>, reported, **"Indigenous organizations in Russia, allied organizations, and Cultural Survival have released an Open Letter to the Putin administration sounding an alarm about the growing intimidations and reprisals against Indigenous activists and rights defenders in Russia.** These attacks are exemplified by the recent illegal detention of activist Andrei Danilov (Sámi) in the Murmansk region. **Danilov, Director of the Sámi Heritage and Development Foundation, was detained on August 29, 2021. His belongings were illegally searched by the police without witnesses, in violation of Russia's Administrative Code. The activist was detained for two days, then charged with 'failure to comply with the lawful order of a police officer,' resulting in another five days of detention.**

**Danilov's arrest is just one of the latest incidents in a series of acts of harassment against Indigenous activists and rights defenders in Russia in recent years.** Days before, **another Indigenous rights defender Stepan Petrov was declared a 'foreign media acting as a foreign agent' in Yakutia on August 20, 2021.** The 2012 Russian law on foreign agents, originally created to restrict international funding to Russian NGOs, is now being used to target individuals. Stepan Petrov (Yakut) is the first Indigenous person in Russia to receive the 'foreign agent' label. Petrov chairs the nonprofit group Yakutia – Our Opinion, which is well-known in the region of Yakutia for their human rights work. The activist submitted numerous appeals to the United Nations calling on the Russian government to adopt the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and to support civil society in Russia.

On July 26, 2021, **Indigenous activist Alexander Gabyshev (Yakut) was sentenced to compulsory treatment in a mental hospital in Yakutia. A well-known spiritual leader, Gabyshev has been detained numerous times since his spring 2019 march on Moscow.** His detention in May 2020 resulted in his involuntary placement in a psychiatric program. The premier human rights group, Memorial, declared Gabyshev a political prisoner. **After his release in July 2020, he was once again forced into hospitalization.** In February 2021, **Russia's Investigative Committee opened a criminal case against Gabyshev under the pretense of violence against a government official, and the following month he was declared insane on the basis of a state psychiatric examination.** In July 2021, **a Yakutsk municipal court found him guilty of harming a police officer during an earlier arrest and sentenced him to compulsory treatment in a psychiatric clinic as a danger to others. Gabyshev will likely spend the next two years in a mental health institution as a tactic to silence his activism.**

**Other cases of reprisals and harassment of Indigenous activists, rights defenders, and organizations in Russia are listed below:**

September 15, 2021: The authorities opened a criminal case against Sergei Kechimov (Khanty) in Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Okrug. The local shaman and elder campaigns to protect the sacred lake Imlor from oil extracting giant, Surgutneftegaz. According to Kechimov, he was beaten by three company employees, yet he was the one charged by the police.

August 31, 2021: Eiko Serotetto (Nenets), a reindeer herder and Indigenous activist from the Yamal Peninsula in the Yamalo-Nenets Autonomous Okrug, was sentenced to three months of personal restraint for fighting with another person in an Indigenous village. Despite the fact that Serotetto did not initiate the fight and that the brawlers subsequently reconciled, the police opened a criminal case against the activist. In 2019, Serotetto was investigated by police

for organizing a meeting of Yamal reindeer herders where they discussed rights violations by oil companies.

August 24, 2020: Vyacheslav Krechetov (Shor), a well-known filmmaker from Kemerovo Oblast, was detained by police for organizing a public event during which the Indigenous community of Cheremza protested a new coal facility near the village. Krechetov was found guilty and fined 20,000 rubles (275 USD) for filming the event. The fine and charges were later dismissed by a local court.

August 10, 2020: Arsenty Nikolaev (Evenk), deputy of the Yakutia Republic regional parliament and head of the Indigenous Tyanya community association, was arrested and placed under house arrest for speaking out in opposition to the activities of the Neryungri Metallik gold-mining company. After almost a year of house arrest, the regional court freed Nikolaev. However, the court did not close the criminal case against him despite the appeal court's finding that business relations among stakeholders were legal.

November 2019: a Moscow city court ordered the closure of the Center for Support of Indigenous Peoples of the North/Russian Indigenous Training Center (CSIPN/RITC) on the grounds that its legal documentation was incomplete. CSIPN was the most important independent Indigenous rights group in Russia. Human rights defenders consider the organization's closure as the final act in a long campaign by the authorities to silence the organization. CSIPN's leader Rodion Sulyandziga (Udege) was arrested in 2016, preventing his participation in a seminar on Indigenous Peoples' rights in Moscow. Earlier in 2014, Russian border guards stopped Sulyandziga from participating in a UN conference on Indigenous peoples' rights by damaging his passport at the airport. Several other Indigenous activists were also stopped from traveling to the same event under questionable circumstances.

**This list, though not exhaustive, shows the trend of government reprisal cases against Indigenous activists in Russia and an increasing pattern of intimidation and repression facing these activists and rights defenders.** Cultural Survival and Batani Foundation also denounced this trend in a May 2021 report to the UN Commission for the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, detailing cases of surveillance, censorship, arson, and the silencing of Indigenous women by obstructing their participation in the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Peoples in New York.

The Open Letter, addressed to Putin as well as political representatives, UN officials, and human rights bodies across Russia, Europe, and the United States, demands an end to intimidation and harassment of Indigenous activists and Indigenous rights defenders in the Russian Federation."

"Myanmar: Engage the International Criminal Court to Hold Military Perpetrators of Mass Atrocity Crimes Accountable: New report finds Myanmar's National Unity Government can grant jurisdiction to ICC, Fortify Rights, August 19, 2021, <https://mailchi.mp/fortifyrights/myanmar-engage-the-international-criminal-court-to-hold-military-perpetrators-of-mass-atrocity-crimes-accountable?e=24e6ca1455>, stated, **"The National Unity Government (NUG) of Myanmar can delegate jurisdiction to the International Criminal Court (ICC) to investigate and prosecute mass atrocity crimes that occurred in the country since 2002, according to a legal analysis published by Fortify Rights today.** The NUG can do this in two ways: First, by lodging what is known as an "Article 12(3) declaration" with the ICC, and second, by formally acceding to the Rome Statute, the treaty that established the Court."



Santosh Gedam, "**Pachgaon Village in India Leads Action for Community Forest Management,**" Cultural Survival, August 19, 2021,

<https://www.culturalsurvival.org/news/pachgaon-village-india-leads-action-community-forest-management>, reported, "**The village of Pachgaon is nestled in the forests of Central India's Gondpipari block of Chandrapur District.** Of Pachgaon's total population of 224 individuals, around 70 percent are from Indigenous communities identified as Scheduled Tribes in the Indian Census 2011. Chandrapur was earlier known as Chanda. The existence of several forts built by Indigenous kings several centuries ago is a testimony to the fact that Indigenous Peoples habited and ruled them. Amongst those Indigenous kings, the name of Khandkya Ballal Sah is very famous for his leadership and rule of the Indigenous territory. In the Chanda district, a renowned Indian railway junction is named by the name Ballar Sah, though the urban town Ballar Sah has been renamed Ballarpur by the political rulers recently.

With the passage of time, **Indigenous communities were left out of the development process and not much political attention was focused on the perpetual violations of their traditional rights. Therefore, the Indian Parliament enacted the Forest Rights Act (FRA) 2006 to undo historical injustice and recognize several individuals and community rights of forest-dwelling communities, which are overwhelmingly from Indigenous Peoples. However, recognition of forest rights was intensely opposed by the so-called conservationists, and the challenge to the Act is pending in the Indian Supreme Court.** In this article, I present the case of Pachgan, which has illustrated how forest-dwelling communities can successfully protect wildlife by creating inviolate zones, conserve biodiversity by maintaining records, and support sustainable and equitable livelihood without any governmental support.

**Among hundreds of villages that were guaranteed community forest rights in Central India, the case of Pachgaon is unique on account of several firsts.** A sense of ownership of traditional forest and duty towards conservation recognized under the Forest Rights Act motivate the village community (Gram Sabha) in initiating now visible processes and changes on the ground. **Several other villages believe in Pachgaon's pathbreaking forest management initiatives and willingly participate in residential workshops at Pachgaon to learn and replicate in their villages.** During one such visit I made in November 2020, I had the opportunity to interact with Gram Sabha representatives of Bhamaragad of nearby Gadchiroli District. Forty-odd participants from two Gram Sabhas of Bhamaragad had arrived for a two-day field immersion workshop to learn record-keeping and replicate practices to sustainably manage pristine forests of their villages in Bhamaragad.

**Pachgaon received title to 2,487 acres of forest land in 2012.** The story, as told by Sanjay Bhau (Bhau means elder brother in Marathi), a Gram Sabha member, is interesting and inspiring. Before 2012, it was the struggle for their regular livelihood that made them find work in the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA). However, they soon realized the physically demanding labour work offered by NREGS could not be continued due to the aging and health issues of villagers. As the awareness about the FRA was spreading in the region due to efforts of non-government organizations working in the livelihood and forest governance domain, Pachgaon Gram Sabha received a suggestion to apply for Community Forest Resource Rights (CFRR) under the FRA. As per Bhau, it took more than two years after claiming for the CFRR to formally receive the CFRR title from the District Level Committee. This period was marked by persistent efforts and some monetary contributions by the villagers with the hand-

holding support of the NGO. He shares that in 2012, Pachgaon received only a part of the traditional forest which they had been using for generations. Having received no support from the Forest Department about the mapping of the recognized forest, Pachgaon Gram Sabha used the Global Positioning System (GPS) to accurately map the recognized forest and made soft-copies. The mapping of the forest with prominent places is reproduced as a large printed Google map, which is kept in the Gram Sabha office. The resolutions and micro-plans are discussed in the Gram Sabha and regularly sent to all government offices, including the Chief Minister's Office. Thus, ensuring complete transparency and invitation for coordination with the government departments.

As wisdom says, there is nothing like seeing on the field and learning lessons. With the same spirit as we entered for the guided forest tour of the Pachgaon's forest, we were aptly informed by the guide that the entry of a name and other details of a visitor is mandatory as per Village Rules in the Visitor's register to enter the village forest. As Sanjay Bhau narrates, the registration process ensures that no unauthorized person enters the forest. Bhau explains how a Conservator of Forest (a local forest bureaucrat) once entered their forest without intimation, which led to tension between the forest department and the village. The conflict resulted in the filing of multiple police complaints, and the matter could be somehow settled after the intervention of a local MLA and minister.

Of the total 63 households (Census 2011), every member of the identified age group is mandated to participate in a forest vigilance group to monitor forest activities and share observations on flora and fauna in India's Observation Register. As we were led by Sanjay Bhau in the forest, we were broadly told about the management plan of the forest. The first thing that Pachgaon did after getting the CFRR title is to develop village-level rules for conservation and sustainable management of the forest. Out of almost 800 rules suggested by 63 households of the villages finally, 115 are accepted and ratified by the Gram Sabha in the democratic process. These rules are the cardinal guiding principles and reasons for the sustainable management of forests over the past eight years. Shalik Bhau, a guide leading during the forest tour, said that all processes originate from the village rules, and their compliance is strictly observed with appropriate sanctioning measures in the rules. Scholars doubt the management of the commons on the ground of over-utilization, but Pachgaon's rules are pathways showing how the commons can be conserved and managed sustainably if appropriate de jure rights are recognized by the government.

As we entered a dense patch of forest, we were welcomed by a signboard cautioning visitors about the possible habitat of Tiger. We ventured deeper to visit workers paving a Kaccha road for the movement of extracted Bamboo during harvest seasons. Field interaction with workers allowed a deeper understanding of labour deployment for local needs to 40-odd visitors. The interaction was mostly in Marathi, but to facilitate understanding processes, Chinna, a representative of visitors from the Madia Indigenous community, took the lead. Chinna knows Marathi and Madia, an endangered language of a Tribe coming from Bhamaragad. Chinna asked questions in Marathi and explained to his clan people in Madia language. As I understood, Pachgaon gives labor work to any member of Pachgaon Gram Sabha on-demand and pays daily wages. Daily wages are fixed, and unlike NREGS work, which makes labor-based wages. The daily wages model accounts for the physical limitations of a villager demanding manual work. The workers on the field were engaged for days under the supervision of an appointed supervisor. The wage payments are promptly made to the workers in their respective bank accounts. Sanjay Bhau shares that there is no NREGS work in Pachgaon for many years and no

receipt of any monetary support from the government. There is an obvious reason for preferring village-level manual work over NREGS's labour work. He shares that the village is truly Atma-Nirbhar (self-reliant) and pays regular tax on revenue earned for many years.

Pachgaon Gram Sabha has set aside around 85 acres of forest exclusively as inviolate zones called Devrai for the habitat of wild animals. They believe that wild animals also need separate and inviolate habitats; thus, the Gram Sabha identified, in the beginning, a suitable patch of inviolate forest. Sanjay Bhau narrates how despite incidences of a number of tiger attacks in Chandrapur district, their village has not witnessed a single case of a tiger attack on a human for many years. In the midst of the forest is a sacred place of all the villagers, Bhivgad. Bhau does not remember when it started but shares that it is much before his great grandfather. The deities of Bhivgad are visited by villagers to pray for rainfall during dry seasons to save crops or to pray for a solution to insect attack on standing crops during farming seasons. There is much folklore about how these processes have helped the village in the past, which sustains their belief in the supernatural power of their deity. As the sun was setting on a wintery evening, Bhau felt it was time to begin the return journey to reach the village boundary before the darkness fell.

As we began returning, Bhau narrates that the Bamboo found in their village is not solid enough in its core so that it can only be used for a specific purpose effectively and not for pulp making by the papermill. He recounts how adherence to village rules has allowed rapid greening of the forest, particularly no incidence of forest fire has resurrected biodiversity than a government-promoted scheme of planting new saplings. His wisdom tells us that maintaining forest greenery by avoiding forest fire cannot be substituted by planting samplings for several reasons.

Unlike previous practices, this year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Pachgaon village used a web-based tendering process of Bamboo harvested from the forest. The new tendering process affected the local cartel of contractors who used to collude to keep bid prices deliberately low, thereby depriving fair income to the villagers. To equally harvest bamboo, the rules have specific instructions. The village rules mandate a specific quota of 50 bamboos per person (for age-group 18-60 years) for males and females to ensure equity in benefiting from the bamboo income. Any bamboo cut more than 50 is confiscated and becomes the property of the Gram Sabha. The rate for each harvested bamboo is fixed by the Gram Sabha, and weekly payments to beneficiaries' bank accounts are promptly made. Recounting his auctioning experience, Sanjay Bhau shares that this year (2020) due to the e-tendering of bamboo, the contractor nexus was broken, leading to the highest price this year for harvested Bamboo as compared to that of the last few years. He recounts his experience of one such physical auctioning of how manipulation of contractors led to the selling of Bamboo at merely 39 lakhs, which was quoted during the auction for 83 lakhs by a contractor. He remarks that the contractors are very shrewd. The adoption of village forest rules and their strict compliance and sanctioning of violation have ensured that now the Gram Sabha is with almost 3.5 crore of surplus in its bank account, which ensures sustainable livelihood and food securities even during the pandemic. Ramesh Tekam Bhau, a member of the Gram Sabha committee, shares how the rules of forest management have protected villagers during the pandemic when farmers elsewhere are suffering. In Pachgaon, recognition of CFRR has shown the case of how self-reliant a village can become insulating even from the volatility of the market economy. Tekam Bhau shares that now the focus is on value addition to harvested Minor Forest Produce (MFP), which they have in tons in their godown. They have purchased 5 acres of land adjacent to the village boundary for ₹ 500,000 for processing and value addition of MFP a few years before.

Tekam Bhau shares the Gram Sabha's resolve to diversify sources of livelihood since bamboo-based income might decline in the future due to the cyclical nature of bamboo life. He believes that the village cannot afford to depend fully on bamboo income going forward. His insight and plans are grounded in his village and forest realities, which might be difficult to understand for planners sitting remotely.

**Villages in the vicinity of Pachgaon still could not access CFR rights under the FRA due to discouragement by the local elites** as shared by Sanjay Bhau. **Village-based local elites have the incentive to resist democratic and equity-based benefits distribution under the CFR rights. The immediate outcome of user access and withdrawal rights under the CFR is a shortage of labour in villages for farm labour. This might increase wages for the labour which local elites don't want. Thus, they discourage attempts by relatively less empowered Indigenous households from even claiming CFR rights under the FRA. It is more likely that the village elites are non-Indigenous people who have settled on Tribal/Indigenous land. This has changed the power dynamics in the Tribal villages. The Indian Constitution, specifically for this reason to secure the interests of Tribal people from more sophisticated people from the plains, empower the Governor of the State with various provisions in the Fifth Schedule. The shifted village power dynamics could be one reason if the landmark legislation FRA remains short of undoing the historical injustice. Thus, policymakers, particularly the Governor, and courts need to act according to the FRA, which mandates local bureaucracy to actively ensure the spreading of awareness and hand-holding support to achieve the objectives of the FRA in letter and spirit."**

"Bangladesh: Investigate Assassination of Rohingya Human Rights Defender Mohib Ullah: Rohingya leader shot dead in refugee camp," Fortify Rights, September 29, 2021, <https://mailchi.mp/fortifyrights/bangladesh-investigate-assassination-of-rohingya-human-rights-defender-mohib-ullah?e=24e6ca1455>, **"Bangladesh authorities should immediately investigate the assassination of Rohingya human rights leader Mohib Ullah**, said Fortify Rights today. Between 8:00 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. today, at least one unidentified assailant entered the offices of the Arakan Rohingya Society for Peace and Human Rights (ARSPH) in Kutupalong refugee camp in Cox's Bazar District, Bangladesh and reportedly shot Mohib Ullah multiple times in the presence of eyewitnesses."

"Bangladesh and UNHCR: Revise and Release Bhasan Char MoU, Ensure Freedom of Movement for Rohingya Refugees: New MoU between UNHCR and Bangladesh kept private," Fortify Rights, October 15, 2021, <https://www.fortifyrights.org/bgd-inv-2021-10-15/>, stated, **"The Government of Bangladesh and the U.N. Refugee Agency should revise and release their recent agreement regarding the provision of U.N. services to Rohingya refugees on Bhasan Char island, said Fortify Rights today. Both parties should ensure the right to freedom of movement to and from the island as well as the meaningful participation of Rohingya refugees in any decisions affecting them."**

**New Zealand's Maori Party began a petition campaign, in September 2021, to change the name of the country to the Te Reo Maori name, Aotearoa, and to return all place names in Aotearoa to their original Te Reo Maori names** ("Aotearoa/New Zealand: Maori Petition to change New Zealand's Name" *Cultural Survival Quarterly*, December 2021).

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## INDIAN AND INDIGENOUS DEVELOPMENTS

Steve Sachs

### Environmental Developments

Jake Johnson, "Code Red for Humanity': IPCC Report Warns Window for Climate Action Is Closing Fast: 'The alarm bells are deafening, and the evidence is irrefutable: greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuel burning and deforestation are choking our planet and putting billions of people at immediate risk," *Common Dreams*, August 9, 2021, <https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/08/09/code-red-humanity-ipcc-report-warns-window-climate-action-closing-fast>, reported, **"A panel of leading scientists convened by the United Nations issued a comprehensive report Monday that contains a stark warning for humanity: The climate crisis is here, some of its most destructive consequences are now inevitable, and only massive and speedy reductions in greenhouse gas emissions can limit the coming disaster."**

Assembled by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)—a team of more than 200 scientists—the new report (<https://www.ipcc.ch/assessment-report/ar6/>) represents **a sweeping analysis of thousands of studies published over the past eight years as people the world over have suffered record-shattering temperatures and deadly extreme weather, from catastrophic wildfires to monsoon rains to extreme drought.**

The result of the scientists' work is **a startling assessment of the extent to which human activity, particularly the burning of fossil fuels, has altered the climate, producing "unprecedented" planetary warming, glacial melting, sea level rise, and other changes that are wreaking havoc in every region of the globe—wiping out entire towns, imperiling biodiverse ecosystems such as the Great Barrier Reef and the Amazon rainforest, and endangering densely populated swaths of the world.**

'This report is a reality check,' said Valérie Masson-Delmotte, a climate scientist at the University of Paris-Saclay and co-chair of the panel that produced the report. **'We now have a much clearer picture of the past, present, and future climate,** which is essential for understanding where we are headed, what can be done, and how we can prepare.'

One central finding of the new analysis is that the Paris accord's goal of limiting global temperature rise to no more than 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels is in serious danger as policymakers fail to take the necessary steps to curb greenhouse gas emissions.

Each of the past four decades, according to the report, has been successively warmer than any preceding decade dating back to 1850, atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> has soared to levels not seen in two million years, and 'global surface temperature will continue to increase until at least the mid-century under all emissions scenarios considered.'

'Global warming of 1.5°C and 2°C will be exceeded during the 21st century,' the IPCC panel warns, 'unless deep reductions in carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions occur in the coming decades.'

'Many of the changes observed in the climate are unprecedented in thousands, if not hundreds of thousands of years, and some of the changes already set in motion—such as continued sea level rise—are irreversible over hundreds to thousands of years,' reads the report, which was approved by 195 member nations of the IPCC.

'However,' the report emphasizes, 'strong and sustained reductions in emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases would limit climate change. While benefits for air quality would come quickly, it could take 20-30 years to see global temperatures stabilize.'

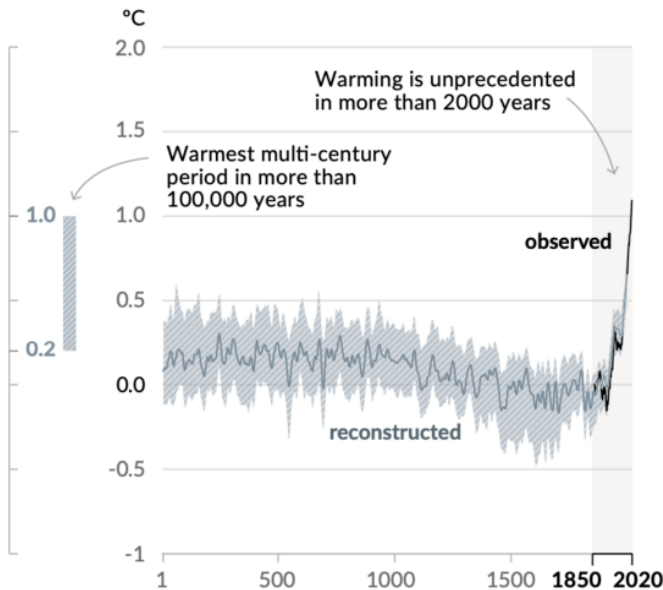
Panmao Zhai, another co-chair of the IPCC working group, **stressed that 'stabilizing the climate will require strong, rapid, and sustained reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, and reaching net-zero CO2 emissions.'**

'Limiting other greenhouse gases and air pollutants, especially methane, could have benefits both for health and the climate,' Zhai added.

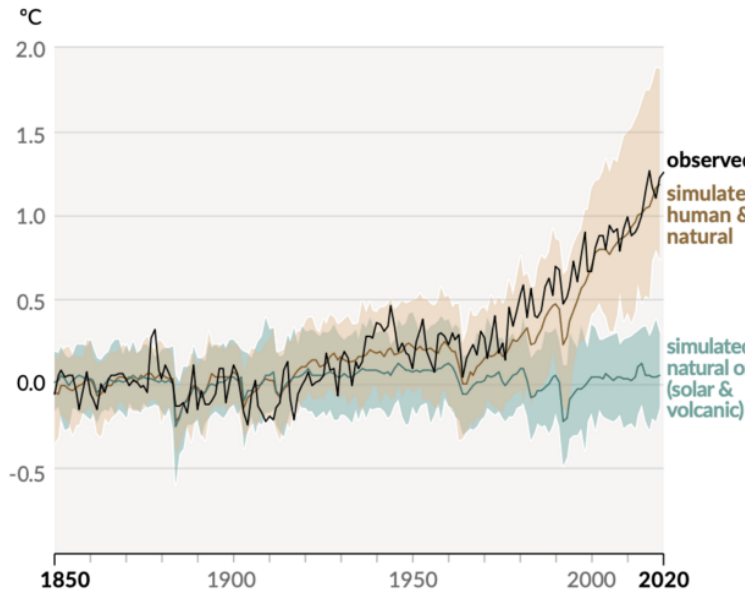
## Human influence has warmed the climate at a rate that is unprecedented in at least the last 2000 years

### Changes in global surface temperature relative to 1850-1900

a) Change in global surface temperature (decadal average) as **reconstructed** (1-2000) and **observed** (1850-2020)



b) Change in global surface temperature (annual average) as **observed** and simulated using **human & natural** and **only natural** factors (both 1850-2020)



The new report, the first of three installments, was released just weeks before world leaders are set to gather in Glasgow for the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26), which activists view as a pivotal moment for the global climate fight.

**'Many see COP26 as our last, best chance to prevent global temperatures from spiraling out of control,'** Dorothy Grace Guerrero of Global Justice Now wrote last month. **'Unfortunately, we are not yet on track to limit global warming to 1.5°C, the threshold that scientists agree will prevent the most dangerous climate impacts. Failure to reach this goal will take a disproportionate toll on developing countries.'**

António Guterres, secretary-general of the U.N., said in a statement Monday that the IPCC's latest findings are **'a code red for humanity.'**

**'The alarm bells are deafening, and the evidence is irrefutable: greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuel burning and deforestation are choking our planet and putting**

**billions of people at immediate risk,'** said Guterres. 'Global heating is affecting every region on Earth, with many of the changes becoming irreversible.'

'There is a clear moral and economic imperative to protect the lives and livelihoods of those on the front lines of the climate crisis,' Guterres continued. 'If we combine forces now, we can avert climate catastrophe. But, as today's report makes clear, there is no time for delay and no room for excuses. I count on government leaders and all stakeholders to ensure COP26 is a success.'

This post has been updated with the IPCC's proper name.  
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Jessica Corbett, "Latest UN Climate Report Delivers 'Another Thundering Wake-Up Call: 'Climate change is no longer a future problem. It is a now problem,'" said the UNEP executive director. "The clock is ticking loudly," *Common Dreams*, October 26, 2021, [https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/10/26/latest-un-climate-report-delivers-another-thundering-wake-up-call?utm\\_term=AO&utm\\_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_content=email&utm\\_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_medium=Email](https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/10/26/latest-un-climate-report-delivers-another-thundering-wake-up-call?utm_term=AO&utm_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_content=email&utm_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_medium=Email), reported, **"Countries' current climate pledges put the world 'on track for a catastrophic global temperature rise' of about 2.7°C, United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres warned** Tuesday, calling a new report released ahead of a key summit 'another thundering wake-up call.'

***The Emissions Gap Report 2021*** (<https://www.unep.org/resources/emissions-gap-report-2021>), an annual assessment from the U.N. Environment Program (UNEP), comes as world leaders prepare to meet in Glasgow, Scotland on Sunday for **COP 26. They are set to discuss efforts to meet the Paris climate agreement, which aims to keep global temperature rise this century "well below" 2°C, preferably limiting it to 1.5°C.**

However, **countries' latest Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), along with other commitments made for 2030, suggest the international community will blow past both of those targets without more ambitious action to slash emissions,** according to the UNEP report.

**'The emissions gap is the result of a leadership gap,'** Guterres declared in his Tuesday address, noting that the report 'shows that countries are squandering a massive opportunity to invest Covid-19 fiscal and recovery resources in sustainable, cost-saving, planet-saving ways.'

**'Scientists are clear on the facts. Now leaders need to be just as clear in their actions,' he said. 'They need to come to Glasgow with bold, time-bound, front-loaded plans to reach net-zero.'**

**'To decarbonize every sector—from power, to transport, farming, and forestry. To phase out coal,'** the U.N. chief continued. 'To end subsidies for fossil fuels and polluting industries. To put a price on carbon, and to channel that back to creating green jobs. And obviously, to provide at least \$100 billion each year to the developing world for climate finance.'

**'Leaders can still make this a turning point to a greener future instead of a tipping point to climate catastrophe,'** said Guterres. **'The era of half-measures and hollow promises must end.'**

Various assessments released before the summit in Scotland have underscored the necessity of bold and immediate action, including the latest from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change as well as the World Meteorological Organization's announcement Monday **that carbon dioxide concentrations in 2020 hit levels not seen for roughly three million years**

[for even as COVID reduced the amount of new greenhouse gasses being put into the atmosphere the total continued to rise, as these gasses only slowly are removed from the atmosphere.

Reflecting **'a world of climate promises not yet delivered,'** the new UNEP report also serves as a **call to action**, particularly for rich nations most responsible for the climate emergency.

The report details how parties to the Paris agreement have put forth **'insufficient'** climate plans. The NDCs for 2030, if continued throughout this century, would still lead to a **global temperature rise of 2.7°C beyond pre-industrial levels.** Achieving nations' net-zero pledges **'would improve the situation, limiting warming to about 2.2°C' by 2100.**

However, Group of 20 (G20) nations—the world's top economies—**'do not have policies in place to achieve even the NDCs,'** the report says, and making changes to meet the 2030 commitments would not be enough to put countries on a **'clear path towards net-zero.'**

Meanwhile, this year **'thousands of people have been killed or displaced and economic losses are measured in the trillions,'** the report highlights, pointing to **'extreme weather events around the world—including flooding, droughts, wildfires, hurricanes, and heatwaves.'**

As Inger Andersen, executive director of UNEP, put it: **'Climate change is no longer a future problem. It is a now problem.'**

**To stand a chance of limiting global warming to 1.5°C, we have eight years to almost halve greenhouse gas emissions: eight years to make the plans, put in place the policies, implement them and ultimately deliver the cuts,'** Andersen said. 'The clock is ticking loudly.'

**'The world has to wake up to the imminent peril we face as a species,'** she added, calling on countries to urgently implement policies to meet existing commitments. 'It is also essential to deliver financial and technological support to developing nations—so that they can both adapt to the impacts of climate change already here and set out on a low-emissions growth path.'

The report factors in new or updated NDCs from 121 parties, responsible for just over half of planet-heating emissions, submitted by the end of September as well as pledges from China, Japan, and South Korea—though countries continue to put forward plans in the lead-up to the summit.

Alok Sharma, incoming COP 26 president, noted Tuesday that previous analyses projected **'commitments made in Paris would have capped the rise in temperature to below 4°C.'**

**'So there has been progress, but not enough,'** he said, referencing the new report. 'That is why we especially need the biggest emitters, the G20 nations, to come forward with stronger commitments to 2030 if we are to keep 1.5°C in reach over this critical decade.'

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Jake Johnson, "'What Betrayal Looks Like': UN Report Says World on Track for 2.7°C of Warming by 2100: 'Whatever our so-called 'leaders' are doing,' said Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg, 'they are doing it wrong,'" *Common Dreams*, September 17, 2021, [https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/09/17/what-betrayal-looks-un-report-says-world-track-27degc-warming-2100?utm\\_term=AO&utm\\_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_content=email&utm\\_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_medium=Email](https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/09/17/what-betrayal-looks-un-report-says-world-track-27degc-warming-2100?utm_term=AO&utm_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_content=email&utm_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_medium=Email), reported, **"The United Nations warned Friday that the planet is barreling toward 2.7°C of warming by the end of the century, a**



**nightmare scenario that can be averted only if policymakers take immediate and sweeping action to slash greenhouse gas emissions.**

**Even if the 191 parties to the Paris climate accord meet their current commitments, global greenhouse gas emissions will still rise 16% by 2030 compared to 2010 levels, according to a new report published by the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).**

**'Failure to meet this goal will be measured in the massive loss of lives and livelihoods.'**

The goal of the 2015 Paris agreement is to limit global warming to below 2°C—and preferably to 1.5°C—above pre-industrial levels. **An analysis released earlier this week found that the climate targets and actions of just one country—The Gambia—are in line with the critical 1.5° goal.**

'This is what betrayal looks like,' Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg tweeted in response to the latest U.N. findings. 'Whatever our so-called 'leaders' are doing, they are doing it wrong.'

**Patricia Espinosa, executive secretary of U.N. Climate Change, said in a statement that the international community must 'peak emissions as soon as possible before 2030 and support developing countries in building up climate resilience.'**

'The 16% increase is a huge cause of concern,' said Espinosa. 'It is in sharp contrast with the calls by science for rapid, sustained, and large-scale emission reductions to prevent the most severe climate consequences and suffering, especially of the most vulnerable, throughout the world.'

The U.N. analysis came as U.S. President Joe Biden met with world leaders and announced that the United States is partnering with the European Union in an effort to cut methane emissions—a powerful driver of global warming—by nearly 30% by the end of the decade.

In its landmark report last month, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) emphasized that a 'strong, rapid, and sustained' reduction in methane emissions is necessary to prevent the worst of the planetary crisis.

The IPCC also estimated that keeping global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels would require a 45% reduction in carbon dioxide emissions by 2030—a mark that the international community is currently on track to miss badly, according to the new U.N. report.

António Guterres, the secretary-general of the U.N., said in a statement Friday that 2.7°C of planetary heating would be 'catastrophic' and that world leaders are "rapidly running out of time' to act.

'This is breaking the promise made six years ago to pursue the 1.5°C goal of the Paris agreement,' said Guterres. 'Failure to meet this goal will be measured in the massive loss of lives and livelihoods.'

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Jon Queally, "Key Global Systems Need 'Complete U-Turns' to Avoid 'Disastrous Tipping Points' for Planet: Which system changes are 'on track,' meaning transformation is 'occurring at or above the pace required to achieve' global climate goals? According to a new report: None," *Common Dreams*, October 28, 2021, <https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/10/28/key-global-systems-need-complete-u-turns-avoid-disastrous-tipping-points->

planet?utm\_term=AO&utm\_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\_content=email&utm\_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\_medium=Email, reported, "A new global assessment out Thursday has found that across the vast number of key systems in human society—including energy, manufacturing, transportation, agricultural, and finance—not a single one is transforming fast enough to mitigate the "code red" warnings that scientists and experts have issued on the planetary climate emergency.

The new report—titled 'State of Climate Action 2021' ([https://files.wri.org/d8/s3fs-public/2021-10/state\\_climate\\_action\\_2021.pdf?VersionId=7\\_yAkMO7ZmP156drPZ8LSQ8JM21F\\_Z1c](https://files.wri.org/d8/s3fs-public/2021-10/state_climate_action_2021.pdf?VersionId=7_yAkMO7ZmP156drPZ8LSQ8JM21F_Z1c))—assessed whether the world is 'doing enough' to achieve the climate goals of the 2015 Paris agreement by translating 'the transformations required to keep global temperature rise to 1.5°C into 40 indicators of progress' based on goals set for achieving meaningful changes by 2030 and 2050, such as phasing out coal, halting deforestation, and ramping up both public and private funding to halt the crisis.

Published under the Systems Change Lab, the report was a joint effort between the High-Level Climate Champions, Climate Action Tracker, ClimateWorks Foundation, the Bezos Earth Fund, and the World Resources Institute. The findings of the report, say its authors, are deeply troubling. According to a joint commentary, the researchers conclude that, **'to date, none of the 40 indicators assessed are on track to reach 2030 targets.'**

**FIGURE ES-1. Assessment of progress toward 2030 targets**



**ON TRACK:** Change is occurring at or above the pace required to achieve the 2030 targets

**No indicators** assessed exhibit a recent historical rate of change that is at or above the pace required to achieve their 2030 targets.



**OFF TRACK:** Change is heading in the right direction at a promising, but insufficient pace

For **8 indicators**, this rate of change is heading in the right direction at a promising but insufficient pace to be on track for their 2030 targets.



**WELL OFF TRACK:** Change is heading in the right direction, but well below the required pace

For **17 indicators**, the rate of change is heading in the right direction at a rate well below the required pace to achieve their 2030 targets.



**STAGNANT:** Change is stagnating, and a step change in action is needed

For **3 indicators**, the rate of change has stagnated.



**WRONG DIRECTION:** Change is heading in the wrong direction, and a U-turn is needed

For **3 indicators**, the rate of change is heading in the wrong direction entirely.



**INSUFFICIENT DATA:** Data are insufficient to assess the gap in action required for 2030

For **9 indicators**, data are insufficient to assess the rate of change relative to the required action.

With emissions from sectors with among the largest emissions—namely agriculture, automobiles, and deforestation—'moving in the wrong direction' to meet international targets, Kelly Levin, chief of science at the Bezos Earth Fund and one of the report's co-authors, told the Guardian that this reality must be rapidly altered.

'We need complete u-turns from these areas,' said Levin. 'With climate change you can't just head in the right direction, you need to do it at pace. Without that, we will reach disastrous tipping points.'

In the joint commentary, the report's authors conclude that while the situation is dire, all is far from lost—especially if urgency among world leaders—both in the public and private sectors—is immediately ramped up:

**Our ever-shrinking carbon budget does not accommodate delay. Should we fail to act now and greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise unabated, warming could climb to between 3.3 degrees C and 5.7 degrees C (5.9 degrees F and 10 degrees F) above preindustrial levels by 2100 — temperatures that would intensify the catastrophic impacts far beyond anything seen so far.**

But if we can make a true step-change in ambition and action, as we're beginning to see in some corners of the world, at COP26 and beyond, we can bring the enormous task of holding global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees C within reach and secure a safer, more prosperous and equitable future for all.

The 'encouraging news,' according to the report, 'is that we're not starting from a standstill—the majority of indicators (25) are moving in the right direction, albeit too slowly. Of the remaining 15 indicators, recent progress has stagnated for three, change is heading in the wrong direction entirely for another three, and the remaining nine lack sufficient data to assess progress.'

Ani Dasgupta, president and CEO of the World Resources Institute, said, 'While there are encouraging signs of progress across many sectors, it is clear that the climate crisis is still outpacing our response. This report is a call to action for policymakers, CEOs and others to take the bold, unprecedented action necessary to point us toward a safer and fairer future.'

A paper published in *Nature Communications*, in July 2021, examines where the greatest numbers of deaths are likely to occur from global warming if greenhouse gas emissions are not greatly reduced. The projection is that most global warming deaths would occur in hotter and poorer locations that have produced few greenhouse gas emissions (John Schwartz, "New Study examines Human Toll of Carbon," *The New York Times*, July 30, 2021).

International Crisis Group (ICG), "Getting Conflict into the Global Climate Conversation," Q&A / Global 5 November 2021, <https://www.crisisgroup.org/global/getting-conflict-global-climate-conversation>, commented, "World leaders are meeting in Glasgow to talk about what to do to ameliorate the mounting climate crisis. In this Q&A, Crisis Group experts Ulrich Eberle and Andrew Ciacchi explain why these discussions cannot neglect questions of war and peace.

**What have we learned so far from COP26, the 26th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change?**

We have learned, sadly, that global leaders were right to lower expectations over the past few weeks. COP26 is not yet over, of course, but its opening days have provided plenty more evidence that governments are not going to do what is necessary to bring greenhouse gas emissions under control. Moreover, even if they can agree on how to do so in the remaining days, and then follow through with it, the effects of climate change are already here, as seen across the world in recent years with one heat record broken after another, as well as floods, droughts and other extreme weather. Climate change today is also fuelling violence and instability in some parts of the world, and we can expect to see that trend worsen.

Emissions are the headline issue in Glasgow. The most realistic climate forecast scenarios cast doubt on the 2015 Paris Agreement's aim to keep global warming well below 2 degrees, and preferably to 1.5 degrees, over pre-industrial levels by the century's end. **The path to 'keep 1.5 alive' is to reach global net zero (that is, to balance the additions and removals of greenhouse gasses from the atmosphere) by 2050. In order to do that, the world needs to get halfway there by 2030. Based on commitments so far, there seems to be little chance that governments will agree to and then implement the necessary steps.**

The conference has three other goals that, with the effects of climate change already here, are no less important. First is adaptation, meaning how to make the effects of climate change less dangerous and onerous for those who bear them. Second is raising money to finance the necessary changes, both for adaptation and for mitigation, which refers to steps to reduce or prevent greenhouse gas emissions to limit the severity of climate change. Third is increasing cooperation and finalising the 'Paris rulebook' to formalise how countries go about pursuing these objectives. How these goals play out over the course of the week that remains of the conference will be crucial for much of the world, but for conflict-affected countries in particular.

#### **Is climate-induced violence on the COP agenda?**

**No.** Climate-induced violence – often put in the catch-all category of 'climate security', referring to how climate change affects matters of peace and security – is not on the agenda in Glasgow. Organisers had other priorities, with reducing emissions at the top of the list. But they also omitted climate security because it does not fit with the COP's aim to advance shared solutions to shared problems. Negotiations would be even harder were questions of war and peace on the agenda.

**A debate in the UN Security Council over a climate security resolution illustrates the divisions among states over how to deal with the issue of climate security and the bright line some governments draw between climate and conflict.** Most Council members are keen to pass the resolution, which aims to create a baseline for discussions of how climate change shapes international peace and security. **While the Security Council has addressed the question in certain cases, it does not systematically predict, assess and respond to such climate-related risks. China, Russia and India, however, oppose the Security Council's involvement.** Along with other critics, they are suspicious of initiatives that they believe could lead to what they see as meddling in states' internal affairs. With such powerful opposition, there is little chance that the resolution will get through.

**Most people concerned with climate security speak about climatic distress as a 'threat multiplier' or 'risk multiplier' – meaning that climate change exacerbates political, social and economic tensions, thereby raising conflict risk. This notion is correct, but it has inadvertently provoked a backlash.** The 'multiplier' language implies that factors other than

climate are more essential in the security equation. Opponents in the Council and elsewhere exploit this implication to suggest that discussions of climate change belong elsewhere in the UN system, whereas UN Security Council deliberations should be reserved solely for the underlying, fundamental drivers.

**Not dealing with climate security in the Security Council is a mistake. The evidence tying climate change to conflict is growing quickly**, even if the link is not yet as widely understood as the connection between human activity and climate change. It took the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change nearly 30 years to reach the degree of certainty it expressed in its August report that human activity causes climate change. Many people could die needlessly if major powers wait to accept that climate change increases risks of conflict – and to act accordingly.

**Is it a problem to leave conflict off the COP agenda?**

**Not necessarily. The issue is not whether climate security figures as an official agenda item. The issue is whether COP26 negotiators take account of conflict dynamics in their talks about achieving the conference's aims. Most important in this regard are adaptation and climate finance. It is hard to imagine encouraging sustainable agriculture, slowing deforestation and helping preserve nature writ large without dealing with the conflicts that wrack so many of the countries affected by climate change.**

Climate change and conflict do not exist in isolation from each other. **The countries most exposed to climate change are disproportionately affected by conflict, and many of the countries suffering from both often suffer as well from poor governance – all of which stand in the way of adaptation and mitigation measures. Half of the most climate-fragile countries in the world also face conflict and crisis today, according to Crisis Group's calculations.**

War, of course, can render countries or parts thereof completely inaccessible. But it can interfere with adaptation in other ways, too, and effective interventions will often need to deal with highly local conflict dynamics. Consider the following examples:

**Conflict shapes the way people use and share land. In South Sudan, flooding in September led to the displacement of 500,000 people. Among them were Dinka herders, who were forced to migrate south to the Equatoria region, which is still subject to the ravages of civil war, as the insurgency there has not signed on to the peace deal between the two main belligerents – namely, the forces aligned with President Salva Kiir or Vice President Riek Machar. Equatorian elites have long been hostile to the Dinka ethnic group because it has exercised national power since independence in 2011. Now, wide-scale displacement is further straining inter-ethnic relations due to land and resource competition in areas where Dinka are resettling.**

**Well-intentioned climate adaptation can do harm if local security ramifications are ignored. To take one example: in the Mopti region of Mali, new wells, drilled by the government and its partners to benefit nomads in arid areas, drew in farmers who gradually asserted rights to the land. Grievances stemming from the failure to regulate land use contributed to the rise of jihadist and self-defence groups in the areas.**

**Climate policy needs to account for realities on the ground, particularly conflict realities. In Colombia, deforestation has accelerated since the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) insurgency declared a unilateral ceasefire in 2015. The FARC had protected forests, partly out of ecological conviction, but more because the tree cover hid them from state authorities. Since the peace deal, other armed groups have taken over and**

cleared woodland for farming and ranching, as have big companies that often cooperate with criminal elements. Poor peasants likewise have found themselves with few options other than those causing forest loss. Colombia, unlike many other countries, at least has a plan to stop deforestation. But enforcement is lagging, in large part because of the challenges of dealing with these groups.

Inaction on conflict can provoke a vicious circle. Neglecting conflict dynamics can mean that environmental crises spiral, which in turn exacerbates conflict. Across the Sahel, climatic distress has led to a breakdown of traditional land use arrangements, aggravating farmer-herder disputes and displacing hundreds of thousands. In Nigeria, these climatic trends have also exacerbated ethnic tensions between farmers and herders, contributing to the death of thousands since 2015. Given the tensions, land reforms and settlement projects have mostly failed in recent years. Even the central government's plan to modernise the livestock sector, in a bid to adapt to climate change and to curb violence, faces an uphill battle for widespread implementation. It may prove to be too little, too late.

As these examples show, climate change is happening to no small extent in conflict-plagued countries where the risks attending adaptation are especially high. Efforts to help communities adapt in places where armed conflict actors exploit environmental resources or even just raise the overall risk of violence, will look quite different than they would in peaceful areas. In conference conclusions, COP26 delegates should acknowledge the importance of reckoning with conflict in order to achieve the conference's own stated goals.

Climate finance prefers safer bets, which is why a disproportionately small share of adaptation money flows to conflict-affected areas. States must grapple with this challenge if they are to reach those suffering in the most fragile environments. As the International Committee of the Red Cross puts it, they must ensure that financing is "fit for purpose". Aligning climate finance with development priorities was already a goal for COP26. Moving forward, a goal should be aligning it with conflict prevention and resolution priorities as well.

Many climate security advocates want it on the agenda for COP27, likely to be held in Egypt. Should it be?

It will be hard to get climate security on the official agenda for COP27, for all the reasons it was not on the agenda in 2021. In addition, should the present conference generate less action on emissions than hoped, as seems likely, there will be all the more pressure to focus on that headline issue. Since climate security, by definition, relates to matters of international peace and security, its proper home is the UN Security Council. At present, the climate security draft before it appears dead, but its advocates should continue to bring climate security issues before the Council for piecemeal treatment, even if the path to its systematic incorporation into the Council's agenda is blocked for the time being.

The key is not that climate security has formal billing on the COP27 agenda, but rather that it is threaded throughout relevant parts of the agenda. The delegates need to take account of climate-induced violence as it relates to the conference's objectives, chiefly adaptation and finance. Most fundamentally, they need to understand that it is impossible to effectively treat climate fragility and conflict dynamics on separate tracks in the many places where they overlap and that are already feeling some of the most extreme impact of climate change. A leader-level event on COP27's margins, convened by the host, might help encourage this degree of literacy, and highlight the importance of climate security figuring significantly in adaptation discussions."

International Crisis Group (ICG), "How Climate Change Fuels Deadly Conflict," December 9, 2021, commented, "The UN Security Council is preparing to vote on a climate security resolution tabled by Ireland and Niger, possibly as soon as Monday. Crisis Group supports the resolution and urges the Council to approve it."

**This explainer details our understanding of the links between climate and conflict. The relationship of climate change to deadly violence is a complex one – which is precisely why we believe the Council should engage, not avoid, the subject. The resolution's main provisions include systematic UN analysis of climate risks to peace and security, more attention to climate change by peacekeeping and diplomatic missions, the sharing of data and building platforms to provide “real-time” information. These are unmitigated goods, regardless of how one views the exact nature of the climate-conflict nexus.**

**Climate change, it is often said, is a threat multiplier. This undoubtedly is true, but Crisis Group's Future of Conflict Program takes the next step of analysing the relevant conflict drivers and solutions at a granular level. This explainer demonstrates how we blend local research with climate science and state-of-the-art quantitative methods to unpack the specific pathways leading from climatic distress to conflict – and from there, to formulate policy recommendations that address the root causes of conflict."**

Visual Explainer at: <https://globalclimate.crisisgroup.org>.

Kenny Stancil, "'Monster' Antarctic Glacier at Risk as Key Ice Shelf Faces Collapse Years Earlier Than Expected: 'What we're seeing is already enough to be worried about,' said one researcher," *Common Dreams*, December 13, 2021, <https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/12/13/monster-antarctic-glacier-risk-key-ice-shelf-faces-collapse-years-earlier-expected>, reported, **"The ice shelf holding back one of Antarctica's most perilous glaciers is eroding from below due to higher ocean temperatures, prompting scientists to warn Monday that this key reinforcement could shatter in the next three to five years—a development that would threaten millions of people with intensifying sea level rise.**

'Until recently, the ice shelf was seen as the most stable part of Thwaites Glacier, a Florida-sized frozen expanse that already contributes about 4% of annual global sea level rise,' the *Washington Post* reported. 'Because of this brace, the eastern portion of Thwaites flowed more slowly than the rest of the notorious 'doomsday glacier.'

However, recent satellite imagery shared during Monday's annual meeting of the American Geophysical Union shows numerous cracks that stretch diagonally across the surface of the floating ice wedge.

Comparing the newly discovered weaknesses to cracks in a windshield, Erin Pettit, a glaciologist at Oregon State University said that 'this eastern ice shelf is likely to shatter into hundreds of icebergs.'

According to the Post:

The failure of the shelf would not immediately accelerate global sea level rise. The shelf already floats on the ocean surface, taking up the same amount of space whether it is solid or liquid.

**But when the shelf fails, the eastern third of Thwaites Glacier will triple in speed, spitting formerly landlocked ice into the sea. Total collapse of Thwaites could result in several feet of sea level rise, scientists say, endangering millions of people in coastal areas.**

In 2019, a team of researchers estimated that the fossil fuel-driven climate crisis is putting Thwaites at increased risk of hitting a tipping point that could eventually cause sea levels to surge by 20 inches.

The Post reported Monday that even if the newly discovered fractures 'don't cause the shelf to disintegrate, it is likely to become completely unmoored from the seafloor within the next decade' because 'the warming ocean is loosening the ice shelf's grip on the underwater mountain that helps it act as a brace against the ice river at its back.

Other researchers from the International Thwaites Glacier Collaboration expressed concerns about the so-called 'grounding zone,' where the landed portion of the glacier meets the floating shelf, which juts out into the sea and undergoes an accelerated melting process due to relatively warmer water.

Scientists fear that if Thwaites were to lose its protective ice shelf, it 'may become vulnerable to ice cliff collapse, a process in which towering walls of ice that directly overlook the ocean start to crumble into the sea,' the *Post* noted.

Although this process has not yet been observed in Antarctica, University of St. Andrews glaciologist Anna Crawford has developed models indicating that Thwaites—which she called 'kind of a monster'—is susceptible to ice cliff collapse, even if it is not likely to occur in the immediate future.

'What we're seeing is already enough to be worried about,' said Crawford.

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Jim Tankersley, Katie Rogers and Lisa Friedman, "With Methane and Forest Deals, Climate Summit Offers Hope After Gloomy Start: Agreements to reduce methane gas emissions and protect the world's forests were reached Tuesday at the U.N.-sponsored meeting, as President Biden chided the leaders of Russia and China for not showing up," *The New York Times*, November 3, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/11/02/world/europe/climate-summit-methane-forests.html>, reported that **while other critical issues were not acted upon, methane reduction and forest preservation agreements were signed. On Methane, the Biden administration announced that EPA is moving to limit emissions.**

"Soon after that announcement, administration officials said that **105 countries had signed the Global Methane Pledge, a commitment to reduce methane emissions 30 percent by 2030, including half of the world's top 30 methane-emitting countries, and that they expected the list to grow.**"

"**The leaders of more than 100 countries also pledged on Tuesday to end deforestation by 2030, agreeing to a sweeping accord aimed at protecting some 85 percent of the world's forests, which are crucial to absorbing carbon dioxide and slowing the rise in global temperatures.**"

Among the greatly greenhouse gas polluting countries not attending the meeting were China, Russia, Australia and India.

**The question now is to what extent these pledges, and others will be kept, and whether more and faster action can soon be taken round the world to make up for critical deficiencies in the pledges and actions to dates of numerous nations."**

Andrea Germanos, "Indonesia Walks Back Deforestation Commitment Days After Signing Global Pledge: The deal was already under fire from climate groups who warned its weak framework could greenlight 'another decade of forest destruction,'" *Common Dreams*,



November 5, 2021, [https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/11/05/indonesia-walks-back-deforestation-commitment-days-after-signing-global-pledge?utm\\_term=AO&utm\\_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_content=email&utm\\_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_medium=Email](https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/11/05/indonesia-walks-back-deforestation-commitment-days-after-signing-global-pledge?utm_term=AO&utm_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_content=email&utm_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_medium=Email), **"Hopes that a deforestation pledge signed by over 120 countries at the ongoing COP26 summit could protect 'the lungs of our planet' further dimmed after Indonesian officials suggested that the country won't actually follow through on the commitment.**

"The ongoing development of [the president's] era should not cease in the name of carbon emissions or in the name of deforestation," Environment Minister Siti Nurbaya Bakar wrote on social media. "Forcing Indonesia to zero deforestation in 2030 [is] obviously inappropriate and unfair."

Indonesia's Deputy Foreign Minister Mahendra Siregar cast further doubt on the country's commitment to the pledge, asserting in a statement that "the declaration issued does not refer at all to the 'end [of] deforestation by 2030.'"

Jake Johnson, "Global Alliance Launches With the Goal of Bringing About the 'End of Oil and Gas:' 'Costa Rica and Denmark and those that have joined them in the Beyond Oil and Gas Alliance are changing the game,'" *Common Dreams*, November 11, 2021, [https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/11/11/global-alliance-launches-goal-bringing-about-end-oil-and-gas?utm\\_term=AO&utm\\_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_content=email&utm\\_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_medium=Email](https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/11/11/global-alliance-launches-goal-bringing-about-end-oil-and-gas?utm_term=AO&utm_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_content=email&utm_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_medium=Email), reported, **"In what environmentalists hope will mark a 'turning point' in the global climate fight, a coalition of nations led by Costa Rica and Denmark formally launched the Beyond Oil and Gas Alliance on Thursday with the stated goal of halting all new drilling and ultimately phasing out fossil fuel production for good.**

Announced at the tail end of the COP26 summit in Glasgow, Scotland, BOGA represents the world's first coordinated diplomatic initiative aimed at keeping planet-warming fossil fuels in the ground, advocates said.

"We are hearing the world outside these walls and we note that the science is clear: We really need to accelerate action."

"Costa Rica and Denmark and those that have joined them in the Beyond Oil and Gas Alliance are changing the game," Catherine Abreu, executive director of Destination Zero, said in a statement. "They're authoring a new definition of climate leadership, one that no longer allows countries to hide behind flashy pledges while continuing to pump out coal, oil, and gas."

Lisa Friedman, Hiroko Tabuchi and Winston Choi-Schagrin, "Climate Change Is a 'Hammer Hitting Us on the Head,' Developing Nations Say: Leaders of vulnerable countries, as well as activists, said Monday's blistering United Nations report must galvanize global action. But major emitters are dragging their heels," *The New York Times*, August 10, 2021, 8 <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/08/09/climate/climate-change-UN-report.html>, reported that **the UN report calling on the urgency to act quickly and much to avoid the worst impacts of climate change "only underscored the challenge ahead: getting the world's biggest polluters and its most vulnerable countries to cooperate against a grave global threat."**

**"The report prompted outrage among some of the world's most vulnerable countries, whose leaders demanded that rich, industrialized powers immediately reduce their planet-warming pollution, compensate poor countries for the damages caused and help fund their preparations for a perilous future."**

Brad Plumer, Blacki Miglioizzi and Nadja Popovich, "How Much Are Countries Pledging to Reduce Emissions?" *The New York Times*, November 1, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/11/01/climate/paris-pledges-tracker-cop-26.html>, reports **how much various countries had pledged to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as of the beginning of COP-26.**

In late July 2021, France passed legislation containing a variety of measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and **reduce environmental degradation. Many environmentalists complained, that while the measures were an improvement on existing policy, they fell considerably short of what is desperately needed quickly to limit the damage of global warming** (Aurelien Breeden, "France Passes Climate Law, But Critics Say It's Weak," *The New York Times*, July 21, 2021).

**The government of Greece is moving toward complete green energy seeing a rapid carbon free change a necessity for its economy and quality of life** (Liz Alderman, "Greece Is Getting Rewired for the Future: As climate change bears down, Greece is upending its sources of energy and trying to reshape its economic destiny," *The New York Times*, November 2, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/10/29/business/greece-green-energy-climate-eu.html>).

**Despite efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions substantially, China continues to increase coal production and burning to meet increasing demands for energy for its economy, seriously putting its climate targets at risk** (Keith Bradsher, "China Hurries to Burn More Coal, Putting It's Climate Goals at Risk," *The New York Times*, September 29, 2021,

**For the first time, sections of the Amazon rain forest are emitting more carbon dioxide than they are absorbing.** Most of the emissions come from forest fires, the great preponderance of which are set by farmers and ranchers clearing land ("The Amazon Hits a Tipping point," *This Week*, August 6, 2021).

**The Gulf Stream and other Atlantic Ocean currents are slowing down with climate change, and could shift bringing drastic changes of climate** (Heather Murphy, "System of Currents Is Slowing, Study Finds," *The New York Times*, August 6, 2021).

Christopher Flavelle and Kalen Goodluck, **"Dispossessed, Again: Climate Change Hits Native Americans Especially Hard. Many Native people were forced into the most undesirable areas of America, first by white settlers, then by the government. Now, parts of that marginal land are becoming uninhabitable,"** *The New York Times*, June 27, 2021, October 28, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/06/27/climate/climate-Native-Americans.html>, **gives numerous examples of Native Communities in the U.S. catastrophically being hit by climate change.**

An article giving **examples of the impacts of climate around the world** is Devi Lockwood, "Local Portraits of Climate Change," *The New York Times*, August 15, 2021).

Christopher Flavelle, Julian E. Barnes, Eileen Sullivan and Jennifer Steinhauer, "Climate Change Poses a Widening Threat to National Security: Intelligence and defense agencies issued reports warning that the warming planet will increase strife between countries and spur migration," *The New York Times*, October 21, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/10/21/climate/climate-change-national-security.html>, reported **"Worsening conflict within and between nations. Increased dislocation and migration as people flee climate-fueled instability. Heightened military tension and uncertainty. Financial hazards."**

**The Biden administration released several reports Thursday about climate change and national security, laying out in stark terms the ways in which the warming world is beginning to significantly challenge stability worldwide."**

Alan Rappeport and Christopher Flavelle, "U.S. Warns Climate Poses 'Emerging Threat' to Financial System: A Financial Stability Oversight Council report could lead to more regulatory action and disclosure requirements for banks," *The New York Times*, October 21, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/10/21/us/politics/climate-change-cost-us.html>, reported, **"Climate change is an 'emerging threat' to the stability of the U.S. financial system, top federal regulators warned in a report on Thursday, setting the stage for the Biden administration to take more aggressive regulatory action to prevent climate change from upending global markets and the economy."**

The report, produced by the **Financial Stability Oversight Council**, is the clearest expression of alarm to date about the risks that rising temperatures and seas pose to the economy and could herald sweeping changes to the kinds of investments made by banks and other financial institutions."

Jon Queally, "White House Climate-Related Financial Risk Report Denounced as 'Pitiful' Failure," *Truthout*, October 22, 2021, <https://truthout.org/articles/white-house-climate-related-financial-risk-report-denounced-as-pitiful-failure/?eType=EmailBlastContent&eId=f5eae084-8ba3-49e9-9978-3932132228ff>, reported, **"After months of waiting, environmental groups responded with disappointment tinged with outrage late Thursday after the White House released a report on the financial risks associated with the climate crisis — a document critics say would have been promising at some earlier point in history but that falls "pitifully" short given the urgency of the crisis and just ahead of a major U.N.-backed summit kicking off at the end of the month."**

**'It's extremely disappointing to see this long-awaited report be so watered down by what can only be described as climate apathetic FSOC members,'** said Jeff Hauser, executive director of the Revolving Door Project, in response to the 'Report on Climate-Related Financial Risk' issued by the Financial Stability Oversight Council, which was created via executive order by President Joe Biden in May and chaired by Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen.

While the FSOC said in a Thursday statement that climate is 'an emerging and increasing threat to U.S. financial stability,' **critics say the determinations and recommendations put forth by the report are woefully inadequate give the scale of the crisis and the timeline that scientists and experts have made clear.**

The report, according to Hauser, **'fails to mention fossil fuels as the key driver of climate risk. It offers no specific timelines for any of its recommendations. And it does not include specific policy recommendations beyond disclosing and assessing risk.** A terse summary of the report would read 'it's good to notice that our planet is burning, but we won't do anything to fix it.'"

Christopher Flavelle, "6 Aspects of American Life Threatened by Climate Change: Two dozen federal agencies flagged the biggest dangers posed by a warming planet. The list spreads across American society," *The New York Times*, October 7, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/10/07/climate/climate-threats-federal-government.html>, reported, **"Less food. More traffic accidents. Extreme weather hitting nuclear waste sites. Migrants rushing toward the United States, fleeing even worse calamity in their own countries.**

Those scenarios, once the stuff of dystopian fiction, are now driving American policymaking. Under orders from President Biden, **top officials at every government agency have spent months considering the top climate threats their agencies face, and how to cope with them.**

**On Thursday, the White House offered a first look at the results, releasing the climate-adaptation plans of 23 agencies, including the departments of Energy, Defense, Agriculture, Homeland Security, Transportation and Commerce. The plans reveal the dangers posed by a warming planet to every aspect of American life, and the difficulty of coping with those threats."**

The plans of each of the 23 agencies are at: <https://www.sustainability.gov/adaptation/>. The White House statement about the release of the plans is at: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/10/07/fact-sheet-biden-administration-releases-agency-climate-adaptation-and-resilience-plans-from-across-federal-government/>.

Jake Johnson, "Study Warns 'Luxury' Pollution by the Global Mega-Rich Is Imperiling the Planet, *Common Dreams*, "The emissions from a single billionaire spaceflight would exceed the lifetime emissions of someone in the poorest billion people on Earth." *Common Dreams*, November 5, 2021, [https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/11/05/study-warns-luxury-pollution-global-mega-rich-imperiling-planet?utm\\_term=AO&utm\\_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_content=email&utm\\_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_medium=Email](https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/11/05/study-warns-luxury-pollution-global-mega-rich-imperiling-planet?utm_term=AO&utm_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_content=email&utm_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_medium=Email), reported, **"The richest people on the planet, representing a small sliver of the total population, are emitting carbon dioxide at a rate that's imperiling hopes of keeping global heating below 1.5°C, prompting fresh calls for government action to rein in 'luxury' pollution and combat the intertwined crises of inequality and climate change.**

New research by the Institute for European Environmental Policy (IEEP) and the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) shows that **by 2030, the carbon footprints of the wealthiest 1% of humanity are on track to be 30 times larger than the size compatible with limiting global warming to 1.5°C by the end of the century, the Paris Agreement's more ambitious temperature target.**

**If current trends continue, the richest 1% will account for 16% of global CO2 emissions in 2030.**

The carbon emissions of the poorest half of the global population, meanwhile, 'are set to remain well below the 1.5°C-compatible level,' according to the analysis, which was commissioned by Oxfam International and published Friday. The planet has already warmed by roughly 1.1°C, and scientists have said any heating beyond 1.5°C would have destructive consequences worldwide.

**'The emissions from a single billionaire spaceflight would exceed the lifetime emissions of someone in the poorest billion people on Earth'** Nafkote Dabi, Oxfam's climate policy lead, said in a statement. "A tiny elite appear to have a free pass to pollute. Their oversized emissions are fueling extreme weather around the world and jeopardizing the international goal of limiting global heating."

"The emissions of the wealthiest 10% alone could send us beyond the agreed limit in the next nine years," Dabi added. "This would have catastrophic results for some of the most vulnerable people on Earth who are already facing deadly storms, hunger, and destitution."

| Global income groups | Estimated consumption emissions per person in 2030 (tons CO2 per year) |
|----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Richest 1%           | 70                                                                     |
| Richest 10%          | 21                                                                     |
| Middle 40%           | 5                                                                      |
| Poorest 50%          | 1                                                                      |

Authored by Tim Gore, head of the Low Carbon and Circular Economy program at IEEP, the new research paper notes that **'while carbon inequality is often most stark at the global level, inequalities within countries are also very significant.'**

**'They increasingly drive the extent of global inequality, and likely have a greater impact on the political and social acceptability of national emissions reduction efforts,'** the paper reads. 'It is therefore notable that **in all of the major emitting countries, the richest 10% and 1% nationally are set to have per capita consumption footprints substantially above the 1.5°C global per capita level.'**

To slash the outsized planet-warming emissions of the global rich, the study calls on policymakers to pursue restrictions on mega-yachts, private jets, and recreational space travel. In a paper published last month, French economist Lucas Chancel estimated that

**"an 11-minute [space] flight emits no fewer than 75 tonnes of carbon per passenger once indirect emissions are taken into account (and more likely, in the 250-1,000 tonnes range)."**

**'At the other end of the distribution, about one billion individuals emit less than one tonne per person per year,'** Chancel observed. **'Over their lifetime, this group of one billion individuals does not emit more than 75 tonnes of carbon per person. It therefore takes a few minutes in space travel to emit at least as much carbon as an individual from the bottom billion will emit in her entire lifetime.'**

**In addition to targeting sources of 'luxury carbon consumption,' the analysis by IEEP and SEI also proposes restrictions on 'climate-intensive investments like stock-holdings in fossil fuel industries.'**

**'The global emissions gap to keep the 1.5°C Paris goal alive is not the result of the consumption of most of the world's people: it reflects instead the excessive emissions of just the richest citizens on the planet,'** Gore said in a statement. **"It is necessary for governments to target measures at their richest, highest emitters—the climate and inequality crises should be tackled together.'**

Emily Ghosh, a scientist at SEI, agreed, arguing that 'carbon inequality must urgently be put at the center of governments efforts to reduce emissions.'

**'Our research highlights the challenge of ensuring a more equitable distribution of the remaining and rapidly diminishing global carbon budget,'** said Ghosh. **'If we continue on the same trajectory as today, the stark inequalities in income and emissions across the global population will remain, challenging the equity principle at the very heart of the Paris Agreement.'**

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**President Biden announced, September 21, 2021, that he was seeking to have the U.S. double its annual aid to developing nations for fighting climate change to around \$11.4 billion by 2024** (Somini Sengupta and Rick Gladstone, "U.S. Vows to Double Aid to Fight Climate Woes," *The New York Times*, September 22, 2021).

**"Negotiators Strike a Climate Deal, but World Remains Far From Limiting Warming: Some activists called the agreement in Glasgow disappointing, but it established a clear consensus that all countries need to do much more,"** *The New York Times*, November 13, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/11/13/climate/cop26-glasgow-climate-agreement.html>, reported, **"Diplomats from nearly 200 countries on Saturday struck a major agreement aimed at intensifying global efforts to fight climate change by calling on governments to return next year with stronger plans to curb their planet-warming emissions and urging wealthy nations to “at least double” funding to protect poor nations from the hazards of a hotter planet.**

**The new deal will not, on its own, solve global warming, despite the urgent demands of many of the thousands of politicians, environmentalists and protesters who gathered at the Glasgow climate summit. Its success or failure will hinge on whether world leaders now follow through with new policies to cut greenhouse gas emissions. And the deal still leaves vulnerable countries far short of the funds they need to cope with increasing weather disasters."**

**Although the deal moved in wanted directions, critics pointed out that even if kept it was still not enough, and its true meaning will depend on the follow up of the countries involved.**

Brad Plumer and Lisa Friedman, "China and the United States Join in Seeking Emissions Cuts: As nearly 200 nations struggle over global climate negotiations, the world's two biggest polluters sign an agreement, but it was short on details," *The New York Times*, November 10, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/11/10/climate/climate-cop26-glasgow.html>, reported, **"The United States and China announced a joint agreement Wednesday to 'enhance ambition' on climate change, saying they would work together to do more to cut emissions."**

Brett Wilkins, "'Unsettling': New Study Reveals Arctic Ocean Warming for Over a Century: 'It is possible that the Arctic Ocean is more sensitive to greenhouse gases than previously thought,' said one of the study's authors," *Common Dreams*, November 24, 2021, [https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/11/24/unsettling-new-study-reveals-arctic-ocean-warming-over-century?utm\\_term=AO&utm\\_campaign=Weekly%20Newsletter&utm\\_content=email&utm\\_source=Weekly%20Newsletter&utm\\_medium=Email](https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/11/24/unsettling-new-study-reveals-arctic-ocean-warming-over-century?utm_term=AO&utm_campaign=Weekly%20Newsletter&utm_content=email&utm_source=Weekly%20Newsletter&utm_medium=Email), reported, **"New research published Wednesday revealed the Arctic Ocean has been warming for decades longer than scientists previously understood, raising fresh concerns as the polar region faces the growing threat of a total loss of the seasonal ice that is crucial to the survival of the imperiled marine ecosystem."**

'We're talking about the early 1900s, and by then we've already been supercharging the atmosphere with carbon dioxide.'

A study (<https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/sciadv.abj2946>) published in *Science Advances* found that **'the recent expansion of Atlantic waters into the Arctic Ocean'—a phenomenon known as 'Atlantification'—offers 'undisputable evidence of the rapid changes occurring in this region.'**

Henry M. Paulson Jr., "We're Living Through One of the Most Explosive Extinction Episodes Ever," *The New York Times*, September 30, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/09/30/opinion/animal-extinction.html>, commented, **"Twin crises afflict the natural world. The first is climate change. Its causes and potentially catastrophic consequences are well known. The second crisis has received much less attention and is less understood but still requires urgent attention by global policymakers. It is the collapse of biodiversity, the sum of all things living on the planet."**

**As species disappear and the complex relationships between living things and systems become frayed and broken, the growing damage to the world's biodiversity presents dire risks to human societies.**

**The extinction of plants and animals is accelerating, moving an estimated 1,000 times faster than natural rates** (<https://conbio.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/cobi.12380>) **before humans emerged** (see article for details)."

Andrea Germanos, "Updated Extinction Assessment Drives Fresh Call to 'Save Life on Earth:' 'Every new look at extinction shows that we're running out of time to save wildlife and ultimately ourselves,'" *Common Dreams*, December 9, 2021, <https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/12/09/updated-extinction-assessment-drives-fresh-call-save-life->

earth?utm\_term=AO&utm\_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\_content=email&utm\_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\_medium=Email, reported, **"The Biden administration was told Thursday it must act urgently to address the biodiversity and climate crises following the release of an updated global assessment that showed the number of species at risk of extinction now tops 40,000.**

'Every new look at extinction shows that we're running out of time to save wildlife and ultimately ourselves,' said Tierra Curry, a senior scientist at the Center for Biological Diversity.

**The update of the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species** (<https://www.iucn.org/news/species/202112/dragonflies-threatened-wetlands-around-world-disappear-iucn-red-list>) **documents a decline in Earth's dragonflies and damselflies, finding 16% out of over 6,000 species are at risk of extinction amid a deterioration of their freshwater breeding grounds in Asia, the Americas, and Europe. The report says the losses are driven by numerous factors including the climate crisis and land clearance for construction and agricultural crops like palm oil.**

**Out of the 142,577 species evaluated in 2021 by the IUCN, the analysis found an estimated 28% are threatened with extinction.**

As Dr. Ian Burfield, a global science coordinator for Bird Life International, noted in a statement, 'The plight of dragonflies is indicative of a wider crisis threatening many wetland species,' including major declines in wetland birds over recent years.

Curry similarly called dragonflies **'not only gorgeous' but 'species that tell us a lot about the health of rivers and wetlands. The serious threats they face are a huge red flag that we have to do better.'**

**'The ongoing damming of rivers and loss of wetlands,' she said, 'wipes out wildlife and harms humans with increased risks of flooding and diseases.'**

The plummeting numbers of dragonflies and damselflies is perhaps unsurprising in light of the vast scope of wetland destruction. **Despite their crucial role the water cycle and biodiversity, approximately 85% of the world's wetlands have been lost over the past 300 hundred years. That same percentage of loss is true for the U.S. and Canada, though the rate of loss appears to be on the decline.**

**'The loss of these critical habitats,' Dr. Thomas E. Lacher, Jr., Professor Emeritus at Texas A&M University, said of wetlands, 'will have severe impacts on amphibians and migratory birds globally, 'noting their 'exceptional levels of biodiversity in an extremely small land area.'**

With the new 'Red List' data—and in light of ongoing threats including the climate crisis and toxic pesticides driving an "insect apocalypse"—Curry said President Joe Biden must urgently set the U.S. on a new course in terms of energy production and environmental protection.

**'The Biden administration has to muster the political will to move away from dirty fossil fuels, change the toxic ways we produce food, curtail the wildlife trade, and halt ongoing loss of habitat,' she said. 'We actually can do these things.'**

'We can and must save life on Earth,' Curry added. 'In the face of the federal failure to act while the planet melts down around us, individuals, cities, and states have to protect wildlife and fight climate change.'

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Jessica Corbett, "Meat and Dairy Industry 'Fanning the Flames' of Climate and Biodiversity Crises: Report: Bolstering the case for urgent policy change, the sector's top 20 companies collectively produce more planet-heating emissions than some fossil fuel giants and European countries," *Common Dreams*, September 7, 2021, [https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/09/07/meat-and-dairy-industry-fanning-flames-climate-and-biodiversity-crises-report?utm\\_term=AO&utm\\_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_content=email&utm\\_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_medium=Email](https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/09/07/meat-and-dairy-industry-fanning-flames-climate-and-biodiversity-crises-report?utm_term=AO&utm_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_content=email&utm_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_medium=Email), reported, "A report released Tuesday by European campaigners highlights how the global industrial animal farming sector, backed by billions from major financial institutions, is fueling the intertwined climate and biodiversity crises—and what policymakers can do to better protect people and the planet."

**Meat Atlas 2021 (pdf)—published by Friends of the Earth Europe, its German arm Bund für Umwelt und Naturschutz, and the Berlin-based Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung—says the food sector is responsible for 21% to 37% of planet-heating emissions, over half of which comes from industrial animal farming.**

Along with featuring 'facts and figures about the animals we eat,' the report explains that scientists have been 'stressing for over a decade that a climate- and biodiversity-friendly diet contains less than half the amount of meat consumed in industrialized countries today.'

'However, **an ambitious and dedicated political shift in agriculture and food policy to tackle the climate crisis seems far away,**' the report continues. 'The food and farming sector in industrialized countries, which accounts for about one-third of global greenhouse gas emissions, is far from doing its fair share to reduce them.'

Leaders at the three groups behind the atlas argue in its introduction that 'contrary to what politicians might claim, **laws and regulations can steer our consumption decisions in favor of sustainability and health. There are numerous instruments for this: fiscal, informational, and legal.**'

'European and national food strategies should contain such instruments, as well as those which support sustainable livestock breeding and a transition of the industry towards more locally embedded models in order to create fair and sustainable food environments,' the trio writes. 'They should also reinforce environmental and social laws as well as animal welfare legislation in order to shift the focus of current industrial meat production to quality instead of quantity.'

The atlas uses several data points to make the case that industrial farming is wreaking havoc on the planet—including findings from 2018 that '**just five meat-and-milk giants, JBS, Tyson, Cargill, Dairy Farmers of America, and Fonterra, produce more combined emissions per year than major oil players like Exxon, Shell, or BP. Taken together, 20 livestock firms are responsible for more greenhouse gas emissions than Germany, Britain, or France.**'

Although some animal farming industry giants are privately owned, the atlas acknowledges, 'others are at least partially listed on the stock exchanges' and 'financial firms are major investors, underwriters, and lenders to the sector.'

More than 2,500 investment banks, private banks, and pension funds poured \$478 billion into meat and dairy firms from 2015 to 2020, the report says, emphasizing that BlackRock, Capital Group, Vanguard, and the Norwegian government pension fund are among the top investors.

**'While many financiers have made commitments to environmental policies and targets,' the atlas explains, 'the impacts of industrial-scale agriculture are yet to be regulated across financial and legal platforms.'**

Meat Atlas 2021 also explores various other aspects of the industry including consolidation, trade policies, pandemic risk, land conflicts, water use, pesticides, and microbial resistance. According to the report, key takeaways include:

More than one billion people around the world earn their living by keeping livestock. Traditional and nature-friendly animal husbandry is coming under pressure from industrialized agriculture.

Almost two-thirds of the world's 600 million poor livestock keepers are women. They face disadvantages because they have limited access to land, services, and farm ownership.

**Conflicts over land are on the rise, in part because of industrial meat production. More and more people are being killed for defending the right to land.**

**The use of antibiotics in animal husbandry is resulting in more and more microbial resistance. This threatens the effectiveness of antibiotics, one of the most important types of treatment in human medicine.**

**The leading producers of fodder crops are among the largest users of pesticides—which contaminate groundwater and harm biodiversity.**

**'Industrial meat farming is fanning the flames of climate crisis and biodiversity collapse while threatening the health of farmers, workers, and consumers—the evidence is resounding,'** said Stanka Becheva, food and agriculture campaigner at Friends of the Earth Europe, in a statement Tuesday.

Though Becheva took aim at the European Union's policymakers in particular, her message about what changes are needed has broader applicability.

'The E.U. needs to curb this insatiable industry, but right now its leaders are just eating out of Big Agribusiness' hand,' she said. 'Europe must act to clamp down on deforestation and human rights violations in supply chains, facilitate the switch to more plant-based diets, and redirect billions of euros of subsidies and finance to small sustainable farmers.'

Surveys suggest such moves would be popular, Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung president Barbara Unmüßig pointed out Tuesday.

'As the polls in this Meat Atlas 2021 show, the younger generations in Germany—but also in other countries—share this critical assessment: They no longer accept the meat industry's business model,' Unmüßig said.

'More than 70% of German young adults are willing to pay more for meat if the production conditions change fundamentally,' she explained. 'But the most decisive result: a huge majority of over 80% see politics in the duty to finally set binding conditions for a climate-friendly agriculture, better animal husbandry and a climate-friendly diet.'

Meat production 's expected to increase by another 40 million tonnes a year by 2029,' which 'would take the total output to around 366 million tonnes a year, unless policy changes intervene,' according to the atlas. 'Although 80% of the growth is likely to take place in the Global South, the biggest producers will remain China, Brazil, the USA, and the members of the European Union.'

Noting that 'the economic interests of the meat industry, which is worth billions, and the refusal of politicians to reform strategically and coherently are keeping us on a tortuous path overstretching the ecological limits of the planet,' Unmüßig warned that 'the way things are, we will need to reduce meat production by half.'

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Jake Johnson, "IEA Sends Clear Message to World Leaders: Stop Investing in New Oil and Gas: 'It is now beyond doubt that there is no need for further coal, oil, and gas exploration if we are to avoid the most dangerous impacts of climate change,'" *Common Dreams*, October 13, 2021, [https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/10/13/iea-sends-clear-message-world-leaders-stop-investing-new-oil-and-gas?utm\\_term=AO&utm\\_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_content=email&utm\\_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_medium=Email](https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/10/13/iea-sends-clear-message-world-leaders-stop-investing-new-oil-and-gas?utm_term=AO&utm_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_content=email&utm_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_medium=Email), reported, "Just over two weeks out from the COP26 climate summit in Glasgow, the **International Energy Agency** on Wednesday **delivered a straightforward and urgent message to world leaders: Fossil fuels must stay in the ground if planetary warming is to be limited to 1.5°C by the end of the century.**

The IEA's formal recognition of the 1.5°C target—the most ambitious aim of the Paris climate accord—was hailed as a "major shift" in the right direction for the influential agency, whose annual World Energy Outlook (WEO) report is often used as a resource by policymakers and businesses across the globe."

Andrea Germanos, "Really Fantastic': Europe's Largest Pension Fund Announces Fossil Fuel Divestment

It's 'a huge victory for the climate, human rights, and all life on Earth,' said one activist," *Common Dreams*, October 26, 2021, [https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/10/26/really-fantastic-europes-largest-pension-fund-announces-fossil-fuel-divestment?utm\\_term=AO&utm\\_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_content=email&utm\\_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_medium=Email](https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/10/26/really-fantastic-europes-largest-pension-fund-announces-fossil-fuel-divestment?utm_term=AO&utm_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_content=email&utm_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_medium=Email), reported, "Climate campaigners are cheering Wednesday in response to the news that **Dutch pension fund ABP—the fifth-largest in the world—is divesting its assets from fossil fuel producers.**"

**But European Union's move to full green energy will not be easy. The wealthier countries have moved well to get off coal, but still rely heavily on now high price natural gas, mostly coming from Russia, while they transition to wind and solar, and France builds nuclear power stations. That last switch is a challenge to do rapidly. The poorer EU nations still rely heavily on coal, and need significant help to get off** (Melissa Eddy and Somini Sengupta, "An Electricity Crisis Complicates the Climate Crisis in Europe: Prices for power have soared, and some politicians are now trying to use that as a lever to slow action on climate change, a strategy with far-reaching consequences," *The New York Times*, October 29, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/10/29/climate/europe-energy-crisis-cop.html>).

**A bright spot on facing climate change in Europe is Greece, which has been moving rapidly to switch to wind and solar, though there is resistance from coal miners and others feeling threatened by the change and billions in investments still are needed to finance the shift to green energy independence, which the government sees as an economic necessity** (Liz Alderman, "Greece Is Getting Rewired for the Future: As climate change bears down, Greece is upending its sources of energy and trying to reshape its economic destiny," *The New York Times*, October 29, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/10/29/business/greece-green-energy-climate-eu.html>).

Liz Alderman and Stanley Reed, "Europe Revisits Nuclear Power as Climate Deadlines Loom: While wind and solar ramp up, several countries, including France and Britain, are looking to expand their nuclear energy programs. Germany and others aren't so enthusiastic," *The New York Times*, November 29, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/11/29/business/nuclear-power-europe-climate.html>, reported, "

**European countries desperate for a long-term and reliable source of energy to help reach ambitious climate goals are turning to an answer that caused earlier generations to shudder: nuclear power.**

**Poland wants a fleet of smaller nuclear power stations to help end its reliance on coal. Britain is betting on Rolls-Royce to produce cheap modular reactors to complement wind and solar energy. And in France, President Emmanuel Macron plans to build on the nation's huge nuclear program."**

Brett Wilkins, "Climate Movement Hails 'Mind-Blowing' \$40 Trillion in Fossil Fuel Divestment Pledges: 'Institutions around the world must step up now and commit to joining the divest-invest movement before it is too late—for them, for the economy, and for the world,'" *Common Dreams*, October 26, 2021, Over the past decade, **nearly 1,500 investors and institutions controlling almost \$40 trillion in assets have committed to divesting from fossil fuels**—a remarkable achievement that climate campaigners applauded Tuesday, while warning that **further commitments and action remain crucial.**"

Eshe Nelson, "The Bank of England adds green criteria to its corporate bond purchases," *The New York Times*, November 5, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/live/2021/11/05/business/jobs-report-stock-market-news#the-bank-of-england-adds-green-criteria-to-its-corporate-bond-purchases>, reported, "**The Bank of England said it would change the rules for its corporate bond purchases to meet green goals, including permanently excluding debt from coal mining companies.** The move is the latest in a spate of initiatives by financial institutions that they say will transform the financial system to support net zero-carbon targets.

**The central bank said Friday its purchases would be 'tilted' toward strong climate performers, and all companies would need to meet certain climate criteria to have their bonds considered for the corporate bond-buying program, such as meeting climate disclosure requirements and public emission reduction plans for energy and utilities companies. The new rules will come into force later this month."**

Andrea Germanos, "In World First, New Zealand Law Will Force Banks to Disclose Climate Impacts of Investments: 'This is a landmark day,'" October 21, 2021, [https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/10/21/world-first-new-zealand-law-will-force-banks-disclose-climate-impacts-investments?utm\\_term=AO&utm\\_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_content=email&utm\\_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_medium=Email](https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/10/21/world-first-new-zealand-law-will-force-banks-disclose-climate-impacts-investments?utm_term=AO&utm_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_content=email&utm_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_medium=Email), reported, "**New Zealand officials on Thursday heralded passage of a groundbreaking law requiring financial institutions to disclose climate-related risks.**

'This is a landmark day,' Commerce and Consumer Affairs Minister David Clark said in a speech to Parliament.

At issue is the Financial Sector (Climate-related Disclosures and Other Matters) Amendment Bill, which had its third reading Thursday.

**A summary of the measure from the Business Ministry touts the bill as a step toward making the country's "financial system more resilient" and reaching New Zealand's goal of net zero CO2 emissions by 2050. According to the ministry, the goals of the bill are to:**

**ensure that the effects of climate change are routinely considered in business, investment, lending, and insurance underwriting decisions;**

**help climate reporting entities better demonstrate responsibility and foresight in their consideration of climate issues; and**

**lead to more efficient allocation of capital, and help smooth the transition to a more sustainable, low emissions economy.**

**A joint statement Thursday from Clark and Climate Change Minister James Shaw frames the bill, which will require the annual disclosures starting in 2023, as the first of its kind across the globe.**

**'This bill will require around 200 of the largest financial market participants in New Zealand to disclose clear, comparable, and consistent information about the risks, and opportunities, climate change presents to their business,' Clark said in the statement. "In doing so, it will promote business certainty, raise expectations, accelerate progress and create a level playing field.'**

Shaw, for his part, said the measure would 'encourage entities to become more sustainable by factoring the short, medium, and long-term effects of climate change into their business decisions.'"

Eshe Nelson, "Britain Turns to Bankers to Blaze a Green Trail: The financial industry will be relied on to meet climate goals. NatWest, a lender to oil giants, provides a template," *The New York Times*, December 5, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/12/02/business/natwest-britain-climate-bankers.html>, reported, **"NatWest, formerly the Royal Bank of Scotland, has made the unlikely transformation from substantial financier of the oil and gas industry to a leader in green finance, whittling down its fossil fuel exposure and pledging to funnel 100 billion pounds, or \$133 billion, into sustainable-energy projects in the next four years."**

**"Since Brexit, Britain's financial industry has lost some of its luster, as London can no longer be used as a hub for European business. The Treasury, determined to maintain the nation's eminence, is exploring other ways to attract investors, including loosening the rules for listing companies to attract founder-led tech start-ups and backing financial technology companies. But green finance could also be an answer." The British government has said that it seeks to become , "the world's first net-zero-aligned financial center (https://www.gov.uk/government/news/chancellor-uk-will-be-the-worlds-first-net-zero-financial-centre)."**

Stanley Reed, "A Major Persian Gulf Oil Producer Tries to Burnish Its Climate Credentials: Trying to attract investors and retain customers, the United Arab Emirates says it will step up its efforts to cut emissions," *The New York Times*, November 3, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/10/30/business/uae-net-zero-cop26.html>, reported, "For more than a decade he [Sultan Al Jaber of the UAE] has tried to position the Persian Gulf state as

a leader on environmental issues, acting at the behest of Abu Dhabi's de facto ruler, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed.

In the latest of these initiatives, **the United Arab Emirates pledged to have net zero carbon emissions by 2050, the first government in the region to make such a statement. It joins a growing list of countries making long-range commitments that are difficult to evaluate.**"

Michael Corkery and Julie Creswell, "**Corporate Climate Pledges Often Ignore a Key Component: Supply Chains: Many companies do not account for the emissions from their supply chains, which can be a significant majority of their contributions to greenhouse gases,**" *The New York Times*, November 2, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/11/02/business/corporate-climate-pledge-supply-chain.html>, reported, "For nearly 30 years, the pharmaceutical giant Bristol Myers Squibb has proclaimed it's been setting and meeting ambitious targets around energy and greenhouse gas emissions. These days, those goals include being 'carbon neutral' by 2040."

Numerous other large firms, including, Caterpillar, Texas Instruments, Exxon Mobil and the Walt Disney Company have all made similar claims concerning reducing their greenhouse gas emissions.

**"But something is missing from these lofty corporate goals: any accounting of significant emissions from their supply chains or waste from their products. For some companies, those can total as much as 95 percent of their overall contributions to greenhouse gases."**

"Simon Romero, In Arizona, Drought Ignites Tensions and Threatens Traditions Among the Hopi The tribe has survived for more than a thousand years in the arid mesas. The megadrought gripping the Southwest is testing that resilience," *The New York Times*, October 2, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/10/02/us/arizona-megadrought.html>, **"Alarmed by the two-decade drought that has dried up springs, withered crops and killed cattle, the Hopi Tribal Council ordered ranchers in August to slash their herds in a bid to preserve water supplies and avoid the cruelty of an even larger death toll.**

**But an outcry by Hopi cattlemen, who say they are providing families with locally raised food, compelled the council to rescind its edict, a decision that has unleashed a fierce discussion across the reservation over what traditions to safeguard in a time of climate change. The tensions involve farmers who need water to grow crops and ranchers who need water for their cattle.** Some Hopi leaders say the tribe should do everything it can to preserve dry farming, a tribal tradition in which crops grow despite scant rainfall through drought-resistant seeds, small fields and terraced gardens."

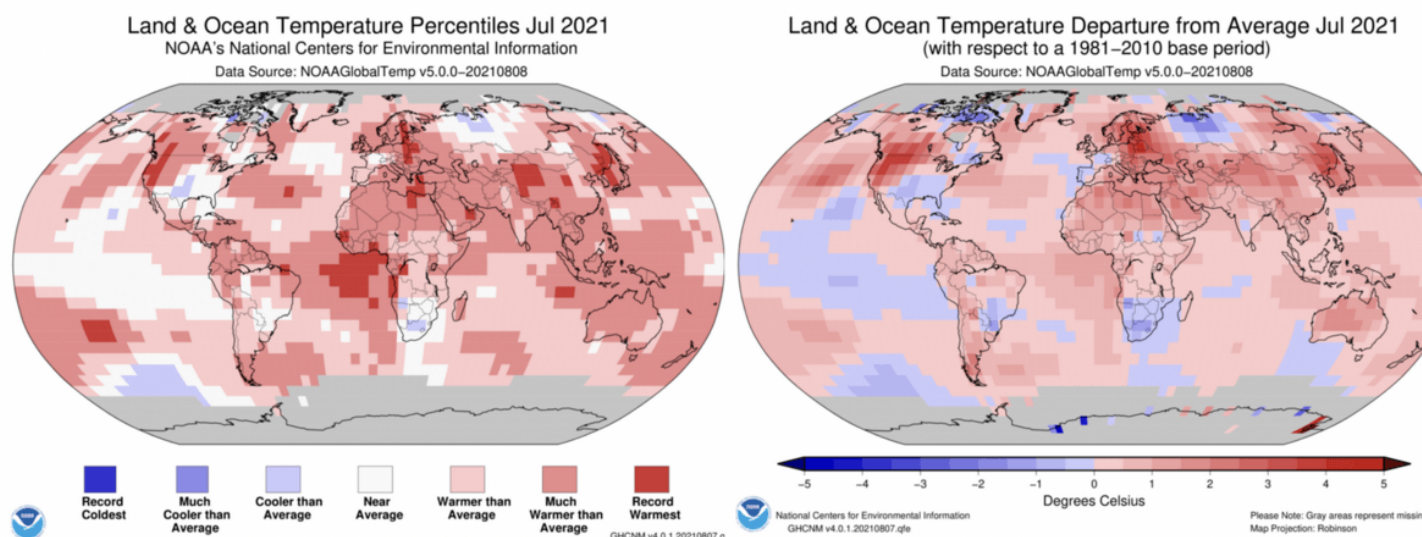
Jake Johnson, "All of the Sirens Are Going Off: NOAA Says July Was Hottest Month Ever Recorded: 'This is not the new normal. Extreme temperatures and deadly weather will only get worse if we continue business-as-usual,'" *Common Dreams*, August 13, 2021, [https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/08/13/all-sirens-are-going-noaa-says-july-was-hottest-month-ever-recorded?utm\\_term=AO&utm\\_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_content=email&utm\\_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_medium=Email](https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/08/13/all-sirens-are-going-noaa-says-july-was-hottest-month-ever-recorded?utm_term=AO&utm_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_content=email&utm_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_medium=Email), reported, "The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said Friday that **July 2021 was the hottest month ever**

**recorded on Earth**, a finding that comes just days after a United Nations scientific panel warned that humanity is running out of time to prevent the worst consequences of the climate emergency.

**'All of the sirens are going off,'** Rep. Don Beyer (D-Va.) tweeted in response to NOAA's announcement. **'It is wildly important that Congress take strong, comprehensive action as soon as possible to meet the threat of climate change.'**

In a press release, NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information noted that with the inclusion of data from **last month—which was marked by devastating wildfires across the globe, from California to Turkey to Siberia to Canada—'it remains very likely that 2021 will rank among the world's 10 warmest years on record.'**

'In this case, first place is the worst place to be,' NOAA Administrator Rick Spinrad said in a statement. 'July is typically the world's warmest month of the year, but July 2021 outdid itself as the hottest July and month ever recorded. This new record adds to the disturbing and disruptive path that climate change has set for the globe.'



Based on records dating back to 1880, NOAA's new analysis finds that the **combined land and ocean surface temperature in July 2021 was 1.67°F higher than the 20th century average of 60.4°F**. Last month's global surface temperature was just slightly higher than that of July 2016, a temperature that was tied in both 2019 and 2020.

**'During the month, temperatures were much warmer than average across parts of North America, Europe, northern and southern South America, northern Africa, the southern half of Asia, Oceania, and parts of the western and northern Pacific, Atlantic, and Indian Oceans,'** the U.S. government agency found.

'In just the Northern Hemisphere, the land-surface temperature last month was the highest ever recorded in July—an "unprecedented" 2.77°F above the 20th century average.

**'The seven warmest Julys have all occurred since 2015,'** NOAA observed. **"July 2021 marked the 45th consecutive July and the 439th consecutive month with temperatures, at least nominally, above the 20th-century average.** Climatologically, July is the warmest month of the year. With July 2021 the warmest July on record, at least nominally, this resulted in the warmest month on record for the globe."

**NOAA's findings align with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's warning on Monday that the planet's temperature is rising at an 'unprecedented'**

rate—a trend the U.N. body said can only be reversed by massive and rapid reductions in greenhouse gas emissions caused primarily by the burning of fossil fuels.

'This is not the new normal,' the climate advocacy group Friends of the Earth tweeted in response to NOAA's findings. 'Extreme temperatures and deadly weather will only get worse if we continue business-as-usual. Meanwhile, every year our government is still throwing billions of tax dollars into the corporations fueling this climate crisis.'

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Becky Ferreira, "A Warning Sign of a Mass Extinction Event Is on the Rise, Scientists Say: Toxic microbial blooms thrived during the Great Dying, the most severe extinction in Earth's history, and they are proliferating again due to human activity," Vice.com, September 21, 2021, <https://www.vice.com/en/article/bvzqg5/a-warning-sign-of-a-mass-extinction-event-is-on-the-rise-scientists-say>, reported, **"If you live near a freshwater river or lake, odds are good that you have seen warning signs about harmful algal and bacterial blooms posted on its shores. Alarming, a new study reports that these blooms may be early indicators of an ongoing ecological disaster, caused by humans, that eerily parallels the worst extinction event in Earth's history."**

Some 251 million years ago, the end-Permian event (EPE), popularly known as the 'Great Dying,' wiped out nearly 90 percent of species on Earth, making it the most severe loss of life in our planet's history.

Ominous parallels of that upheaval are now showing up on Earth, according to a team led by Chris Mays, a postdoctoral researcher and palaeobotanist at the Swedish Museum of Natural History in Stockholm. **The researchers found that toxic algal and bacterial blooms during the Great Dying are similar to a recent microbial proliferation in modern lakes and rivers—a trend that has been linked to human activities such as greenhouse gas emissions (especially carbon dioxide), deforestation, and soil loss."**

Kenny Stancil, "These 10 Imperiled Species in US Are Hanging by a Thread in Face of Climate Threat: 'Plants and wildlife are going extinct at an unprecedented rate, and it's way past time for our elected leaders to take bold action to protect our planet and all its inhabitants,'" *Common Dreams*, December 15, 2021, <https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/12/15/these-10-imperiled-species-us-are-hanging-thread-face-climate-threat>, reported, "A new report (<https://www.endangered.org/assets/uploads/2021/12/Last-Chance-Top-Ten-ESC.pdf>) released Wednesday by the Endangered Species Coalition **details the plight of 10 rapidly vanishing species in the United States that are already suffering the destructive consequences of the global climate emergency**—characterized by rising temperatures that bring increasingly frequent, prolonged, and intense heatwaves, droughts, wildfires, storms, and floods.

'Without sufficient and vibrant biodiversity, we lose the resources... to support life.'

**Animals being 'pushed to the edge of extinction in our warming world' include the Diamondback terrapin; Elkhorn coral; Florida Key deer; Maui parrotbill; Mexican long-nosed bat; Monarch butterfly; Sierra Nevada yellow-legged frog; and Western ridged mussel.**



**Plants that are increasingly at risk of being wiped off the face of the Earth due to extreme weather driven primarily by fossil fuel emissions include the Ka palupalu o Kanaloa and the Whitebark pine."**

Andrea Germanos, "'This Is an Emergency': Oxfam Says Rich Nations' \$100 Billion Climate Pledge Not Good Enough: 'Time is running out for rich nations to build trust and deliver on their unmet target,'" *Common Dreams*, October 25, 2021, [https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/10/25/emergency-oxfam-says-rich-nations-100-billion-climate-pledge-not-good-enough?utm\\_term=AO&utm\\_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_content=email&utm\\_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_medium=Email](https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/10/25/emergency-oxfam-says-rich-nations-100-billion-climate-pledge-not-good-enough?utm_term=AO&utm_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_content=email&utm_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_medium=Email), reported, **"Rich nations will likely be three years late in starting to fulfill their pledged \$100 billion in annual funds to help developing nations tackle the climate emergency, according to a document out Monday, sparking outcry from advocates for climate justice.**

'Developing countries have put up with accounting tricks, delays, and broken promises for far too long.'

'It's disappointing to see rich countries fall short again on their \$100 billion climate finance promise,' tweeted The Elders, a human rights organization made up of former global leaders. 'This is not enough to build trust ahead of COP 26,' the United Nations climate summit beginning Oct. 31.

'We need to see a clear commitment to release all funds owed,' the group added, "and a major increase in adaptation finance.'

The Climate Finance Delivery Plan (<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-cop26-presidency-publishes-climate-finance-delivery-plan-led-by-german-state-secretary-flasbarth-and-canadas-minister-wilkinson-ahead-of-cop26>) was published Monday by the U.K. COP presidency. **At issue is a commitment made in 2009 by developed nations—those most responsible for causing the climate emergency—for \$100 billion a year of climate aid to begin in 2020."**

Jason Begauy, "Montana tribes banded together during fire season: It has been an early and severe fire season across the state, of the 2,000 wildfires this year, more than half were human caused," ICT, August 25, 2021, <https://indiancountrytoday.com/news/montana-tribes-banded-together-during-fire-season>, reported that **even by late August 2021 Montana was experiencing an unusually bad fire season, threatening its reservations, as the Nations collaborated in meeting them, "Residents in three separate Montana reservations banded together to save homes, lives and cultural sites as wildfires scorched nearly 200,000 acres on and near tribal lands in the last two weeks."**

There were no reported fatalities in any of the fires. And so far, only one home, the reported source of the Fort Belknap fire, was reported destroyed. Rains and cooler temperatures throughout the end of the week and through the weekend helped curtail the flames. However, forecasts called for a return to hot, dry weather."

**It has been an early and severe fire season. The state of Montana has seen more than 2,000 wildfires so far in 2021. Of those fires, 1,392 were human caused. The state currently ranks fourth nationwide in acreage burned this year."**



d213-ec11-981f-501ac57ba3ed&ceid=1763602) **that accumulate in the environment and our bodies.**

In the private sector, **hospitality companies are teaming up with the World Wildlife Foundation to reduce food waste -- which account for 8% of worldwide greenhouse emissions** (<https://worldwarzero.com/magazine/2021/09/wwf-teams-up-with-hotels-to-measure-and-reduce-food-waste/?emci=e1ff2a9a-3213-ec11-981f-501ac57ba3ed&emdi=f64c246c-d213-ec11-981f-501ac57ba3ed&ceid=1763602>).

**And in Congress, leaders are proposing that \$2.6 billion be set-aside to fund climate research. \$765 million would fund climate adaptation and resilience strategies, while the rest would help with extreme weather forecasting, and climate related research at the EPA, NOAA, and NASA** (<https://worldwarzero.com/magazine/2021/09/usd2-6-billion-proposal-for-federal-climate-research/?emci=e1ff2a9a-3213-ec11-981f-501ac57ba3ed&emdi=f64c246c-d213-ec11-981f-501ac57ba3ed&ceid=1763602>)."

Henry Fountain, "Impact: High Carbon Dioxide Emissions: From June to August, the blazes emitted far more planet-warming carbon dioxide than in any other summer in nearly two decades, satellite data shows," *The New York Times*, September 21, 2021, [https://www.nytimes.com/2021/09/21/climate/wildfire-emissions-climate-change.html?campaign\\_id=54&emc=edit\\_clim\\_20210922&instance\\_id=41055&nl=climate-fwd%3A&regi\\_id=52235981&segment\\_id=69629&te=1&user\\_id=2984790c14170290245238c0cd4fd927](https://www.nytimes.com/2021/09/21/climate/wildfire-emissions-climate-change.html?campaign_id=54&emc=edit_clim_20210922&instance_id=41055&nl=climate-fwd%3A&regi_id=52235981&segment_id=69629&te=1&user_id=2984790c14170290245238c0cd4fd927), reported that California wildfires in 2021 have produced double the carbon dioxide of those of 2020, and far more than in previous years. **"This wildfire season so far in California has been extraordinary, producing thousands of fires — including one that, at nearly a million acres burned, is the largest single fire in state history — and spewing so much smoke that air quality has been affected thousands of miles away."**

The Copernicus Atmospheric Monitoring Service, a European Union-financed agency, which estimates emissions based on satellite measurements available since 2003, said, California fires released more than 75 million metric tons of carbon dioxide in three months of summer 2021.

**"That's a small amount compared with annual worldwide CO2 emissions from burning fossil fuels, which are expected to total about 33 billion tons this year. And most of the CO2 emitted by wildfires may, over time, be offset as vegetation recolonizing burned areas uses CO2 to grow. Still, any additional amount of CO2 in the atmosphere contributes to warming."**

**"Overall, fires in the Western United States released 130 million tons of CO2 this summer, according to the agency's estimates. This included about 17 million tons in Oregon, more than 10 times the amount released last year.** The Bootleg fire, which burned more than 400,000 acres in July and August, was one of the largest in Oregon history. The Dixie fire in Northern California is that state's largest."

**And still in mid-October, another California wildfire exploding quickly, "The Alisal Fire is rapidly growing near Santa Barbara,"** NPR, October 13, 2021, <https://www.npr.org/2021/10/13/1045578784/alisal-fire-california-reagan-western-white-house>, reported, "A major coastal highway remained closed Wednesday and evacuation orders were in place from a growing blaze driven by intense winds that raised the risk of wildfires in much of California."

More than 200 firefighters battled the Alisal Fire, which covered 21 square miles (54 square kilometers) along coastal Santa Barbara County and was only 5% contained, county fire officials said."

Jessica Corbett, "'The Burning of Fossil Fuels Is Killing Us,' WHO Warns in COP 26 Report: 'Climate change is the single biggest health threat facing humanity,' the U.N. agency says. 'While no one is safe from the health impacts of climate change, they are disproportionately felt by the most vulnerable and disadvantaged.'" *Common Dreams*, October 11, 2021, <https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/10/11/burning-fossil-fuels-killing-us-who-warns-cop-26-report>, reported, "Looking toward the United Nations summit scheduled for the end of the month, **a top U.N. agency on Monday released a report** (<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/cop26-special-report>) that makes a **'health argument for climate action'** and **calls on governments and policymakers to urgently tackle the emergency.**

**'The burning of fossil fuels is killing us,' warns the World Health Organization (WHO) report, noting that the practice is 'causing millions of premature deaths every year through air pollutants, costing the global economy billions of dollars annually, and fueling the climate crisis.'**

In the foreword, WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus highlights that human-caused global heating is impacting droughts, extreme heat, floods, hurricanes, and wildfires.

**'Climate change is the single biggest health threat facing humanity,' says the report. 'And while no one is safe from the health impacts of climate change, they are disproportionately felt by the most vulnerable and disadvantaged.'**

'Protecting people's health from climate change requires transformational action in every sector, including on **energy, transport, nature, food systems, and finance,**' the report continues. **'The public health benefits from implementing these ambitious climate actions far outweigh their costs.'**

Tedros, in a statement Monday, said that 'the Covid-19 pandemic has shone a light on the intimate and delicate links between humans, animals, and our environment.'

'The same unsustainable choices that are killing our planet are killing people,' the agency leader added, underscoring how important COP 26—the upcoming U.K.-hosted summit that will be held in Glasgow, Scotland—is to meet the goals of the 2015 Paris climate agreement.

**'WHO calls on all countries to commit to decisive action at COP 26 to limit global warming to 1.5°C—not just because it's the right thing to do, but because it's in our own interests,' he said. "WHO's new report highlights 10 priorities for safeguarding the health of people and the planet that sustains us."**

Those priorities, explained at length in the report, are:

- Commit to a healthy recovery;**
- Our health is not negotiable;**
- Harness the health benefits of climate action;**
- Build health resilience to climate risks;**
- Create energy systems that protect and improve climate and health;**
- Reimagine urban environments, transport, and mobility;**
- Protect and restore nature as the foundation of our health;**
- Promote healthy, sustainable, and resilient food systems;**

**Finance a healthier, fairer, and greener future to save lives; and  
Listen to the health community and prescribe urgent climate action.**

The report comes a few weeks after the WHO updated its guidelines on air quality for the first time in over 15 years, warning that **'air pollution is now recognized as the single biggest environmental threat to human health'** and **the burden of disease attributable to it is 'estimated to be on a par with other major global health risks such as unhealthy diet and tobacco smoking.'**

Pointing to the new standards—which reflect the impact of fossil fuels on humans—Dr. Maria Neira, WHO's director of environment, climate change, and health, said Monday that **'it has never been clearer that the climate crisis is one of the most urgent health emergencies we all face.'**

'Bringing down air pollution to WHO guideline levels, for example, would reduce the total number of global deaths from air pollution by 80% while dramatically reducing the greenhouse gas emissions that fuel climate change,' she said. 'A shift to more nutritious, plant-based diets in line with WHO recommendations, as another example, could reduce global emissions significantly, ensure more resilient food systems, and avoid up to 5.1 million diet-related deaths a year by 2050.'

Jessica Corbett, WHO's New Air Pollution Guidelines Reflect Deadly Toll of Fossil Fuels," *Common Dreams*, October 11, 2021, <https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/10/11/burning-fossil-fuels-killing-us-who-warns-cop-26-report>, reported, "The new report was released alongside an open letter from 450 organizations representing over 45 million health workers, along with more than 3,400 individuals from 102 different countries.

"As health professionals and health workers, we recognize our ethical obligation to speak out about this rapidly growing crisis that could be far more catastrophic and enduring than the Covid-19 pandemic," the letter says of the climate emergency.

"We call on the leaders of every country and their representatives at COP 26 to avert the impending health catastrophe by limiting global warming to 1.5°C," the letter adds, "and to make human health and equity central to all climate change mitigation and adaptation actions."

The letter, which provides examples of how the climate emergency is already impacting human health and specific recommendations for moves that policymakers can pursue, concludes that "these climate actions must be taken now to protect the planet, and the health, well-being, and prosperity of all people alive today and for generations to come."

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Kenny Stancil, "2,180+ Scientists Worldwide Demand 'Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty:' 'Every fraction of a degree of warming is doing us harm,' said one of the open letter's signatories. 'This means that every day we delay cessation of fossil fuel burning, we come closer to catastrophe.'" *Common Dreams*, September 14, 2021, [https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/09/14/2180-scientists-worldwide-demand-fossil-fuel-non-proliferation-treaty?utm\\_term=AO&utm\\_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_content=email&utm\\_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_medium=Email](https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/09/14/2180-scientists-worldwide-demand-fossil-fuel-non-proliferation-treaty?utm_term=AO&utm_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_content=email&utm_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_medium=Email) reported, **"As the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly begins Tuesday amid an unrelenting wave of extreme weather, thousands of academics from around the globe are urging governments to negotiate an**

international treaty to bring about a rapid and just transition away from coal, oil, and gas—"the main cause of the climate emergency."

In an open letter delivered on Monday, 2,185 scientists from 81 countries write: 'We, the undersigned, call on governments around the world to adopt and implement a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty (<https://fossilfueltreaty.org>), as a matter of urgency, to protect the lives and livelihoods of present and future generations through a global, equitable phase out of fossil fuels in line with the scientific consensus to not exceed 1.5°C of warming.'

Characterizing the climate crisis as 'the greatest threat to human civilization and nature,' the letter notes that 'the burning of fossil fuels—coal, oil, and gas—is the greatest contributor to climate change, responsible for almost 80% of carbon dioxide emissions since the industrial revolution.'"

**"President Xi Jinping of China stated, September 21, 2021, that China would cease building coal fired power plants abroad,** which have been part of its foreign investment program (Somini Sengupta and Rick Gladstone, "China Pledges to Stop Building Coal-Burning Power Plants Abroad," *The New York Times*, September 22, 2021).

Alexander C. Kaufman, "Activists Call It A 'False Solution.' But UN Scientists Say We Need To Suck Up CO2. The latest global climate report makes clear we need to suck carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere, and "planting trees" won't be enough" *Huff Post*, August 14, 2021, [https://www.huffpost.com/entry/un-ipcc-carbon-removal\\_n\\_6116c65ee4b0454ed70da0ba](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/un-ipcc-carbon-removal_n_6116c65ee4b0454ed70da0ba), reported, "A United Nations-led panel of scientists delivered a grim prognosis this week: The planet is, on average, 2 degrees Fahrenheit hotter than it was in the last century, and even **if we magically halted all emissions tomorrow, humanity has spewed enough carbon dioxide into the atmosphere to lock in dangerous climate effects for the next 30 years.**

**Avoiding climate catastrophe at this point would require removing carbon from the atmosphere. The Earth naturally absorbs carbon when plants and algae photosynthesize. But the long-awaited report from the U.N.'s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, a consortium of scientists representing virtually every country, makes clear that averting catastrophe now will require us to develop measurable, surefire ways to suck CO2 from the air and return it to the ground."**

Steven Erlanger and Somini Sengupta, "Europe Unveils Plan to Shift From Fossil Fuels, Setting Up Potential Trade Spats: The proposal would impose tariffs on some imports from countries with looser environmental rules. It would also mean the end of sales in the European Union of new gas- and diesel-powered cars in just 14 years," *The New York Times*, July 14, 2021, [https://www.nytimes.com/2021/07/14/world/europe/climate-change-carbon-green-new-deal.html?campaign\\_id=54&emc=edit\\_clim\\_20210714&instance\\_id=35319&nl=climate-fwd%3A&regi\\_id=52235981&segment\\_id=63444&te=1&user\\_id=2984790c14170290245238c0cd4fd927](https://www.nytimes.com/2021/07/14/world/europe/climate-change-carbon-green-new-deal.html?campaign_id=54&emc=edit_clim_20210714&instance_id=35319&nl=climate-fwd%3A&regi_id=52235981&segment_id=63444&te=1&user_id=2984790c14170290245238c0cd4fd927), reported, "In what may be a seminal moment in the global effort to fight climate change, **Europe on Wednesday challenged the rest of the world by laying out an ambitious blueprint to pivot away from fossil fuels over the next nine years, a plan that also has the potential to set off global trade disputes.**

**The most radical, and possibly contentious, proposal would impose tariffs on certain imports from countries with less stringent climate-protection rules. The proposals also**

include eliminating the sales of new gas- and diesel-powered cars in just 14 years, and raising the price of using fossil fuels."

The EU plan calls for reducing its emissions of greenhouse gas emissions by 55 percent of 1990 levels by 2030."

The old, obsolete power grid in the United States, in some locations, is already unable to handle the new requirements of green energy, in some instances making solar and other installations useless, and seriously retarding the needed rapid green energy growth. A huge current critical need is for power grid upgrade nation-wide. "Old Power Gear Is Slowing Use of Clean Energy and Electric Cars: Some people and businesses seeking to use solar panels, batteries and electric vehicles find they can't because utility equipment needs an upgrade," *The New York Times*, October 28, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/10/28/business/energy-environment/electric-grid-overload-solar-ev.html> reported, "President Biden is pushing lawmakers and regulators to wean the United States from fossil fuels and counter the effects of climate change. But his ambitious goals could be upended by aging transformers and dated electrical lines that have made it hard for homeowners, local governments and businesses to use solar panels, batteries, electric cars, heat pumps and other devices that can help reduce greenhouse gas emissions."

Much of the equipment on the electric grid was built decades ago and needs to be upgraded. It was designed for a world in which electricity flowed in one direction — from the grid to people. Now, homes and businesses are increasingly supplying energy to the grid from their rooftop solar panels."

"Recent discovery may give solar cells 1,000% more power," *mining.com*, September 23, 2021, <https://www.mining.com/recent-discovery-may-give-solar-cells-a-thousand-times-more-power/>, reported, "Lopburi solar farm in Thailand. (Reference image by Asian Development Bank, Flickr).

Researchers at Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg achieved an increase in the photovoltaic effect of ferroelectric crystals by a factor of 10 by creating crystalline layers of barium titanate, strontium titanate and calcium titanate, which they alternately placed on top of one another.

Their findings, which were published in the journal *Science Advances*, could significantly increase the efficiency of solar cells."

Jenna McGuire, "Climate-Driven Weather Disasters Increased Fivefold Over Past 50 Years: UN Agency Report finds extreme weather has killed more than 2 million people and cost \$3.64 trillion in economic damages since 1970," *Common Dreams*, September 1, 2021, [https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/09/01/climate-driven-weather-disasters-increased-fivefold-over-past-50-years-un-agency?utm\\_term=AO&utm\\_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_content=email&utm\\_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_medium=Email](https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/09/01/climate-driven-weather-disasters-increased-fivefold-over-past-50-years-un-agency?utm_term=AO&utm_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_content=email&utm_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_medium=Email), reported, "The number of extreme weather disasters driven by the climate crisis has increased fivefold over the past 50 years, killing more than two million people and costing \$3.64 trillion in total losses, a United Nations agency said on Wednesday."

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) says its "Atlas" report ([https://library.wmo.int/index.php?lvl=notice\\_display&id=21930#.YS\\_\\_5S1h2in](https://library.wmo.int/index.php?lvl=notice_display&id=21930#.YS__5S1h2in)) is the most comprehensive review of mortality and economic losses from extreme climate and weather incidents ever produced. It surveyed some 11,000 events between 1970 and 2019.

**The report highlights major catastrophes such as Ethiopia's 1983 drought—the single most fatal event with 300,000 deaths—and Hurricane Katrina in 2005, which was the most economically costly, with losses of \$163.6 billion.**

The report finds that from 1970 to 2019, weather, climate, and water hazards accounted for 50% of all disasters, 45% of all reported deaths, and 74% of all reported economic losses.

**'The number of weather, climate, and water extremes are increasing and will become more frequent and severe in many parts of the world as a result of climate change,'** said WMO Secretary-General Petteri Taalas.

'That means more heatwaves, drought, and forest fires such as those we have observed recently in Europe and North America. We have more water vapor in the atmosphere, which is exacerbating extreme rainfall and deadly flooding. The warming of the oceans has affected the frequency and area of existence of the most intense tropical storms,' Taalas continued.

The report finds that **more than 91% of the two million deaths occurred in developing countries**, where there is weaker infrastructure and warning systems. The leading cause of death was drought, followed by storms, floods, and extreme temperatures.

**While deaths from extreme weather events have decreased almost threefold from 1970 to 2019 due to improved disaster reporting, economic losses are rapidly skyrocketing.**

According to the report, **economic losses have increased sevenfold, surging from \$175.4 billion in the 1970s to \$1.38 trillion in the 2010s.**

An average of \$202 million in damage occurred every day from 1970 to 2019, storms being the most prevalent cause of damage, resulting in the largest economic losses around the globe.

**Three of the costliest 10 disasters occurred in 2017: Hurricanes Harvey (\$96.9 billion), Maria (\$69.4 billion), and Irma (\$58.2 billion).**

The report reveals crucial lessons from the past 50 years and makes a number of recommendations to governments, including:

**Review hazard exposure and vulnerability considering a changing climate to reflect that tropical cyclones may have different tracks, intensity, and speed than in the past;**

**Strengthen disaster risk financing mechanisms at national to international levels, especially for least developed countries and small island developing states and territories;**

**Develop integrated and proactive policies on slow-onset disasters such as drought.**

**'More lives are being saved thanks to early warning systems but it is also true that the number of people exposed to disaster risk is increasing due to population growth in hazard-exposed areas and the growing intensity and frequency of weather events,'** said Mami Mizutori, special representative of the secretary-general for disaster risk reduction and head of U.N. Office for Disaster Risk Reduction.

**'More international cooperation is needed to tackle the chronic problem of huge numbers of people being displaced each year by floods, storms, and drought,'** Mizutori added. **'We need greater investment in comprehensive disaster risk management ensuring that climate change adaptation is integrated in national and local disaster risk reduction strategies.'**

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Julia Conley, "Environmental Threats Rapidly Becoming 'Single Greatest Challenge to Human Rights': UN: The planetary crisis is 'impacting a broad range of rights, including the rights to adequate food, water, education, housing, health, development, and even life itself,' said the U.N.'s top rights expert," *Common Dreams*, September 13, 2021, [https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/09/13/environmental-threats-rapidly-becoming-single-greatest-challenge-human-rights-un?utm\\_term=AO&utm\\_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_content=email&utm\\_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_medium=Email](https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/09/13/environmental-threats-rapidly-becoming-single-greatest-challenge-human-rights-un?utm_term=AO&utm_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_content=email&utm_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_medium=Email), reported, **The climate crisis and other environmental calamities are quickly becoming the greatest threat to human rights across the globe, the United Nations' top rights expert said Monday.**

At the 48th session of the U.N. Human Rights Council, High Commissioner Michelle Bachelet warned that **'the triple planetary crises of climate change, pollution, and nature loss is directly and severely impacting a broad range of rights, including the rights to adequate food, water, education, housing, health, development, and even life itself.'**

**'As these environmental threats intensify, they will constitute the single greatest challenge to human rights in our era,'** she said.

Bachelet's comments came weeks after the U.N. identified Madagascar's current hunger crisis as quickly becoming the world's first famine driven almost entirely by the climate crisis, as the heating of the planet has caused the country's years-long drought.

'Extreme and murderous climate events' have been recorded in regions across the world, Bachelet said, pointing to record-breaking rainfall and flash flooding in countries including Germany, Turkey, and China; an Arctic heat wave that scientists linked to a cold snap in North America that led to a deadly deep freeze and power outage in Texas; and 'interminable drought' across much of the world that has displaced millions.

**Such crises are intensifying conflicts in places including northern Africa's Sahel region, where desertification and long droughts—often followed by dangerous flash flooding—have run up against 'weak governance of natural resources; long-standing patterns of poverty and inequalities; inadequate access to basic services; and high rates of youth unemployment and discrimination against minorities, women and girls.'**

**'These trends compel people into displacement, aggravate conflicts and political instability, and fuel recruitment by violent extremist groups,'** said Bachelet. **'In such a situation it should be clear that there can be no purely military solution to the conflicts in the region.'**

**Environmental threats have led to the displacement of four million people across the Sahel region,** according to the U.N., with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) saying the area is facing 'an exceptional crisis.'

The commissioner **also identified countries including China, India, and Bangladesh as facing widespread 'disaster displacement,' with 20 million people in Bangladesh expected to be forced from their homes by 2050 as 17% of the country becomes "submerged by rising sea levels.'**

"Forecasts of this gravity and impact—including on displacement—cannot be ignored by any policymaker, anywhere," Bachelet said. "They will have cascading economic, social, cultural, and political effects that will impact every society in the world."

In addition to the long-term effects of drought and the heating of the planet driven by continued fossil fuel extraction, the commissioner noted that **air pollution—'fueled by the same**

patterns of unsustainable consumption and production as climate change'—is responsible for an estimated one in six of all premature deaths around the world.

The 33 countries found to be at 'extremely high risk' for hazards including air pollution, according to a report issued by UNICEF last month, emit only 9% of global carbon emissions and are home to 2.2 billion children—meaning those countries least responsible for the climate crisis are most at risk for the human rights threats it is causing.

As Bachelet made her statement on the climate emergency's effect on human rights, Amnesty International joined **more than 1,000 civil society groups in calling on the Human Rights Council to 'recognize a safe, clean, healthy, and sustainable environment as a universal human right.'**

**'Governments' failure to act on climate change in the face of overwhelming scientific evidence may well be the biggest intergenerational human rights violation in history,'** said Agnès Callamard, secretary general of Amnesty International. 'As the primary global human rights body, the HRC must use all the tools at its disposal to counter the crisis. We call on all states to support recognition of the right to a healthy environment, at the U.N. and at national level. Those who do not will be on the wrong side of history and standing against the common future of humanity'

Bachelet looked ahead to the 2021 U.N. Climate Change Conference (COP 26), taking place in Glasgow, Scotland in November, where she said she will be 'strongly advocating more ambitious, rights-based and inclusive climate action.'

The commissioner's statement amplified a call from more than 100 nations in the Global South earlier this year in which government officials and experts demanded \$100 billion in climate financing and net-zero emissions targets 'with end-dates well before 2050' in order to 'take responsibility' for rich nations' disproportionate role in causing the planetary emergency.

'States' human rights obligations require them to cooperate toward the progressive realization of human rights globally, and this clearly should include adequate financing by those who can best afford it of climate change mitigation, adaptation, and loss and damage,' said Bachelet.

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"'So Many Dimensions': A Drought Study Underlines the Complexity of Climate: Low rainfall has caused a humanitarian crisis in Madagascar, but common assumptions about drought didn't hold up to scrutiny," *The New York Times*, December 1, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/12/01/climate/climate-change-madagascar-drought.html>, reported that the **two consecutive years of severe drought ruining harvests and bringing a huge humanitarian crisis does not appear to be caused by climate change, according to recent scientific analysis. "Rainfall in the hard-hit south of Madagascar naturally fluctuates quite a lot, the researchers said, and they did not find that a warming climate was making prolonged droughts significantly more likely."**

Jessica Corbett, "Climate Emergency May Displace 216 Million Within Countries by 2050: World Bank" "The Groundswell report is a stark reminder of the human toll of climate change, particularly on the world's poorest—those who are contributing the least to its causes," *Common Dreams*, September 13, 2021, <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/36248>, reported, **"Underscoring the necessity of immediate and sweeping action to take on the climate emergency, a World**

**Bank report revealed Monday that 216 million people across six global regions could be forced to move within their countries by midcentury.**

*Groundswell Part 2: Acting on Internal Climate Migration* (<https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/36248>) includes analyses for East Asia and the Pacific, North Africa, and Eastern Europe and Central Asia, building on a modeling approach from a 2018 report that covered Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, and Latin America.

**'The *Groundswell* report is a stark reminder of the human toll of climate change, particularly on the world's poorest—those who are contributing the least to its causes,'** said Juergen Voegelé, vice president of sustainable development at the World Bank, in a statement.

**The report's highest projection is for Sub-Saharan Africa, which could see up to 86 million internal climate migrants by 2050, followed by East Asia and the Pacific (49 million), South Asia (40 million), North Africa (19 million), Latin America (17 million), and Eastern Europe and Central Asia (five million). The 216 million figure is a worst-case scenario total for the six regions,** Voegelé explained in the report's introduction.

**'It's important to note that this projection is not cast in stone,'** he wrote. **"If countries start now to reduce greenhouse gases, close development gaps, restore vital ecosystems, and help people adapt, internal climate migration could be reduced by up to 80%—to 44 million people by 2050."**

**"A low-carbon economy is cheaper than the costs of climate change, a report says,"** *The New York Times*, September 22, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/09/22/business/europe-climate-change-cost.html>, reported **that a new European Central Bank report again exposes the extremely high financial and human cost of failing to act quickly and efficiently on climate change. "Banks and companies in the eurozone risk economic loss and financial instability,** the central bank said Wednesday as it published the results of its first economy-wide climate stress test (<https://www.ecb.europa.eu/pub/pdf/scpops/ecb.op281~05a7735b1c.en.pdf?278f6135a442cd0105488513e77e3e6d>), part of a major effort by policymakers to support the transition to a net-zero carbon world.

**By the end of the century, more frequent and severe natural disasters could shrink the region's economy by 10 percent if no new policies to mitigate climate change are introduced, the report said. By comparison, the costs of transition would be no more than 2 percent of gross domestic product."**

Brett Wilkins, "2020 Was Deadliest-Ever Year for Environmental Defenders: Report: 'Fighting the climate crisis carries an unbearably heavy burden for some, who risk their lives to save the forests, rivers, and biospheres that are essential to counteract unsustainable global warming.'" *Common Dreams*, September 13, 2021, [https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/09/13/2020-was-deadliest-ever-year-environmental-defenders-report?utm\\_term=AO&utm\\_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_content=email&utm\\_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_medium=Email](https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/09/13/2020-was-deadliest-ever-year-environmental-defenders-report?utm_term=AO&utm_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_content=email&utm_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_medium=Email), reported, **"A record 227 environmental defenders were murdered last year—with over half of these killings perpetrated in Colombia, Mexico, and the Philippines—**according to a report published Monday by Global Witness.

The international human rights group, which has been tracking and reporting lethal attacks on environmental activists since 2012, said it **recorded an average of more than four such killings per week in 2020, 'making it once again the most dangerous year on record for people defending their homes, land and livelihoods, and ecosystems vital for biodiversity and the climate.'**

**'A grim picture has come into focus—with the evidence suggesting that as the climate crisis intensifies, violence against those protecting their land and our planet also increases,'** Global Witness said in an introduction to the report (pdf). "It has become clear that the unaccountable exploitation and greed driving the climate crisis is also driving violence against land and environmental defenders."

**The 227 lethal attacks represent a 7% increase over the 212 deaths recorded by Global Witness in last year's report. As in 2019, Colombia witnessed the highest number of slain land defenders, with 65 murders reported, followed by Mexico with 30 killings—a 67% increase from 2019—and the Philippines, where 29 activists were murdered.**

**Brazil, with 20 slain land defenders, and Honduras, which saw 17 such killings, rounded out the top five deadliest countries for environmental activists. On a per capita basis, Nicaragua, Honduras, Colombia, Guatemala, and the Philippines were the five deadliest nations for land defenders last year.**

According to the report, **'over a third of the attacks were reportedly linked to resource exploitation—logging, mining, and large-scale agribusiness—and hydroelectric dams and other infrastructure,'** although "this figure is likely to be higher as the reasons behind these attacks are often not properly investigated nor reported on."

**Once again, native land defenders were disproportionately targeted, 'with over a third of all fatal attacks targeting Indigenous people, despite only making up 5% of the world's population.'**

**'Indigenous peoples were the target of five of the seven mass killings recorded in 2020,'** the publication added. "In the most shocking of these, nine Tumandok Indigenous people were killed and a further 17 arrested in raids by the military and police on the 30th of December on the island of Panay in the Philippines. Numerous reports state that these communities were targeted for their opposition to a mega-dam project on the Jalaur river."

Additionally, **'28 of the victims killed in 2020 were state officials or park rangers, attacked whilst working to protect the environment.'** Such attacks were documented in eight countries: Brazil, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Guatemala, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Uganda.

**Global Witness partially blames rapacious corporations, which are "operating with almost complete impunity," for lethal attacks on land defenders.**

**'Because the balance of power is stacked in the favor of corporations, and against communities and individuals, these companies are seldom held to account for the consequences of their commercial activities,'** the report states. "It's rare that anyone is arrested or brought to court for killing defenders. When they are it's usually the trigger-men—the ones holding the guns, not those who might be otherwise implicated, directly or indirectly, in the crime."

**The report recommends that governments pass laws to 'hold corporations accountable for their actions and profits.'** It also urges the United Nations, through its member states, to **'formally recognize the human right to a safe, healthy, and sustainable environment.'**

Additionally, **countries should 'protect land and environmental defenders in the context of business by ensuring effective and robust regulatory protection of the environment, labor rights, land rights, Indigenous peoples' rights, livelihoods, and cultures,' while 'any legislation used to criminalize defenders should be declared null and void.'**

The report also calls on businesses 'to ensure they are not contributing to or profiting from human rights and land rights harms across their supply chains and operations.'

Global Witness senior campaigner Chris Madden said in a statement that governments must 'get serious about protecting defenders,' and that companies must start 'putting people and planet before profit.'

Madden called the new report 'another stark reminder that fighting the climate crisis carries an unbearably heavy burden for some, who risk their lives to save the forests, rivers, and biospheres that are essential to counteract unsustainable global warming.'

**Meanwhile, land defenders fight on—and instead of deterring activism, the attacks often motivate even greater action.**

'People sometimes ask me what I'm going to do, whether I'm going to stay here and keep my mother's fight alive,' said Malungelo Xhakaza, the daughter of South African activist Fikile Ntshangase, who was shot dead in her home in front of her family last October after helping lead the campaign against the Tendele Coal Mine.

'I'm too proud of her to let it die,' Xhakaza added. 'I know the dangers—we all know the dangers. But I've decided to stay. I'm going to join the fight.'

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Brett Wilkins, "Concern Grows for Mexican Land Defender Irma Galindo Barrios, Missing Nearly 3 Weeks: 'Her disappearance adds to the already long list of attacks... which from December 2018 to July 2021 have claimed the lives of 93 human rights defenders who have been assassinated,'" *Common Dreams*, November 16, 2021, [https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/11/16/concern-grows-mexican-land-defender-irma-galindo-barrios-missing-nearly-3-weeks?utm\\_term=AO&utm\\_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_content=email&utm\\_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_medium=Email](https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/11/16/concern-grows-mexican-land-defender-irma-galindo-barrios-missing-nearly-3-weeks?utm_term=AO&utm_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_content=email&utm_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_medium=Email), reported, **"Human rights defenders in Mexico's Oaxaca state and beyond are demanding the safe return of an Indigenous forest defender who disappeared nearly three weeks ago after years of activism against illegal logging and corrupt local officials who enable and profit from it.**

**'Irma has revealed the depredation of the forest, as well as the corruption and collusion between loggers and authorities who illegally act against those who defend the territory.'**

Irma Galindo Barrios, a 38-year-old Mixteca woman from Mier y Terán in San Esteban Atlatlahuca municipality, was last seen alive on October 27, according to the National Network of Human Rights Defenders in Mexico (RNDDHM). She was meant to attend the Government Mechanism to Protect Human Rights Defenders and Journalists conference in Mexico City, but never arrived."

**The Federal Court of Australia agreed with 8 petitioning teenagers that the country must protect its young people from climate change, in prohibiting the environmental**

minister from expanding the Vickery Coal Mine in New South Wales" *Cultural Survival Quarterly*, December 2021).

Brad Plumer, "Fossil-Fuel Use Could Peak in Just a Few Years. Still, Major Challenges Loom: The world has made progress in the fight against climate change, with wind, solar and other clean technologies taking off. But more is needed to avert catastrophe, a new report finds," *The New York Times*, October 13, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/10/13/climate/global-fossil-fuel-use.html>, reported, "**Clean energy technologies such as wind turbines, solar panels and electric vehicles are advancing so rapidly that the global use of fossil fuels is now expected to peak by the mid-2020s and then start declining, the world's leading energy agency said Tuesday.**

**But there's a catch: The transition away from coal, oil and natural gas still isn't happening fast enough to avoid dangerous levels of global warming, the agency said, at least not unless governments take much stronger action to reduce their planet-warming carbon dioxide emissions over the next few years"**

Brad Plumer, "Fossil Fuel Drilling Plans Undermine Climate Pledges, U.N. Report Warns: Countries are planning to produce more than twice as much oil, gas and coal through 2030 as would be needed if governments want to limit global warming to Paris Agreement goals." *The New York Times*, October 20, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/10/20/climate/fossil-fuel-drilling-pledges.html>, reportee, "**Even as world leaders vow to take stronger action on climate change, many countries are still planning to dramatically increase their production of oil, gas and coal in the decades ahead, potentially undermining those lofty pledges, according to a United Nations-backed report released Tuesday.**

**The report looked at future mining and drilling plans in 15 major fossil fuel producing countries, including the United States, Saudi Arabia, Russia, Canada, China, India and Norway. Taken together, those countries are currently planning to produce more than twice as much oil, gas and coal through 2030 as would be needed if governments want to limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) above preindustrial levels."**

**President Biden had to reduce his \$3.5 trillion build back better plan to \$1.85 trillion to try to get something passed in Congress. With negotiations still in progress in the Senate, on October 28, 2021, here is what the reduced plan does on the environment. Tony Romm, Amy Goldstein and Dino Grandoni, "Here's what is in the \$1.85 trillion Biden budget plan: Taxes, climate, health care and child care would all see substantial changes if Democrats approve the package," The Washington Post, October 28, 2021, [https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2021/10/28/biden-spending-plan-what-is-in-it/?utm\\_campaign=wp\\_post\\_most&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=newsletter&wpisrc=nl\\_most&carta-url=https%3A%2F%2Fs2.washingtonpost.com%2Fcar-ln-tr%2F351f4af%2F617aca6d9d2fda9d4128d124%2F596beb869bbc0f403f9afb9a%2F9%2F72%2F617aca6d9d2fda9d4128d124](https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2021/10/28/biden-spending-plan-what-is-in-it/?utm_campaign=wp_post_most&utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletter&wpisrc=nl_most&carta-url=https%3A%2F%2Fs2.washingtonpost.com%2Fcar-ln-tr%2F351f4af%2F617aca6d9d2fda9d4128d124%2F596beb869bbc0f403f9afb9a%2F9%2F72%2F617aca6d9d2fda9d4128d124), reported on the environment, "**The Biden administration aims to secure \$555 billion in spending to address climate change, an amount the White House says makes the bill the biggest clean energy investment in the nation's history.****

**• The bulk of the clean energy measures come in the form of tax breaks for companies and consumers that install solar panels, improve the energy efficiency of buildings, and**

**purchase electric vehicles. The EV tax credit in particular could lower the cost of such a vehicle by \$12,500 for a middle-class family, according to the administration.**

- **Additional financial incentives for making the wind turbines and other clean energy equipment domestically and in union-organized factories.**

- **A new Civilian Climate Corps to hire perhaps 300,000 young people to restore forests and wetlands and guard against the effects of rising temperatures."**

**Cut from the original \$3.5 billion proposal, "Clean energy: Many of the aggressive steps Biden and other Democrats hoped to take to further cut emissions, including a comprehensive program to reward electric utilities for switching to renewable energy, have fallen out of the plan due to opposition from Manchin, who represents a coal heavy state. The legislation alone is unlikely to allow the country to meet Biden's goal of cutting greenhouse gas emissions in half below 2005 levels by the end of the decade."**

As of December 15, even the reduced proposal had failed to pass the Senate.

Andrea Germanos, "In Step Toward 'Ensuring a Liveable Climate,' US Announces Boost to Offshore Wind: Interior Secretary Deb Haaland says expansion is crucial to solving climate crisis and building clean energy economy," *Common Dreams*, October 14, 2021, [https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/10/14/step-toward-ensuring-liveable-climate-us-announces-boost-offshore-wind?utm\\_term=AO&utm\\_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_content=email&utm\\_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_medium=Email](https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/10/14/step-toward-ensuring-liveable-climate-us-announces-boost-offshore-wind?utm_term=AO&utm_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_content=email&utm_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_medium=Email), reported,

**"The Biden administration announced Wednesday an expansion of the nation's offshore wind capacity, revealing plans for up to seven leases off the Atlantic, Pacific, and Gulf coasts by 2025.**

'Climate change is the challenge of our lifetime,' Interior Secretary Deb Haaland tweeted Wednesday.

'Stakeholders and advocates like those in the offshore wind industry are a crucial part of the solution,' she said, 'and will help us achieve a clean energy economy.'

A statement from the Interior Department says **the forthcoming lease sales by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) are part of the administration's previously announced goal of deploying 30 gigawatts (GW) of offshore wind energy by 2030.**

**'By developing offshore wind across the country, we can take bold steps toward repowering our nation with renewable energy.'**

**The sales would be for wind farms in the Gulf of Maine, New York Bight, Central Atlantic, and Gulf of Mexico, and off the coasts of the Carolinas, California, and Oregon, the department said."**

First Nations Development Institute reported in an October 1, 2021 E-mail, "Calling on Indigenous Knowledge to Track Climate Change in California"

**A new report from California's Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment shares insights from eight tribes in the state on their own indicators of climate change in their ancestral lands,** reports CapRadio. The article describes how tribal members know from their elders 'what the land used to look like and, therefore, can track through non-academic evidence how it's changed.' Researchers say these perspectives are integral to understanding climate change but have for too long been disregarded because of the 'extremely academic-based' approach of Western science. Read more:

[https://www.caprado.org/articles/2021/09/22/how-indigenous-knowledge-is-changing-the-way-california-tracks-the-effects-of-climate-change/?bbeml=tp-pck9Q6QNPEiuBt3JmyTokQ.jdI0qqZM4kku8bBdsvFS-OA.rJ-IngRjUaEW\\_\\_KYEbU3w4g.lmI3XtEPtZEiNtFqSmntm6Q](https://www.caprado.org/articles/2021/09/22/how-indigenous-knowledge-is-changing-the-way-california-tracks-the-effects-of-climate-change/?bbeml=tp-pck9Q6QNPEiuBt3JmyTokQ.jdI0qqZM4kku8bBdsvFS-OA.rJ-IngRjUaEW__KYEbU3w4g.lmI3XtEPtZEiNtFqSmntm6Q)."

Natasha Brennan, "Nooksack Indian Tribe talks climate plan: 'Protecting the climate is more than just a smaller carbon footprint, it is an action. It is a gift that we can give our children, our grandchildren and our great-grandchildren for generations to come'," *ICT*, October 25, 2021, <https://indiancountrytoday.com/news/nooksack-indian-tribe-talks-climate-plan>, reported, **"The Nooksack Indian Tribe [of Washington State] has contracted to study the impacts of climate change, timber harvests, temperature change and sediment loading on stream temperature, mass wasting (or slope movement), summer flows and winter glacial retention since 2010 and has created adaptation plans for fish, fish habitats, wildlife, Indigenous foods, water supply and water quality.**

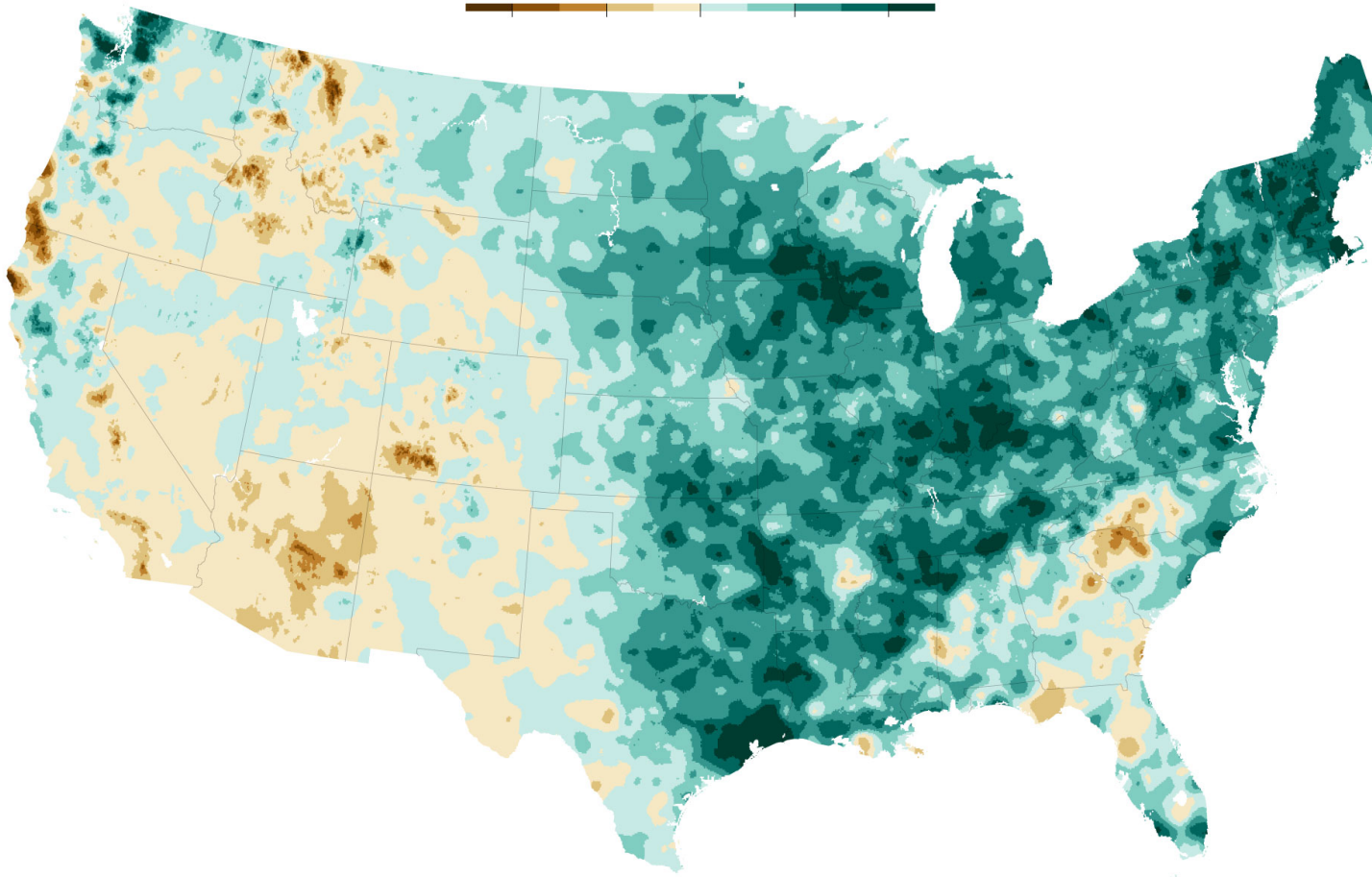
**The tribe and Whatcom County environmental leaders met via Zoom on Oct. 14, to discuss the Tribe's Climate Adaption Plan.** The group highlighted key actions to mitigate climate change and ways the community can help to an audience of over 70 community members."

Lisa Friedman and Coral Davenport, "Amid Extreme Weather, a Shift Among Republicans on Climate Change: Many Republicans in Congress no longer deny that Earth is heating because of fossil fuel emissions. But they say abandoning oil, gas and coal will harm the economy," *The New York Times*, August 14, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/08/13/climate/republicans-climate-change.html>, reported that amid all the climate change damage of extreme weather many **Republican "Members of Congress who long insisted that the climate is changing due to natural cycles have notably adjusted that view, with many now acknowledging the solid science that emissions from burning oil, gas and coal have raised Earth's temperature.**

**But their growing acceptance of the reality of climate change has not translated into support for the one strategy that scientists said in a major United Nations report this week is imperative to avert an even more harrowing future: stop burning fossil fuels. Instead, Republicans want to spend billions to prepare communities to cope with extreme weather, but are trying to block efforts by Democrats to cut the emissions that are fueling the disasters in the first place."**

Aatish Bhatia and Nadja Popovich, "These Maps Tell the Story of Two Americas: One Parched, One Soaked: The country, like most of the world, is becoming both drier and wetter in the era of climate change. It depends where you live," *The New York Times*, August 24, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/08/24/climate/warmer-wetter-world.html>, reported,





**Change in annual average precipitation, in inches**

In the last 30 years, compared to the 20th century

Green is wetter, Brown is drier

shades of color show range:

–4 in.

–2

0

+2

+4"

Source: [NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information](#)"

The following extreme weather reports, though many, are only a sample of the extreme weather events that have been occurring that are consistent with global warming. While only a few of these events can be directly tied to global warming, the pattern of increasing severity of weather and weather related (such as wild fires and landslides) events, and the increasing number of extreme weather and weather related events clearly are related to global warming.

"In New York City, a tropical storm delivered record-breaking rains this weekend. Heavy downpours caused devastating flash floods in central Tennessee, tearing apart houses and killing more than 20 people. Yet, California and much of the West remained in

the deepest drought in at least two decades, the product of a long-term precipitation shortfall and temperatures that are much hotter than usual.

This divide, a wetter East and a drier West, reflects a broader pattern observed in the United States in recent decades," which is caused by global warming induced climate change.

In late October **both the U.S. Northeast and Northwest were hit by unusually strong and wet storms.** In the East, Michael Gold, "Heavy Rain Soaks New York as Storm Pounds the Northeast. With the storm system lingering into Wednesday morning, meteorologists continued to warn of the potential for heavy winds and flash flooding," *The New York Times*, October 27, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/10/26/nyregion/new-york-rain.html>, reported, **"The storm dumped more than three inches of rain in parts of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut on Tuesday, with more expected [up to five inches] through the night.** But as of Tuesday evening, it had yet to match the intensity of the deluge brought by the remnants of Hurricane Ida last month.

Ellen Barry, "Nor'easter Brings Hurricane-Force Winds to Massachusetts: After battering the New York area, the storm knocked out electricity to hundreds of thousands of customers across New England on Wednesday," *The New York Times*, October 27, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/10/27/us/cape-cod-noreaster.html> reported, **"Hurricane-force winds from an early-season nor'easter swept through coastal New England on Wednesday, a day after battering the New York City area, sending trees crashing onto power lines and cutting electricity to hundreds of thousands of households.**

The winds, which gusted to 94 miles per hour on Martha's Vineyard in the pre-dawn hours, picked up a small aircraft at the New Bedford Regional Airport, lifting it over a fence and onto a roadway, and peeled the roof off an apartment building in Quincy, Mass., snapping the eight-inch bolts that held it down."

Power was out for almost 500,000 households in New England.

Kenny Stancil, "In 2021, US on Pace for Most Billion-Dollar Weather Disasters Since Records Began: 'What we are seeing now with these increasing disasters is with just one degree of warming on our planet,' said one scientist. 'We have to choose now between bad or terrible outcomes,'" October 12, 2021, [https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/10/12/2021-us-pace-most-billion-dollar-weather-disasters-records-began?utm\\_term=AO&utm\\_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_content=email&utm\\_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_medium=Email](https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/10/12/2021-us-pace-most-billion-dollar-weather-disasters-records-began?utm_term=AO&utm_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_content=email&utm_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_medium=Email), reported, **"The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration announced Tuesday in its latest monthly report** (<https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/sotc/national/202109>) **that the United States endured 18 'billion-dollar weather and climate disasters'** (<https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/billions/>) **through the first nine months of 2021, putting this year on pace to be among the worst for such catastrophes.**

For decades, scientists have sounded the alarm that extreme weather would become more frequent and intense amid the fossil fuel-driven climate emergency. With 18 calamities costing at least \$1 billion already on the books and three months to go, 2021 is second only to 2020, when there were 22 such events."

As a tropical storm moved up the U.S. East Coast, in August 2021, dumping a record

**of up to 3 inches of rain an hour in some cases, as climate change slows such storms and increases their rainfall, there was record flooding killing at least 20 people in Tennessee and serious flooding further East.** Christopher Flavelle, "How Government Decisions Left Tennessee Exposed to Deadly Flooding: Choices about building rules, insurance programs, flood maps and more put residents at higher risk, according to climate and disaster experts." *The New York Times*, 26, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/08/26/climate/tennessee-flood-damage-impact.html>, reported, "The floods that killed at least 20 people in Tennessee last weekend arrived with shocking speed and force — seemingly a case study of the difficulties of protecting people from explosive rainstorms as climate change gets worse...."

At the end of August 2021, Louisiana was hit by one of the most powerful storms ever known to hit the Gulf Coast. It hit as a category 4 hurricane, almost 5, and while it dropped to a category 2 by the time it reached inland to New Orleans. Climate change bringing hotter air and Gulf water meant that the storm more quickly and fully strengthened as it moved toward land, carried much more water, and moved more slowly inland dropping huge amounts of rain, at times 3 to 4 inches an hour, and continuing the storm surge for a longer period than used to be the case, causing great flooding and significant damage "New Orleans Without Power as Hurricane Ida Batters Louisiana: Ida weakened after it came ashore but continued to threaten the state as areas lost power and heavy rain flooded low-lying regions," *The New York Times*, August 31, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/live/2021/08/29/us/hurricane-ida-live-updates-new-orleans-louisiana>, reported, "**Hurricane Ida battered Louisiana on Sunday with an onslaught of harsh winds and floodwaters, leaving nearly a million people without power including much of New Orleans and at least one person dead.**"

The hurricane made landfall as a powerful Category 4 storm, which weakened to a Category 2 storm on Sunday night with maximum winds of 105 miles per hour. It sent hundreds of thousands of people scrambling to evacuate, and left countless others bracing for survival, in an eerie echo of Hurricane Katrina, which made landfall in Louisiana 16 years ago to the day."

Power is expected to be out for up to several weeks in many areas in very hot weather as damage will take some time to be assessed, and those who evacuated are asked by the Louisiana governor to stay away from home until conditions eventually are improved. In addition, water service has been interrupted or greatly reduced in many areas of Louisiana and this may remain the case for some time. The storm continued north as a tropical depression dropping huge amounts of rain and causing flooding.

Ida also shut down for what could be a considerable time a large piece of the U.S. oil industry, which is located along the Gulf coast, raising gas prices. More serious, Hiroko Tabuchi, "Lack of Power Hinders Assessment of Toxic Pollution Caused by Ida," *The New York Times*, September 1, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/09/01/climate/hurricane-ida-toxic-pollution.html>, reported, "**A fertilizer plant battered by Hurricane Ida belched highly toxic anhydrous ammonia into the air. Two damaged gas pipelines leaked isobutane and propylene, flammable chemicals that are hazardous to human health. And a plastic plant that lost power in the storm's aftermath is emitting ethylene dichloride, yet another toxic substance.**"

Early incident reports filed with the federal authorities are starting to paint a clearer picture of the damage wrought by the hurricane to Louisiana's industrial corridor,

complicating relief efforts and adding to the conditions that make it perilous for residents to return.

**An analysis of facility records and power outage data shows that at least 138 industrial sites that handle large amounts of hazardous substances are in and around parishes that have completely lost power, forcing facilities to rely on precarious backup power systems."** It will take some time to assess the extent of the toxic pollution resulting from Ida.

"Tribes 'still feeling effects' of Hurricane Ida: 'The damage in our tribal communities is overwhelming and we do not yet have a full grasp on the impacts,'" *ICT*, August 30, 2021, <https://indiancountrytoday.com/news/tribes-still-feeling-effects-of-hurricane-ida>, reported on Hurricane Ida.

"Prior to the hurricane making landfall, **the United Houma Nation in Louisiana**, urged its citizens to fill out a 'check-in form' on the tribe's website. The tribe intends to use the form to most efficiently communicate with those affected by the storm and the information will also help to receive relief funds.

**'The damage in our tribal communities is overwhelming and we do not yet have a full grasp on the impacts. We pray for everyone to find peace and calm in a safe place soon,'** the tribe posted. 'Tomorrow is time to roll up the sleeves and get to work. A small group stayed at the tribal office in Houma to be on the ground immediately. We have damage, but an intact roof. We will be working on clean up and assessing the full damage in the light of day to relay your needs to funders and other resources. Many of you evacuated out of town and are looking for word about the community. We will provide updates as soon as we can.'

**"In the neighboring state of Mississippi, the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians partially activated its Emergency Operation Center on Sunday.**

**Despite the hurricane being downgraded to a tropical storm, the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians remain hopeful the worst has passed.**

**'We are still feeling the effects of Tropical Storm Ida as she pushes through our northern Tribal communities, and we are hopeful that our Tribal lands are not heavily impacted,'** the tribe's statement says. 'We extend our prayers to **all our neighbors and Tribes in the Louisiana regions who have been hit hard by Hurricane Ida.**'"

"After Hurricane Ida, Oil Infrastructure Springs Dozens of Leaks," *The New York Times*, Blacki Migliozi and Hiroko Tabuchi Sept. 26, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/09/26/climate/ida-oil-spills.html>, reported, **"When Hurricane Ida barreled into the Louisiana coast with near 150 mile-per-hour winds on Aug. 30, it left a trail of destruction. The storm also triggered the most oil spills detected from space after a weather event in the Gulf of Mexico since the federal government started using satellites to track spills and leaks a decade ago."**

[On line, the article shows a time flow changing map from space of Oil spills seen after Hurricane Ida]

**"In the two weeks after Ida, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration issued a total of 55 spill reports, including a spill near a fragile nature reserve. It underscores the frailty of the region's offshore oil and gas infrastructure to intensifying storms fueled by climate change."**

**Ida also caused an oil spill off the Louisiana, discovered by satellite, with the source of the spill and its size not yet determined** on September 4, 2021 (Hiroko Tabuchi and Blacki Migliozi, "Satellite Images Find 'Substantial' Oil Spill in Gulf After Ida: Satellite and aerial survey images show oil spreading off the coast of an oil and gas hub in Louisiana," *The New York Times*, September 4, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/09/04/climate/oil-spill-hurricane-ida.html>).

Blacki Migliozi and Hiroko Tabuchi, "After Hurricane Ida, Oil Infrastructure Springs Dozens of Leaks," *The New York Times*, September 26, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/09/26/climate/ida-oil-spills.html>, reported, **"When Hurricane Ida barreled into the Louisiana coast with near 150 mile-per-hour winds on Aug. 30, it left a trail of destruction. The storm also triggered the most oil spills detected from space after a weather event in the Gulf of Mexico since the federal government started using satellites to track spills and leaks a decade ago."**

With 55 oil spills, "That's unprecedented, based on our 10 year record," said Ellen Ramirez, who oversees NOAA's round-the-clock satellite detection of marine pollution, including oil spills. 'Ida has had the most significant impact to offshore drilling. since the program began, she said."

**The Gulf oil infrastructure is increasingly unable to cope with climate change as it brings more and more fierce storms.**

As Ida, by then a tropical depression continued north, with its global warming caused greater than previous water content and slow movement, it continued to cause tremendous downpours for considerable time resulting in much serious, and sometimes much more rapid flooding than in previous major rainstorms. This included in New York state where one town took the heaviest flooding in many year, but much more rapidly than previously, while New York City and vicinity was hard hit. Julia Conley, "'I'm Asking for a Green New Deal!' At Least 14 Dead as Floods Devastate New York City Area: 'I never want to hear anyone say that a Green New Deal is too expensive ever again,' said one scientist as New York City ground to a halt," *Common Dreams*, September 2, 2021, [https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/09/02/im-asking-green-new-deal-least-14-dead-floods-devastate-new-york-city-](https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/09/02/im-asking-green-new-deal-least-14-dead-floods-devastate-new-york-city-area?utm_term=AO&utm_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_content=email&utm_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_medium=Email)

[area?utm\\_term=AO&utm\\_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_content=email&utm\\_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_medium=Email](https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/09/02/im-asking-green-new-deal-least-14-dead-floods-devastate-new-york-city-area?utm_term=AO&utm_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_content=email&utm_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_medium=Email), reported, **"Desperate calls for far-reaching climate action came from New York City Wednesday night and into Thursday as the city and the surrounding area was inundated with the remnants of Hurricane Ida—causing partial building collapses, severely flooded subway stations and homes, and the deaths of at least 14 people.**

'I'm asking for a Green New Deal!' tweeted Ellen Sciales, communications director for the Sunrise Movement, as she shared a video showing several feet of water flooding her own home.

A two-year-old was among those who were found unconscious by emergency workers in homes in New York and New Jersey, after authorities responded to calls about flooding.

'When do we start caring about the climate crisis and stop pretending like we've done enough in New York?' asked Democratic New York state Sen. Alessandra Biaggi in response to a video of a flooded subway station.

**All of the city's subway lines were suspended Wednesday night.**

**As the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change said last month, the warming of the planet is causing hurricanes to dump more rain on impacted areas when the storms hit. The atmosphere can hold 7% more water for every 1.8° Fahrenheit (1° Celsius) of warming, increasing precipitation. The planet is already about 2° Fahrenheit warmer than it was in the 19th century as a result of fossil fuel extraction.**

**New York City saw a record-breaking 3.24 inches of rain in a single day on Wednesday, and at least 7.2 inches of rain inundated Newark, New Jersey. Nearly 250,000 people in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Connecticut were without power on Thursday morning.**

Videos showed flooding at Newark Liberty International Airport, where many flights were canceled or delayed.

One terminal looked "like a giant swimming pool," Dr. Lucky Tran of the March for Science tweeted.

**'I never want to hear anyone say that a Green New Deal is too expensive ever again,'** Tran tweeted, referring to the legislation proposed by Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-N.Y.) and Ed Markey (D-Mass.) that would create more than a million jobs and put people to work upgrading U.S. infrastructure, shifting to 100% renewable energy, retrofitting buildings, and taking other actions to mitigate the climate crisis.

Ocasio-Cortez, who represents parts of Queens and the Bronx, said she was going door-to-door in her district Thursday morning to find out how residents were affected.

As the city was drenched Wednesday night, the congresswoman denounced members of both major political parties who have claimed in recent years that a Green New Deal is 'unrealistic.'

New York Gov. Kathy Hochul declared a state of emergency for the state as the rain fell, but as Fossil Free Media director Jamie Henn tweeted, **'What we really need is for [President Joe Biden] to declare a national climate emergency and do everything in his power to address this crisis.'**

**Instead of saying the flooding was caused by Hurricane Ida, Henn added, policymakers and the press alike 'should be saying names like 'Exxon,' 'Chevron,' and 'Shell.'**

**'We need to keep connecting the dots back to the corporations that are fueling this crisis,'** Henn added.

Our work is licensed under Creative Commons (CC BY-NC-ND 3.0)."

Andy Newman, "43 Die as Deadliest Storm Since Sandy Devastates the Northeast: A huge volume of rain overwhelmed the region's infrastructure, showing the lethal impact of climate change," *The New York Times*, September 3, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/09/02/nyregion/ida-flooding-nyc.html>, reported, **"Three days after Hurricane Ida made landfall in Louisiana, its weakened remnants tore into the Northeast and claimed at least 43 lives across New York, New Jersey and two other states [Pennsylvania and Connecticut] in an onslaught that ended Thursday and served as an ominous sign of climate change's capacity to wreak new kinds of havoc.**

**The last storm this deadly in the region, Sandy in 2012, did its damage mostly through tidal surges. But most of this storm's toll — both in human life and property damage — reflected the extent to which the sheer volume of rain simply overwhelmed the infrastructure of a region built for a different meteorological era.**

**Officials warned that the unthinkable was quickly becoming the norm."**

**Climate change has raised oceans and slowed, and in some cases widened, storms, increasing flooding. In October 2021, the Mid-Atlantic U.S. coast experienced record flooding from tidal surge from a slow moving storm** (Sophie Kasakove, "High Tidal Surges Bring Record Floods to the Mid-Atlantic Coast," *The New York Times*, October 12, 2021).

**Climate change has increasingly been bringing longer and more deadly tornado seasons in the U.S., including, Rick Rojas, Jamie McGee, Laura Faith Kebede and Campbell Robertson, "Tornadoes Tear Through South and Midwest, With at Least 70 Dead in Kentucky: Power was out across the region on Saturday, and severe storms were expected to continue," *The New York Times*, December 12, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/12/11/us/kentucky-deadly-tornadoes.html>, reported, "Rescue workers across the middle of the country combed through wreckage for survivors on Saturday after a horde of tornadoes ripped a catastrophic swath from Arkansas through Kentucky. Scores of people were killed in the storms, and officials warned that the toll was almost certain to rise as they sifted through the ruins.**

**The tornadoes tore through at least six states on Friday night, including Arkansas, Illinois, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri and Tennessee,** said Bill Bunting, the operations chief at the Storm Prediction Center, part of the National Weather Service. They crumbled metal like paper, swatted down concrete buildings and threw a freight train off its track."

**One massive tornado a mile wide stayed on the ground a previously unheard of 277 miles in Kentucky. At least 70 people died in Kentucky, alone, with the count very likely to rise as more bodies are found. Power was out for hundreds of thousands of people across the region,** and more severe weather was forecast.

Andrea Germanos, "'Our Atmosphere Is Broken': US Tops Record for Hurricane-Force Winds in a Day: 'The last Dust Bowl stemmed from degradation of the soil,' said writer and activist Bill McKibben. 'This time it's the climate we've upended,'" *Common Dreams*, December 16, 2021, <https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/12/16/our-atmosphere-broken-us-tops-record-hurricane-force-winds-day>, "The United States on Wednesday **had the most hurricane-force gusts ever recorded in a single day after an after an "off the charts" storm system tore through the central part of the country, bringing tornadoes and triggering widespread power outages, dust storms, and warnings of the climate emergency.**

'This is just the kind of thing that happens when you're in the process of breaking the planet's climate system.'

The National Weather Service's Storm Prediction Center said there were 55 such wind events throughout the day, more than ever seen at least since current record-keeping began in 2004."

Salote Soqo, Joshua Leach, "Climate Change Is Triggering a New Refugee Crisis—Inside the US: More than 1.2 million Americans are currently displaced from their homes because of climate change impacts—including increasingly severe storms, wildfires, and flooding," *Common Dreams*, September 22, 2021, <https://www.commondreams.org/views/2021/09/22/climate-change-triggering-new-refugee-crisis-inside->

us?utm\_term=AO&utm\_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\_content=email&utm\_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\_medium=Email, reported, "The headlines in recent weeks read like signs of an impending apocalypse. **Sixteen years to the day since Hurricane Katrina slammed into New Orleans, the Louisiana coast was again battered by Hurricane Ida, one of the strongest storms ever recorded in the state. Wildfires in California have blanketed the western U.S. with smoke, prompting mass evacuations. In New York, floodwaters poured into the subway and through the windows of basement apartments.**

**As the Environmental Protection Agency recently reported, climate change will continue to disproportionately impact people of color, a startling fact that illustrates some worrying patterns.**

While scientists and journalists are quick to point out that no single disaster can be traced directly to climate change, one thing is clear: **storms, wildfires, floods, and related hazards are all becoming more frequent and severe as the planet warms. The worse these climate impacts become, the more people will be forced to move between borders, destabilizing fragile countries and contributing to the rise of xenophobic politicians who undermine the tenets of an inclusive society. Widespread drought and crop failure in Central America, for instance, continue to force people to pull up stakes and make the dangerous journey north to the United States, and far-right politicians have been quick to exploit their suffering to capitalize on misguided fears of immigration.**

But here's the thing: climate-forced displacement isn't just something happening in foreign countries. Instead, it's increasingly occurring here at home, and already forcing hundreds of thousands of Americans to flee their homes, in many cases permanently. As the Environmental Protection Agency recently reported, climate change will continue to disproportionately impact people of color, a startling fact that illustrates some worrying patterns. Most noticeably, these communities will bear the brunt of environmental racism as they are forced to engage with a federal government that does little to prioritize funding to help these communities adapt, rebuild, and/or relocate.

When U.S. politicians discuss the possibility of 'climate migration,' many think of people being forced to abandon their homes in small island nations or desert countries due to rising sea levels or severe droughts. While these problems are real—and call for political action grounded in human rights—an exclusive focus on international migration can be misleading. After all, as the World Bank has noted, **the vast majority of climate-related displacement occurs inside—not between—national boundaries.**

**The United States, in this regard, is no exception. More than 1.2 million Americans are currently displaced from their homes because of climate change impacts—including increasingly severe storms, wildfires, and flooding. Looking at the past decade, the numbers become even more startling. The United States has been hammered by at least 910 ecological disasters in the last 10 years, with nearly 8 million people losing their homes as a result. Recent reporting suggests that some 50 million Americans will be affected by climate migration in the decades ahead.**

**These impacts are felt by Americans from all walks of life, from inhabitants of beach towns in places like the Outer Banks, North Carolina, to residents of inland California and the Pacific Northwest being forced to flee their homes or change their daily lives because of deadly wildfires and historic heatwaves. As with other natural hazards, these effects fall hardest on people already deprived of resources. No one is truly 'safe' from climate change, but the impact will hit some communities harder than others.**



A case in point is the **experience of Americans Indians and Alaska Natives. Of all U.S. residents, Indigenous people—like other communities of color—have often contributed least to the climate crisis in terms of net fossil fuel consumption. Yet, Indigenous communities from Alaska to Louisiana have borne the brunt of first-wave climate migration in the United States due to the inundation of low-lying coasts, shoreline erosion, and the melting of the Arctic permafrost.**

Historically, genocide, settler violence, and forced assimilation policies uprooted generations of Indigenous people from their ancestral homes. Many of these communities survived and even flourished in spite of these attacks; now they face a renewed threat in the form of a climate crisis they did so little to cause.

**The Alaska Native village of Kivalina, for example, currently sits on land to which the federal government forced them to relocate to in the 1950s. Now, that land is melting beneath their feet. The village has been negotiating with the federal and state governments for years about the need to relocate yet again, but so far policymakers have not provided the resources that would enable them to do so.**

**The Biden administration can and should take immediate steps to help respond to climate migration that is already happening—both abroad and inside the U.S.**

**The administration should begin by listening to the communities already facing climate displacement. A number of these frontline communities have crafted concrete policy recommendations for the administration and Congress, including increased federal funding for adaptation-in-place and relocation, and addressing racial disparities in the distribution of federal disaster relief funds.**

Biden can also act on his own to solve a problem that internal government watchdogs first raised more than a decade ago. In 2009, the Government Accountability Office warned that **there is currently no lead federal agency tasked with managing climate displacement when it occurs. Biden could remedy this by creating a new Cabinet-level position or interagency working group to shoulder this task.**

Figuring out how to help people being forced out of their homes by climate change won't be easy, but it's a problem we need to confront head-on. Our country's most historically dispossessed communities are already being hit. Left unaddressed, increasingly large parts of the U.S. will soon be as well.

Our work is licensed under Creative Commons (CC BY-NC-ND 3.0)."

"Climate Change Is Bankrupting America's Small Towns: Repeated shocks from hurricanes, fires and floods are pushing some rural communities, already struggling economically, to the brink of financial collapse." *The New York Times*, September 2, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/09/02/climate/climate-towns-bankruptcy.html>, reported, **"Climate shocks are pushing small rural communities like Fair Bluff, many of which were already struggling economically, to the brink of insolvency. Rather than bouncing back, places hit repeatedly by hurricanes, floods and wildfires are unraveling: residents and employers leave, the tax base shrinks and it becomes even harder to fund basic services."**

**"Their gradual collapse means more than just the loss of identity, history and community. The damage can haunt those who leave, since they often can't sell their old homes at a price that allows them to buy something comparable in a safer place. And it threatens to disrupt neighboring towns and cities as the new arrivals push up demand for housing."**

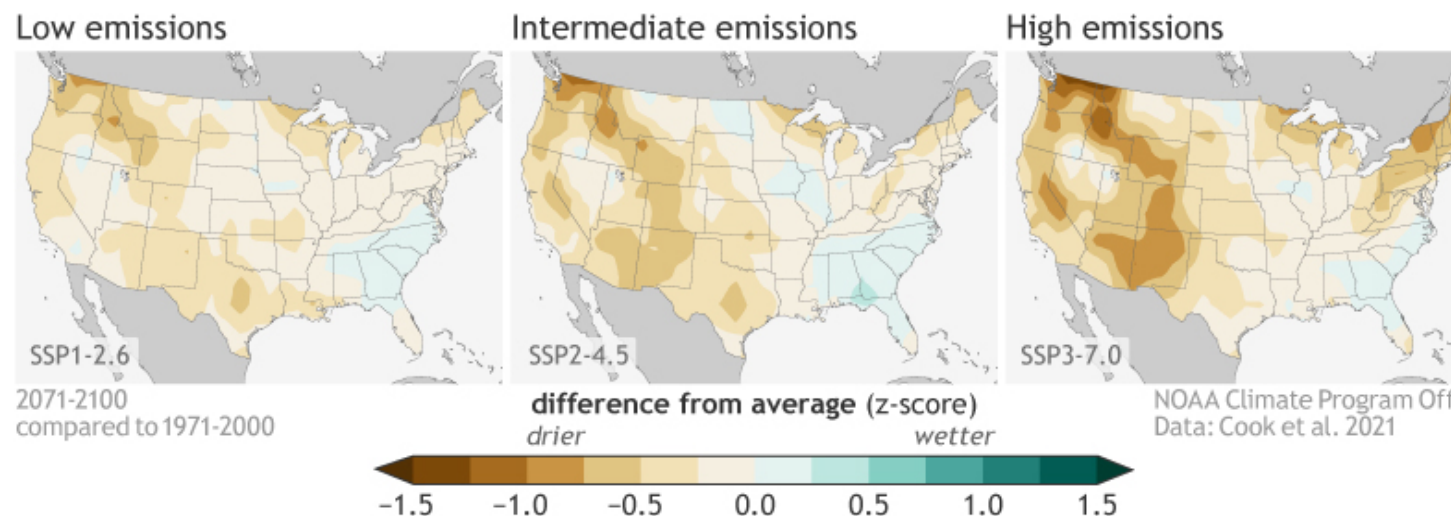
**It was not only hurricanes that caused major, though more localized flooding, in the U.S., as with climate change, the West was hit more frequently by strong thunderstorms in the summer of 2021, which combined with the aftermath of widespread wildfires.** For example, Tierna Unruh-Enos "Flood Watches Continue in West As Mudslide Closes Interstate: More Rain In Forecast For Southwestern States Triggers Flood Warnings," *The Paper*, August 2nd, 2021, [https://abq.news/2021/08/flood-watches-continue-in-west-as-mudslide-closes-interstate/?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=The+Paper.+Subscriber&utm\\_campaign=8e49cee68b-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2021\\_08\\_02\\_10\\_58&utm\\_term=0\\_f8e2121d66-8e49cee68b-68116799&mc\\_cid=8e49cee68b&mc\\_eid=822e39214e](https://abq.news/2021/08/flood-watches-continue-in-west-as-mudslide-closes-interstate/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=The+Paper.+Subscriber&utm_campaign=8e49cee68b-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2021_08_02_10_58&utm_term=0_f8e2121d66-8e49cee68b-68116799&mc_cid=8e49cee68b&mc_eid=822e39214e), reported, **"Mudslides from heavy rains caused "extreme damage" to a major interstate and left it blocked with piles of boulders and logs, Colorado transportation officials said Sunday, as forecasters warned of more flash floods in the coming days across the Rocky Mountain and Great Basin regions.**

**The flood risk was elevated for many areas of the West where recent wildfires burned away vegetation and left hillsides more susceptible to erosion,** the National Weather

Interstate 70 in Glenwood Canyon, Colorado, was closed with no word on when it might re-open after being pounded by flash floods over a three-day period. Lanes in both directions remained blocked by debris that flowed out of the burn scar from a wildfire last year in the Grizzly Creek area."

"Western US Faces Future Of Prolonged Drought Even With Stringent Emissions Control: Southwestern North America Can Expect More Of The Extended, Severe Drought The Area Has Experienced In The Last Two Decades Even Under The Mildest Climate Warming Scenarios, New Research Finds, But Curbing Greenhouse Gas Emissions Is Still Key To Limiting Severity," AGU, September 8, 2021, <https://news.agu.org/press-release/western-us-faces-future-of-prolonged-drought-even-with-stringent-emissions-control/>,

## Change in summer soil moisture, late 21<sup>st</sup> century



**"While the risk of intense single-year droughts increases as greenhouse gas emissions increase in the model results, the risk of multi-year droughts is high regardless of**

**the emissions scenario, according to a new study in Earth's Future.**

Credits: NOAA Climate Program Office / Hunter Allen and Anna Eshelman

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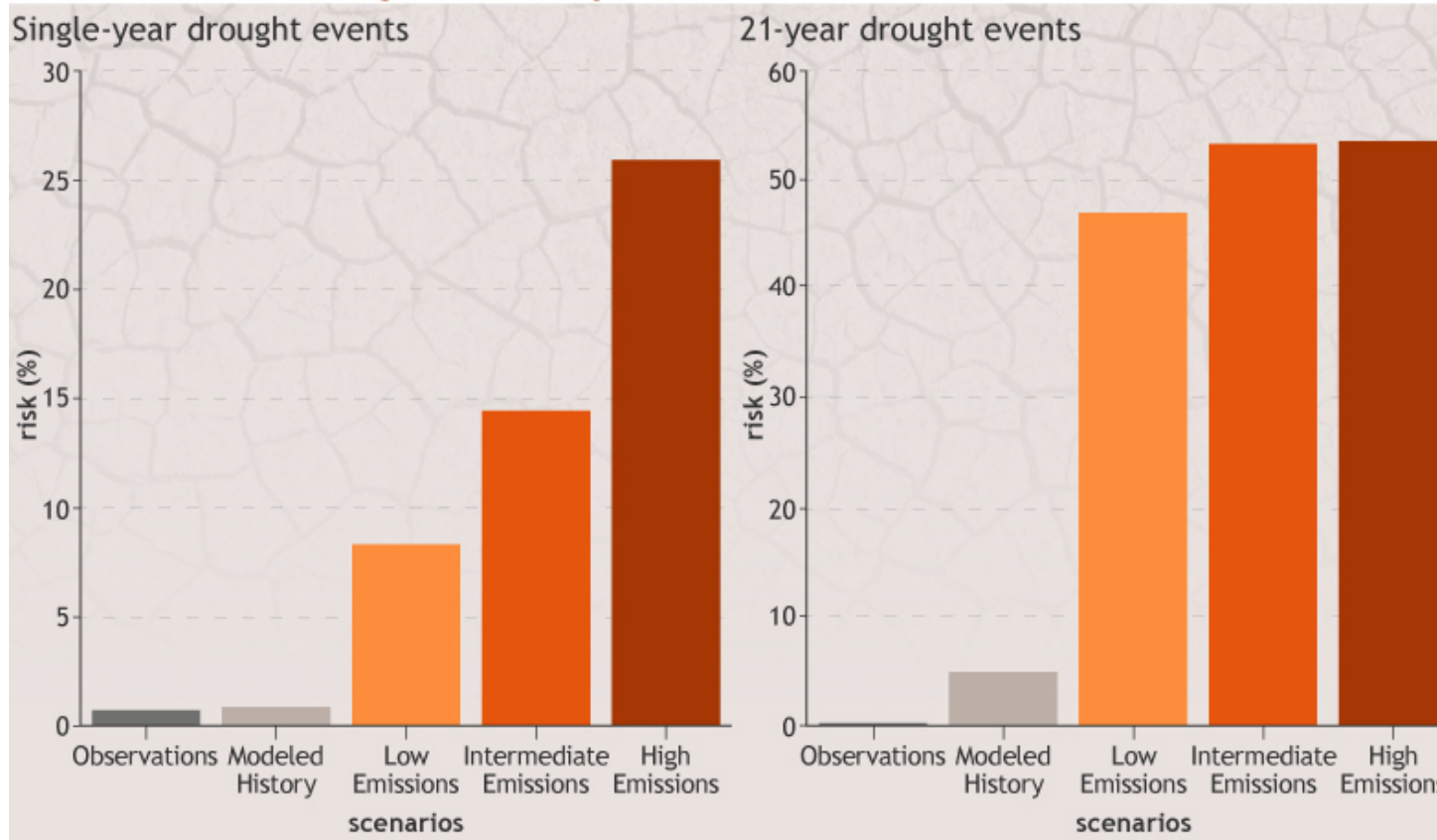
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**Seasonal summer rains have done little to offset drought conditions gripping the western United States, with California and Nevada seeing record July heat and moderate-to-exceptional drought according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).** Now, new research is showing how drought in the region is expected to change in the future, providing stakeholders with crucial information for decision making.

**The western United States is headed for prolonged drought conditions whether greenhouse gas emissions continue to climb or are aggressively reined in, according to the new study published in the, Earth's Future, AGU's peer-reviewed journal for interdisciplinary research on the past, present and future of our planet and its inhabitants. However, the new study also showed the severity of acute, extreme drought events and the overall severity of prolonged drought conditions can be reduced with emissions-curbing efforts compared to a high-emissions future.** This is important information for decision-makers considering two tools they can use to reduce climate impacts: Adaptation and mitigation.

## Risk of extreme drought events by 2100



NOAA Climate Program Office / Data: Cook et al. 2019

As greenhouse gas emissions increase and Earth's temperature rises, new research forecasts the southwestern United States will become drier, with the risk of future soil moisture deficits increasing as emissions increase. From figure 8 of the new study. Credits: NOAA Climate Program Office / Anna Eshelman."

Following the killer, climate change caused, heat waves that hit western North America in June 2021, CNN and the Weather Channel **confirmed the prediction**, Paul Huttner, "Extreme heat wave likely next week across Upper Midwest," NPR News, July 14, 2021, <https://www.mprnews.org/story/2021/07/14/condition-red-extreme-heat-wave-likely-next-week-across-upper-midwest>, reported, "The Weather maps are flashing bright red next week for what could be **the most intense heat wave of summer. If current forecast models pan out, some parts of the Dakotas and western Minnesota could see as much as a week of 100-degree temperatures. And temperatures may reach the 100-degree mark in the Twin Cities late next week.**" - which they did for several days in Minnesota and the Dakotas.

Climate Scientists at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) reported in mid-September 2021 that **5 Western States had suffered the hottest June to August weather in the 127 years of record keeping, in 2021, extending east from California and Oregon through much of the Rockies and Southwest. The record hot weather and drought were predicted to continue into the fall, expanding eastward into Nebraska, parts of Minnesota, and across New Mexico into much of Oklahoma and Texas. Over all, there**

**was no end in sight for the western drought** (Henry Fountain, "Climate Scientists Predict Hot Weather into Fall and Growing Drought," *The New York Times*, September 17, 2021).

**In North Dakota, especially, severe drought was forcing ranchers to sell off cattle before they starve** (Henry Fountain, "A State So Dry Ranchers Are Selling Cows Before They Starve," *The New York Times*, October 12, 2021).

**The same situation occurred in much of Western Canada** (Vjosa Isai and Britt Gundlock, "Canadian Farmers Race to Save cattle from Drought," *The New York Times*, August 5, 2021).

**A heat wave across the Southwest in mid-June 2021, brought record 120 degree Fahrenheit temperature to Phoenix, AZ,** June 19 (Accuweather.com, <http://www.accuweather.com/en/us/phoenix-az/85004/weather-forecast/346935>).

**The far Western United States and much of British Columbia were under a heat dome for two weeks in July 2021 sending temperatures to record levels for many days as high as 116 degrees in Portland, OR, and 121 in British Columbia in the usually much cooler North.** The event, which scientists agree could not have occurred without global warming, has led to hundreds of heat deaths, destroyed crops, killed perhaps hundreds of millions of sea creatures in coastal waters, and spurred a large number of wildfires. Moreover, after a few days respite, as of July 13 temperatures in the far west were on the rise again. The heat is also a threat to a huge number of species in rivers, streams and lakes. While the heating was less serious in the East and Midwest, records were broken for hottest days and nights there too, many in the first part of July, and in **the hottest June on record** (see for example, Catrin Einhorn, "Like in 'Postapocalyptic Movies': Heat Wave Killed Marine Wildlife en Masse: An early estimate points to a huge die-off along the Pacific Coast, and scientists say rivers farther inland are warming to levels that could be lethal for some kinds of salmon," *The New York Times*, July 12, 2021, [https://www.nytimes.com/2021/07/09/climate/marine-heat-wave.html?campaign\\_id=54&emc=edit\\_clim\\_20210714&instance\\_id=35319&nl=climate-fwd%3A&regi\\_id=52235981&segment\\_id=63444&te=1&user\\_id=2984790c14170290245238c0cd4fd927](https://www.nytimes.com/2021/07/09/climate/marine-heat-wave.html?campaign_id=54&emc=edit_clim_20210714&instance_id=35319&nl=climate-fwd%3A&regi_id=52235981&segment_id=63444&te=1&user_id=2984790c14170290245238c0cd4fd927); Henry Fountain, "Climate Change Drove Western Heat Wave's Extreme Records, Analysis Finds: A rapid analysis of last week's record-breaking heat found that it would have been virtually impossible without the influence of human-caused climate change," *The New York Times*, July 12, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/07/07/climate/climate-change-heat-wave.html?action=click&module=RelatedLinks&pgtype=Article>; and Aatish Bhatia and Winston Choi-Schagrin, "Why Record-Breaking Overnight Temperatures Are So Concerning: Nights are warming faster than days across most of the U.S., with potentially deadly consequences: Daytime temperatures: 1,238 Records Broken; Nighttime temperatures: 1,503 records broken," *The New York Times*, July 9, 2021, [https://www.nytimes.com/2021/07/09/upshot/record-breaking-hot-weather-at-night-deaths.html?campaign\\_id=54&emc=edit\\_clim\\_20210714&instance\\_id=35319&nl=climate-fwd%3A&regi\\_id=52235981&segment\\_id=63444&te=1&user\\_id=2984790c14170290245238c0cd4fd927](https://www.nytimes.com/2021/07/09/upshot/record-breaking-hot-weather-at-night-deaths.html?campaign_id=54&emc=edit_clim_20210714&instance_id=35319&nl=climate-fwd%3A&regi_id=52235981&segment_id=63444&te=1&user_id=2984790c14170290245238c0cd4fd927)).

**Nadja Popovich and Winston Choi-Schagrin, "Hidden Toll of the Northwest Heat Wave: Hundreds of Extra Deaths,"** *The New York Times*, August 11, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/08/11/climate/deaths-pacific-northwest-heat-wave.html>, reported, **"During the deadly heat wave that blanketed Oregon and Washington**

**in late June, about 600 more people died than would have been typical**, a review of mortality data for the week of the crisis shows.

The number is three times as high as the states' official estimates of heat-related deaths so far. **It suggests that the true toll of the heat wave, which affected states and provinces across the Pacific Northwest, may be much larger than previously reported.**"

Gwynne Ann Unruh, "Are Monsoons Making A Dent in the Drought? Only a Strong Monsoon Will Bring New Mexico Out of Its Water Shortage." *The Paper*, July 16th, 2021, [https://abq.news/2021/07/will-monsoons-make-a-dent-in-drought/?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=The+Paper.+Subscriber&utm\\_campaign=23f89a7c47-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2021\\_07\\_16\\_12\\_11&utm\\_term=0\\_f8e2121d66-23f89a7c47-68116799&mc\\_cid=23f89a7c47&mc\\_eid=822e39214e](https://abq.news/2021/07/will-monsoons-make-a-dent-in-drought/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=The+Paper.+Subscriber&utm_campaign=23f89a7c47-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2021_07_16_12_11&utm_term=0_f8e2121d66-23f89a7c47-68116799&mc_cid=23f89a7c47&mc_eid=822e39214e), reported, **"The raindrops that are falling in New Mexico are a mere drop in the bucket to what is needed to replenish the diminished aquifers, rivers and depleted reservoirs around the state. The acequias are running dry and rivers that have delivered water for decades are not being recharged. While it's pretty normal for dry climates to go through severe droughts and then bounce out of them with really wet seasons, it will take a strong monsoon season to pull our Enchanted Land out of this drought."**

With the Monsoons, **heavy rains in New Mexico are local, but with climate change, there has been an increase in the intensity and occurrence of some strong storms.** "U.S. Highway Covered in Feet of Mud for Miles," The Weather Chanel, July 16, 2021, <https://weather.com/news/weather/video/new-mexico-highway-covered-in-4-feet-of-mud-for-7-miles>, reported, **"Highway 70 near New Mexico's White Sands Missile Range is covered in mud for miles following last weekend's heavy rainfall."**

**As the record hot summer continued in the Southwest into mid-September 2021, as of September 14, northern and central New Mexico have been experiencing at least 10 days of record high, and near record high, temperatures, and the forecast was for that to continue for at least several more days (NPR news).**

In Arizona, **continuing extreme drought has caused the Hopi Tribal Council to order herds to be thinned, bringing protest from herders, while a sharp debate has flared about whether, and if so how, to change agriculture on the reservation in the face of record dryness** (Simon Romero, "Unrelenting Drought Ignites Tensions in Arizona's Hopi Mesas," *The New York Times*, October 12, 2021).

Jim Robbins, "Prairies on Fire in Montana Amid a Record December Heat Wave: Two dozen homes and businesses burned in the town of Denton as unseasonably warm temperatures descended from the Great Plains to the Mid-Atlantic," *The New York Times*, December 2, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/12/02/us/montana-wildfire-drought.html>, reported, **"Record-high temperatures and powerful winds have sparked a series of unusual December prairie fires in Montana, one of a series of late-season fires across the country amid an unusually warm approach to the winter season."**

**The worst of the fires ripped through the small farming town of Denton, about 85 miles east of Great Falls, burning at least two dozen homes and businesses and sending several grain elevators up in flames."**

**The drought has caused wells in some places in California to run dry, including in Mendocino, forcing people to import expensive water. This situation is likely to get worse. Overall though, California has enough water for careful use across the state, but Los Angeles and vicinity have purchased huge amounts of water rights from the wetter northern portion of the state, and the infrastructure has been built to carry it to the south. With climate change, there is a need to redirect some of that water to dried up and drying places further north** (Thomas Fuller, "Small Towns Grow Desperate for Water in California: The drought is revealing for California that perhaps even more than rainfall it is money and infrastructure that dictate who has sufficient water during the state's increasingly frequent dry spells," *The New York Times*, August 13, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/08/14/us/drought-california-water-shortage.html>).

**The water level in Lake Orville was falling so low, in July 2021, that it was dropping toward the point where the reservoir's hydroelectric dam could no longer generate electricity** (Miriam Pawel, "California Wakes Up," *The New York Times*, October 12, 2021).

As of July 13, John Antczak And Christopher Weber, "Wildfires Threaten Homes, Land Across 10 Western States," *The Paper*, July 13th, [https://abq.news/2021/07/wildfires-threaten-homes-land-across-10-western-states/?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=The+Paper.+Subscriber&utm\\_campaign=2a582d367e-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2021\\_07\\_13\\_12\\_12&utm\\_term=0\\_f8e2121d66-2a582d367e-68116799&mc\\_cid=2a582d367e&mc\\_eid=822e39214e](https://abq.news/2021/07/wildfires-threaten-homes-land-across-10-western-states/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=The+Paper.+Subscriber&utm_campaign=2a582d367e-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2021_07_13_12_12&utm_term=0_f8e2121d66-2a582d367e-68116799&mc_cid=2a582d367e&mc_eid=822e39214e), reported, **"Wildfires that torched homes and forced thousands to evacuate burned across 10 parched Western states on Tuesday, and the largest, in Oregon, threatened California's power supply.**

**Nearly 60 wildfires tore through bone-dry timber and brush from Alaska to Wyoming, according to the National Interagency Fire Center. Arizona, Idaho and Montana accounted for more than half of the large active fires."** The Bootleg Fire in Southwest Oregon was by far the largest of the blazes, having burned at least 40 homes and other structures and was threatening others, plus a major power line, moving into California as it grew rapidly.

Livia Albeck-Ripka and Melina Delkic, "Dixie Fire Is Now Second Largest in California History: The fire blazing across Northern California has burned more than 463,000 acres," *The New York Times*, August 9, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/08/08/us/dixie-fire.html>, reported, **"The Dixie Fire ravaging Northern California over the weekend has become the state's second largest on record.**

**Cal Fire, the state firefighting agency, on Sunday reported that the blaze, which has burned for 25 days, had burned more than 463,000 acres.** Butte, Lassen, Plumas and Tehama Counties were affected, including the Lassen Volcanic National Park, which is known for exotic hydrothermal sites. So far, there have been no deaths reported, and **thousands of people have evacuated."** At least one town had been burned down, and others were threatened by the **still spreading fire** on August 9, 2021.

Livia Albeck-Ripka, Thomas Fuller and Jack Healy, "The Ashes of the Dixie Fire Cast a Pall 1,000 Miles From Its Flames: The megafires of the West are sending out giant clouds of smoke and leaving a footprint much larger than the evergreen forests they level and the towns they decimate," *The New York Times*, August 10, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/08/09/us/dixie-fire-california.html>, reported, "Summer after summer, **California, a global leader in battling air pollution from vehicles, sends giant clouds of haze filled with health-damaging particles across the country. Even as far as Denver, 1,100 miles to the east, the fire has helped create a pall of noxious smoke during an already scorching summer.**

**By one measure, wildfires — intensified by drought and climate change — are the largest source of potentially deadly air pollution in California. And in recent weeks, the accumulating haze and smoke from California's fires and high ozone levels have turned the air in Salt Lake City and Denver into some of the dirtiest in the world, more harmful than Delhi's or Beijing's on many recent days."**

**Many localities across the U.S. often suffer from the smoke, varying from day to day. Health problems have been caused by smoke polluted air in the Southwest, Midwest and the North East, including some bad air quality days in New York City and Boston. On some days schools in some Utah municipalities had to cancel outdoor activity. And recent research indicates that smoke may become more toxic the longer it is in the air.**

The direct fire damage and the smoke harm are likely to continue as fire season's get longer and threaten to eventually extend throughout the year. Already on August 10, CNN reported 4 new large fires springing up and spreading in Oregon. The fires are also increasing global warming, both by the CO<sub>2</sub> entering the atmosphere from burning and by reducing the number of trees and other plants that absorb the CO<sub>2</sub> and release oxygen.

Natasha Lasky, reported on *World War Zero*, August 24th 2021, <https://worldwarzero.com/magazine/2021/08/caldor-fire-scorches-california/?emci=6103f9d5-d205-ec11-b563-501ac57bf4cb&emdi=4eb44cf2-e205-ec11-b563-501ac57bf4cb&ceid=1763602>, "Last week **the Caldor Fire in California (<https://www.fire.ca.gov/incidents/2021/8/14/caldor-fire/>) grew to 24 times its size in two days and forced more than 10,000 residents to evacuate El Dorado County. As of this morning, the fire has scorched 126,182 acres, destroyed 637 structures (including hundreds of homes), is only 20 miles from South Lake Tahoe, and is only at 11% containment.** 'The unfortunate thing is that **these fires continue to get bigger,**' Cal Fire Director Thom Porter said Wednesday at a press conference. "But we're surging resources into communities to protect and reduce the impact."

Vjosa Isai, "And **in western Canada,** "Canadian wildfires could intensify from a looming heat wave," *The New York Times*, August 9, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/08/09/world/canada/canada-wildfires.html>, reported that **even as wildfires have also been relentless in western Canada, a coming next heatwave may make them worse in mid-August. "In recent months, a series of near-relentless heat waves and a deepening drought linked to climate change have helped to fuel exploding wildfires.**

**In Manitoba, a drought has forced livestock farmers to consider selling some or all of their cattle. With rising temperatures in the forecast, northwestern Ontario is also**



**bracing for a possible outbreak of fires later this week**, its provincial forest fire service said in a Twitter post."

As of August 12, there were **some 300 wildfires burning vast areas of British Colombia** ("British Columbia Battles Nearly 300 Wildfires at Once. Here's How: The Canadian authorities are urging residents to obey evacuation orders during the worst wildfire season since a devastating one in 2018," *The New York Times*, August 12, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/08/12/world/canada/british-columbia-wildfires.html>).

Julia Conley, "From California to Greece to Siberia, Wildfires Rage Worldwide—and More Expected: 'It's not a wildfire season anymore,' said one journalist, 'it's a wildfire year,'" *Common Dreams*, August 11, 2021, [https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/08/11/california-greece-siberia-wildfires-rage-worldwide-and-more-expected?utm\\_term=AO&utm\\_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_content=email&utm\\_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_medium=Email](https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/08/11/california-greece-siberia-wildfires-rage-worldwide-and-more-expected?utm_term=AO&utm_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_content=email&utm_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_medium=Email), reported, **"Officials from the Pacific Northwest in the U.S. to Southern Europe are warning of extreme heatwaves expected in the coming days, sparking fears of even more wildfires like those that have laid waste to millions of acres worldwide in recent weeks, including in Oregon, California, Greece, Turkey, and Siberia.**

**The prime minister of Portugal warned Wednesday that with temperatures expected to reach 104 degrees Fahrenheit this week, officials are bracing for potential wildfires like the ones that killed more than 100 people in 2017.**

**In Spain, the national weather service warned that a heatwave could bring temperatures as high as 111 degrees Fahrenheit.**

More than 5,000 miles away in the northwestern U.S., **Oregon** Gov. Kate Brown declared a state of emergency Tuesday as the state prepared for its second major heatwave of the summer, less than two months after extreme heat was linked to more than 60 deaths there. Seattle authorities were also opening cooling stations and preparing to protect bridges and roads from heat damage.

**Temperatures are expected to climb into the hundreds in the typically temperate region, in 'a direct result of the climate crisis'** according to Oregon state climatologist Larry O'Neill.

**"This would be kind of a heatwave that maybe we experience every two to three years in the past, but this will be the second strong one this summer,"** O'Neill told The Guardian.

In neighboring **California**, the Dixie Fire, which had torn through more than 500,000 acres over the past four weeks as of Tuesday, is still active in four counties due to dry conditions, according to Cal Fire.

**The wildfire is now the second-largest in California's history and has destroyed sacred sites of the Native American Maidu community, razed nearly 1,000 homes and other structures, and decimated the historic town of Greenville, home to more than 1,000 people.**

**The blaze has also sent smoke and ashes more than 1,000 miles from the flames, raising fears of toxicity in the coming weeks.**

**On the other side of the globe in Siberia, more than 190 forest fires have forced widespread evacuations, with smoke drifting as far as the North Pole for the first time in history.**

**Emergency workers have given up on fighting nearly 70 additional fires that have burned through nearly 8,000 square miles, making the fires 10 times as large as the Dixie Fire and bigger than the wildfires that have raged in recent days in Turkey, Greece, Italy, and other countries combined.**

**Fires that have spread for nine days across the Greek island of Evia are gradually being brought under control by nearly 900 firefighters, but the Peloponnese peninsula in southern Greece faced more fires on Wednesday and authorities in Evia are now left struggling to help hundreds of newly displaced people.**

As of Tuesday, an extreme heatwave like the one Portuguese, Spanish, and American officials are now warning of was contributing to **nearly 600 wildfires burning in 'all corners' of the country**, leading to what Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis called a **'disaster of unprecedented proportions.'**

On the other side of the Mediterranean Sea, **at least 65 people have been killed in wildfires that have burned in Algeria's mountainous Kabyke region** over the past two days.

**The wildfires, driven by the climate crisis and the continued extraction of carbon-emitting fossil fuels, are also worsening the planetary emergency by releasing even more carbon into the atmosphere**, according to Mark Parrington, a senior scientist at the Copernicus Atmosphere Monitoring Service.

**'Already by mid July, the total estimated emissions is higher than a lot of previous years' totals for summer periods**, so that's showing that this is a very persistent problem,' Parrington told CNN last month.

The latest fires come on the heels of Monday's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report on the urgent need to rapidly cut down on greenhouse gas emissions to mitigate the disastrous consequences of the climate crisis.

As Josh Saul, climate and disasters reporter for Bloomberg, said in a video he posted to Twitter on Tuesday, **the prevalence of fires across the globe and in a wide variety of climates, starting weeks earlier this year than in previous years, shows annual 'wildfire seasons' are a thing of the past.**

**'With hotter temperatures and dryer conditions lasting longer into the fall and winter than they used to, the fire season is also lasting longer,' Saul said.**

**'It's not a wildfire season anymore, it's a wildfire year,' he added.**

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**The harm from wildfires can remain for years after the fires are out. Rains may bring mud and landslides, and they, and ongoing erosion can contaminate drinking water** (Henry Fountain, "Wildfires Remain an Urban Threat Long After the Flames Are Out," *The New York Times*, June 25, 2021).

The Southern Ute Tribe's website (<https://www.southernute-nsn.gov>) in late **June reported several fires that were later fully contained or burned out without destroying or damaging structures or causing human injury**, "18 Fires Break out on the Southern Ute Indian Reservation. Suppression Efforts Continue on the Dry Gulch Area Fires."

Since the dry lightning storm that hit the Fort Lewis Mesa area Friday afternoon and evening on June 18, 2021, 31 separate fires have been discovered. Of those, 9 are reported to be controlled/contained/out, and 10 controlled.

Currently, the largest fire is the Iron Springs Fire, 37 7.008, -108 4.506 (LAT/LON), which is 10 acres in size. Ground crews and a Type 2 helicopter have been working the fire, and spot fires, throughout the day.

Weather will continue to be hot, dry and windy. High temperatures between 85 & 95 degrees, humidity below 14% after 1200, and wind gust up to 30 MPH. A Red Flag Warning is in effect for tomorrow. Thunderstorms with dry lightning are not expected tomorrow afternoon.

Smoke is visible from the CO Hwy 140 corridor. Individuals should avoid County Road 136 and the west end of County Road 100. Smoke will be visible to the local communities. For The cause of the Dry Gulch Fire Area is the result of the recent lightning storm. **The Tribe is coordinating with local agencies to ensure the safety of the public and to minimize the impact of the fire.**"

Henry Fountain, "In a First, U.S. Declares Shortage on Colorado River, Forcing Water Cuts," *The New York Times*, August 17, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/08/16/climate/colorado-river-water-cuts.html>, reported, **"With climate change and long-term drought continuing to take a toll on the Colorado River, the federal government on Monday for the first time declared a water shortage at Lake Mead, one of the river's main reservoirs.**

**The declaration triggers cuts in water supply that, for now, mostly will affect Arizona farmers. Beginning next year they will be cut off from much of the water they have relied on for decades. Much smaller reductions are mandated for Nevada and for Mexico across the southern border."**

If current weather trends continue, as expected, **the 40 million people in the West who rely on the Colorado River for water will face increasing reductions in the river's waters.**

**The continuing impact of drought in the U.S. South West has been broad, including that New Mexico's centuries old and critical irrigation canals have been drying up** (Simon Romero, "Humble But Vital, New Mexico's Fabled Canals Are Running Dry," *The New York Times*, August 17, 2021).

Alex Hasenstab, "Massive Pacific Northwest storm causes power outages, downed trees," *OPB*, October 24, 2021, <https://www.opb.org/article/2021/10/24/storm-to-cause-winds-up-to-65-mph-along-pacific-northwest-coast/>, reported, **"A huge storm with high winds and rain wreaked havoc on the Pacific Northwest on Sunday, causing numerous power outages throughout the region.**

Before the weekend, **the weather service predicted the storm could produce the lowest barometric pressure every recorded off the Pacific coast. By Sunday afternoon, it looks like that record had been set:** <https://cliffmass.blogspot.com/2021/10/a-record-storm-and-power-outages-begin.html>.

Wind gusts topping 60 mph downed trees on Interstate 90 east of Seattle and cut power to at least 49,000 customers in the metro area and around Puget Sound, KOMO-TV reported. Around 2:45 p.m. Sunday, Portland General Electric was reporting more than 23,000 customers without power.

**In California,** Neil Vigdor and Alyssa Lukpat, "The two storms, a 'bomb cyclone' and an 'atmospheric river,' caused flash floods in parts of the Bay Area and Northern California, and blanketed the Sierra Nevada in heavy snow, *The New York Times*, October 26, 2021,

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/10/24/us/bomb-cyclone-california-atmospheric-river.html>, reported **very heavy rain causing flooding, stranding motorists, and cutting electric power while in the Sierra Nevada, very heavy snow fell, slowing traffic.**

**Sacramento in the month of October averages about an inch of rain, said. This 5.44" is actually close to what we could see from October through December. 'We almost had 3 months' worth of rain in one day,' he said (@kcraFinan: [https://twitter.com/kcranews/status/1452784376362659846?ref\\_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed%7Ctwterm%5E1452784376362659846%7Ctwgr%5E%7Ctwcon%5Es1\\_&ref\\_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.kcra.com%2Farticle%2Flive-coverage-storm-northern-california-sacramento-region-rain-forecast-updates-radar%2F38045534](https://twitter.com/kcranews/status/1452784376362659846?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed%7Ctwterm%5E1452784376362659846%7Ctwgr%5E%7Ctwcon%5Es1_&ref_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.kcra.com%2Farticle%2Flive-coverage-storm-northern-california-sacramento-region-rain-forecast-updates-radar%2F38045534)).**

**Folsom lake level up nearly 16' since weekend rain and snow. But scene at Brown's Ravine shows how much more needed. In 2019 on same date, lake level was 45' higher (@kcraNews: [https://twitter.com/KCRATeSelle/status/1453014734689603586?ref\\_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed%7Ctwterm%5E1453014734689603586%7Ctwgr%5E%7Ctwcon%5Es1\\_&ref\\_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.kcra.com%2Farticle%2Flive-coverage-storm-northern-california-sacramento-region-rain-forecast-updates-radar%2F38045534](https://twitter.com/KCRATeSelle/status/1453014734689603586?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed%7Ctwterm%5E1453014734689603586%7Ctwgr%5E%7Ctwcon%5Es1_&ref_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.kcra.com%2Farticle%2Flive-coverage-storm-northern-california-sacramento-region-rain-forecast-updates-radar%2F38045534)).**

**In Washington state the unprecedented rain and flooding caused huge long-term losses for the state's major dairy industry. Cattle were drowned, facilities destroyed or damaged and feed and other supplies lost which have been even harder to replace because of COVID initiated supply chain problems. When you put together the flood, drought and fire damage to agriculture across the U.S. and abroad from increasing climate change a major increase in food scarcity and price rise is exposed. (Kirk Johnson, "'Just Total Chaos': Floods Bring Death and Devastation to Dairies: Near-record flooding in Washington State drowned cattle, demolished homes and damaged equipment. Broken supply chains are making it even harder to recover," *The New York Times*, December 6, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/12/06/us/washington-floods-dairy-farmers.html>).**

Jessica Corbett, "'We Are in a Climate Emergency': Historic Floods in BC, Washington Follow Scientists' Warnings: 'It definitely matches what the climate models show for the future around here—hotter, dryer summers and wetter winters... Our infrastructure isn't designed for that,'" *Common Dreams*, November 16, 2021, [https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/11/16/we-are-climate-emergency-historic-floods-bc-washington-follow-scientists-warnings?utm\\_term=AO&utm\\_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_content=email&utm\\_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_medium=Email](https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/11/16/we-are-climate-emergency-historic-floods-bc-washington-follow-scientists-warnings?utm_term=AO&utm_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_content=email&utm_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_medium=Email), reported, **"After a summer that featured the 'world's most extreme heatwave in modern history,' which experts linked to human-caused global heating, the Pacific Northwest was inundated with floodwaters Monday, fueling fresh calls for ambitious action to combat the climate emergency.**

**The recent [very heavy and previously rare] rain and subsequent flooding—which came on the heels of the COP26 climate summit in Scotland—led to evacuations, power outages, rescues, school closures, and stranded vehicles in Washington state and British Columbia, Canada."**

**The extreme heat over a substantial period of summer 2021 in the Pacific Northwest brought fears that oysters and other shellfish may have been injured, as some that were harvested were suffering bacterial infection, leading to warnings not to eat raw shellfish (Michael Levenson, "Officials Fear Northwest 'Heat Dome' Tainted Oysters," *The New York Times*, July 24, 2021).**

**The repeating extreme weather - deadly heating and dryness bringing huge wildfires, alternating with super storms causing damaging and disrupting for some time flooding - appear to be an indication of what the new normal is becoming in British Columbia, and indeed likely to get worse as climate change intensifies (Ian Austen, "Sifting Through Mud, Flooded Canadians Fear Next Disaster," *The New York Times*, November 29, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/11/29/world/canada/british-columbia-floods-storm.html>).**

**"Raizal Organizations Submit Report to United Nations on How Climate Change is Adversely Impacting Human Rights," Cultural Survival, December 3, 2021, <https://www.culturalsurvival.org/news/raizal-organizations-submit-report-united-nations-how-climate-change-adversely-impacting>, Contact: Fanny Howard Trees and Reefs Foundation [frhoward11@gmail.com](mailto:frhoward11@gmail.com) reported, "In an effort to draw attention to the impact of climate change on their human rights, the Raizal people submitted a report to the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR) today. The report is in response to a U.N. Human Rights Council's resolution asking the Secretary-General to consult Member States and other relevant stakeholders on the adverse impact of climate change on the full and effective enjoyment of human rights of people in vulnerable situations. The Raizal's report, submitted by the Trees and Reefs Foundation with the support of several other Raizal organizations, highlights the serious human rights concerns surrounding climate change for Indigenous and coastal Peoples.**

**As an Indigenous Peoples whose homeland is the Archipelago of San Andres, Old Providence, and Santa Catalina in the Caribbean Sea, the Raizal already feel the adverse impacts of climate change on their ability to fully enjoy their human rights, rights such as the rights to food, water, culture, housing, life, and self-determination. The most recent and devastating example of this impact are Hurricanes Eta and Iota which swept through the Caribbean last year. These two powerful hurricanes hit these islands within two weeks of each other. The Raizal are still struggling to rebuild houses, access their traditional and cultural food sources and get hold of clean drinking water.**

**Even though oceanic communities contribute negligible greenhouse gas emissions, they are among the most vulnerable populations to the impacts of climate change. The report to the OHCHR explains that the Raizal peoples are among these vulnerable populations which are experiencing the most damaging climate impacts because they are an Indigenous community living on small islands and reliant on their territories and natural resources to sustain themselves as a distinct Peoples. The Raizal are already encountering sea level rise, powerful and frequent storms and changing rainfall patterns. These climate change-related effects are altering ecosystems, natural resources such as fresh water and soil, and biodiversity – aspects of life that are essential to the Raizal's independence, culture, and survival as a people.**

**The Raizal Peoples rely on the region's vast marine biodiversity for their traditional livelihoods. With limited fresh water and arable land, dependence on the sea is crucial to the**

right to life, food, and culture. **Fishing, however, continues to decline due to overfishing and ecosystem degradation from anthropogenic sources of pollution and climate change-related destruction. Additionally, the resources of the Archipelago's inhabited islands have suffered tremendously from the increase of non-Raizal population. The report ends by listing adaption measures and disaster preparedness and response plans which must be supported by Colombia and implemented in coordination with the Raizal.**"

Daniel Politi, **"An Economic Lifeline in South America, the Paraná River, Is Shriveling: The continent's second-largest river is drying up amid the biggest drought in 70 years, upending ecosystems, trade and livelihoods,"** *The New York Times*, September 5, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/09/04/world/americas/drought-argentina-parana-river.html>, reported, **"The Paraná's reduced flow, at its lowest level since the 1940s, has upended delicate ecosystems in the vast area that straddles Brazil, Argentina and Paraguay and left scores of communities scrambling for fresh water.**

**In a region that depends heavily on rivers to generate power and to transport the agricultural commodities that are a pillar of national economies, the retreat of the continent's second-largest river has also hurt business, increasing the costs of energy production and shipping.**

**Experts say deforestation in the Amazon, along with rain patterns altered by a warming planet, are helping fuel the drought."**

**In Brazil's northeast, a combination of long-term dry heating and the impact of the production of tiles has slowly been turning the farming region into a desert** (Jack Nicas, **"Transforming Brazil's Fertile Northeast Into a Desert, in Slow motion,"** *The New York Times*, December 3, 2021).

Melissa Eddy, **"Hundreds Missing and Scores Dead as Raging Floods Strike Western Europe: Strong rains caused rivers to burst their banks and wash away buildings in Belgium and Germany, where at least 1,300 remained missing. Homes and streets in the Netherlands and Switzerland also flooded,"** *The New York Times*, July 16, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/07/15/world/europe/flooding-germany-belgium-switzerland-netherlands.html>, reported on **unprecedented weather, "Following a day of frantic rescue efforts and orders to evacuate towns rapidly filling with water unloosed by violent storms, the German authorities said late Thursday that after confirming scores of deaths, they were unable to account for at least 1,300 people.**

**That staggering figure was announced after swift-moving water from swollen rivers surged through cities and villages in two western German states, where the death toll passed 90 on Friday in the hardest-hit regions and other fatalities were expected."**

**The flooding also occurred along the Meuse River in Belgium, where 11 people died, Holland and Switzerland. More rains were expected, as of July 16, with the likelihood the flooding would worsen.**

Nadine Schmidt, Frederik Pleitgen, Barbara Wojazer and Jeevan Ravindran, **"More than 150 people still missing in German floods unlikely to be found, officials fear,** *CNN*, July 22, 2021, <https://www.cnn.com/2021/07/22/europe/germany-belgium-europe-floods-death-climate-intl/index.html>, reported that after **record rains brought on by climate change, "A week after**

severe flooding hit western Europe, devastating Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands, German officials said Thursday they fear the 158 people still missing there may not be found.

The death toll from the floods has risen to at least 205 across the continent, while a total of at least 176 people remain accounted for. Belgium accounts for 32 deaths and 18 missing, according to its national crisis center." Especially in Germany, the unprecedented floods caused tremendous damage to buildings, roads, rail lines and other infrastructure, causing many officials to think that some long inhabited areas are no longer livable with climate change.

And previously unusual, but now normal with climate change, heavy rains were also devastating at the East end of Europe. "Floods devastate northern Turkey, killing at least 27 and leaving dozens missing," *The New York Times*, August 13, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/08/13/world/europe/floods-turkey.html>, reported, "**Flash floods in northern Turkey have killed at least 27 people, and left many other local residents missing and hundreds homeless**, as rescue workers scrambled to evacuate those affected by the disaster and reach villages that had been cut off by the waters and lost power."

Flash Floods in Turkey Kill 59, and Dozens Are Still Missing: The death toll rose to at least 59 a fifth day after the disaster, and more than 70 people remain missing," *The New York Times*, August 15, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/08/15/world/europe/turkey-floods.html>, reported, "**The death toll in the flash floods that roared across northern Turkey has risen to 59, with dozens of people still missing and many villages still cut off, almost a week after the disaster first struck**, officials said."

England also suffered from unprecedented floods and drought in late spring and early summer 2021 (Isabella Kwai, "Between Heat and Floods England Endures Extremes," *The New York Times*, July 29, 2021).

Amid unprecedented heat and drought, in July 2021, the Mediterranean Island of Sardinia was swept by huge wildfires devouring forests, pastures and villages in "an unprecedented disaster" (Gaia Panigiani, "Residents Evacuated as Wildfires Ravage Sardinia in 'Disaster Without Precedent,'" *The New York Times*, July 27, 2021)

Gaia Pianigiani, "Sicily Registers Record-High Temperature as Heat Wave Sweeps Italian Island: A monitoring station on the island reported a temperature of 119.84 Fahrenheit, 48.8 degrees Celsius, on Wednesday. If verified, it would be the highest ever recorded in Europe" *The New York Times*, August 12, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/08/12/world/europe/sicily-record-high-temperature-119-degrees.html>, reported, "**The Italian island of Sicily may have set a modern record for the hottest day ever recorded in Europe, with a monitoring station near the ancient city of Syracuse in the southeast recording a scorching 48.8 degrees Celsius, or 119.84 Fahrenheit.**

The temperature, recorded Wednesday by the Sicilian Meteorological Information Service for Agriculture, still needs to be verified by the World Meteorological Organization. If confirmed, it would top the previous record of 48 degrees set in Athens in July 1977, experts said."

**In northern Turkey, unusually heavy rains caused serious flooding, with early reports indicating at least 27 dead, many others missing and hundreds homeless** ("Flooding Leaves at Least 27 Dead and Dozens Missing in Turkey," *The New York Times*, August 14, 2021).

**In Egypt, in November 2021, extremely heavy rain caused exceptionally heavy and broad flooding that wept four-inch scorpions, known as Deathstalkers, from their burrows in the Aswan area and into villages, where on the first night at least 503 people were bitten, at least three of whom died** (Vivian Yee and Nada Rashwan, "Plague Strikes Egypt: Sudden Floods, Then 4-Inch Scorpions called Deathstalkers," *The New York Times*, November 16, 2021).

Amy Qin and Amy Chang Chien, "As Floods Ravage China, 14 Die After Bus Falls Off Bridge: The casualties come amid violent inundations in the country that have left a total of at least 29 people dead and displaced more than 120,000 across northern areas," *The New York Times*, October 12, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/10/12/world/asia/china-bus-flooding-dead.html>, reported, **"For the second time in three months, China is grappling with the aftermath of violent floods caused by days of unusually intense rains that have left at least 29 people dead and displaced more than 120,000 across northern parts of the country."**

**As Monsoons in the Indian subcontinent have become heavier with global warming, increasingly serious flooding has been occurring. In late July 2021, the increased rains brought a serious landslide in western India that killed at least nine people while flooding killed hundreds amid great destruction** (Karan Deep Singh, "Hundreds Die as Monsoons Deluge Towns in West India," *The New York Times*, July 16, 2021).

Emily Schmall, "Dozens Drown in India and Nepal as Monsoon Season Fails to End: The death toll continued to rise on Wednesday as landslides and flooding damaged homes and stranded thousands of people," *The New York Times*, October 20, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/10/20/world/asia/india-nepal-floods-landslides.html>, reported, **"Unseasonably heavy rainfall has destroyed crops, washed away bridges and killed dozens of people across India and Nepal in a reminder of the devastation caused by a changing climate."**

**The death toll continued to rise on Wednesday as landslides and flooding damaged homes and stranded thousands of tourists** flocking to vacation spots and pilgrimage sites during Hinduism's festive season, which coincides with the fall harvest.

**'Historically October is the start of post-monsoon,'** said R.K. Jenamani, a senior scientist from India's meteorological department. **'But this time what happened was that western disturbances were very, very intense.'**

**In Bangladesh, Unusually heavy monsoon rains turned Rohingya Refugee Camps into torrenting rivers, killing at least 11 people, at first reports, and seriously impacting some 13000**, in July 2021 (Karan Deep Singh, "Fatal Floods Wreck Camps for Rohingya in Bangladesh," *The New York Times*, November 21, 2021).



**Japan was hit by extremely record rains, in early July 2021, triggering a landslide in the resort town of Atami. Four people were initially found dead and more than 80 were missing ("Landslide Hits Japanese City; 80 Are Missing," *The New York Times*, July 6, 2021).**

**War and a changing climate with lessening spring rains and more drought have reduced agriculture, and more intense rain has increased flooding, which combined with the war have produced a huge humanitarian crisis, compounded by the Taliban's difficulty in carrying out government services and their international isolation (For example: Somini Sengupta, "War and Climate Change Collide in Afghanistan," *The New York Times*, August 30, 2021).**

**Iran has been suffering for several years with rising temperature and increased drought which in summer 2022 has resulted in a severe water shortage, adding to the country's U.S. sanctions related economic and political difficulties (Farnaz Fassihi, "Severe Water Shortages Add Volatile Element to Challenges in Iran," *The New York Times*, November 21, 2021).**

**South Sudan has been having increased rains over the last few years leading to the worst flooding in parts of the country in 60 years, causing suffering and hardship for many of the 11 million people in the area (Lynsey Addario, "Vaccine Arrival in South Sudan Is Cold Comfort," *The New York Times*, November 21, 2021).**

Julia Conley, "'Unprecedented': Madagascar on Verge of World's First Climate-Fueled Famine: 'These people have done nothing to contribute to climate change,' said one U.N. official. 'They don't burn fossil fuels... and yet they are bearing the brunt of climate change,'" Common Dreams, August 25, 2021, [https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/08/25/unprecedented-madagascar-verge-worlds-first-climate-fueled-famine?utm\\_term=AO&utm\\_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_content=email&utm\\_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_medium=Email](https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/08/25/unprecedented-madagascar-verge-worlds-first-climate-fueled-famine?utm_term=AO&utm_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_content=email&utm_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_medium=Email), reported, **"Climate experts are warning the current extreme food shortage in southern Madagascar, following a dearth of rain for the last four years, has driven the country to the brink of the world's first famine driven almost entirely by the climate emergency.**

**The United Nations estimates that 30,000 people in the country are facing 'level five' food insecurity, defined as a 'catastrophe or famine' according to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification. With Madagascar's regular pre-harvest 'lean season' looming, many more are expected to face catastrophic hunger in the coming months.**

**'These are famine-like conditions and they're being driven by climate, not conflict,' Shelley Thakral, senior communications specialist for the World Food Program, told the BBC.**

**'This is unprecedented,' Thakral added. 'These people have done nothing to contribute to climate change. They don't burn fossil fuels... and yet they are bearing the brunt of climate change.'**

**In interviews with the press, families in farming communities across the southern part of the country have described foraging for cactus leaves and insects including locusts in order to avoid starvation as they struggle to grow crops.**

'I clean the insects as best I can but there's almost no water,' a mother of four named Tamaria, in the village of Fandiova, told the BBC.

**Madagascar was identified in the latest report (pdf) by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) as a country that was expected to face an increase in agricultural and ecological drought, particularly if global policymakers fail to rapidly work to eliminate fossil fuel extraction and reduce the heating of the planet.**

Dr. Rondro Barimalala, a scientist from Madagascar who works at the University of Cape Town in South Africa, said the current crisis in his home country is clearly linked to the climate emergency.

'With the latest IPCC report we saw that Madagascar has observed an increase in aridity. And that is expected to increase if climate change continues,' Barimalala told the BBC. 'In many ways this can be seen as a very powerful argument for people to change their ways.'

The U.N.'s most senior official in the country, resident coordinator Issa Sanogo, recently described traveling through southern Madagascar and witnessing the crisis:

**'n the town of Amboasary Atsimo, about 75 per cent of the population is facing severe hunger and 14,000 people are on the brink of famine.**

This is what the real consequences of climate change look like, and the people here have done nothing to deserve this. Nevertheless, I have seen that they are ready to take up the challenge, with our immediate and medium-term support, and get back on their feet.

[...]

[T]hese people have been significantly affected by sandstorms; all of their croplands are silted up, and they cannot produce anything.'

'We are in danger of seeing people who have endured the prolonged drought enter the lean season without the means to eat, without money to pay for health services, or to send their children to school, to get clean water, and even to get seeds to plant for the next agricultural season,' Sanogo said. 'If we don't act soon, we will face a much more severe humanitarian crisis.'

Considering Madagasans' 'negligible contribution to the climate crisis,' tweeted the Environmental Justice Foundation, the current catastrophe represents 'an appalling climate injustice.'

'Everyone should have a safe place to live,' the group said. 'Wealthy countries must step up and cut emissions now.'

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**A later published study that the drought in Madagascar was likely not directly related to climate change, but was part of a rotating pattern of weather that periodically shifted for the island.**

Damien Cave, "First Fires, Then Floods: Climate Extremes Batter Australia: Many of the same areas that suffered through horrific bush fires in 2019 and 2020 are now dealing with prodigious rainfall that could leave some people stranded for weeks, *The New York Times*, December 11, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/12/11/world/australia/flooding-fire-climate-australia.html>, reported, **"Life on the land has always been hard in Australia, but the past few years have delivered one extreme after another, demanding new levels of resilience and pointing to the rising costs of a warming planet.** For many Australians, moderate weather — a pleasant summer, a year without a state of emergency — increasingly feels like a luxury.

**The Black Summer bush fires of 2019 and 2020 were the worst in Australia's recorded history. This year, many of the same areas that suffered through those epic blazes**

**endured the wettest, coldest November since at least 1900. Hundreds of people, across several states, have been forced to evacuate. Many more, like Ms. Southwell, are stranded on floodplain islands with no way to leave except by boat or helicopter, possibly until after Christmas."**

Dianna Hunt, Joaquin Estus and Richard Arlin Walker, "Homelands in peril: Climate change forces a growing number of Indigenous people to choose between culture and destruction," *ICT*, October 27, 2021, <https://indiancountrytoday.com/news/homelands-in-peril> (Editor's Note: This story is part of an *ICT* Covering Climate Now reporting series on climate migration called CCNow, which can be followed at *ICT*), reported that in Southern Louisiana near Barataria Bayou, that pushes toward the Gulf of Mexico, **on the United Houma Nation people are leaving for higher ground. Rodriguez, a Houma citizen, 'is among tens of thousands of tribal citizens across Indian Country forced to choose between staying in their ancestral lands or moving out to protect themselves from the devastation wreaked by climate change."**

**'Indigenous peoples along coastal areas and waterways across the United States from Alaska to Florida and California to Maine are facing floods, rising sea levels, coastal erosion and increasingly powerful hurricanes. Those in the Southwest and Plains have been hit with unprecedented drought, wildfires, heat, lowered water tables and depleted waterways. They're all facing loss of habitat and a reduction in traditional food sources for people, livestock and wildlife."**

**At least six tribal communities have already made firm plans to move. In other cases, such on the Houma Nation, on which 1000 homes suffered damage from Hurricane Ida, in August 2021, those who cannot afford to rebuild after the last climate disaster are moving away, a loss to themselves and the community. At Houma, many people are repairing homes, but a great many were damaged beyond repair and must be rebuilt or abandoned. With more and more, and more stronger storms, hitting the gulf coast, while the Gulf waters are rising and the land being increasingly washed away, Ida was a repeating experience, and soon there will not be dry ground on which to repair or rebuild.**

**Other Louisiana Nations have been having the same experience, with many of their citizens already moving or planning to do so, including the Isle de Jean Charles Band of Biloxi-Chitimacha-Choctaw Indian Tribe, which has lost 98 percent of its land mass and at least 75 percent of its residents since 1955 amidst continuing storm destruction and land loss. To help meet the situation, the state of Louisiana, assisted by federal funding, purchased 515 acres some 40 miles north of the coast in Shriever, Louisiana, to relocate tribal citizens. There, as of October 2021, 15-20 houses were under construction, with 39 families are expected to be moved in by spring 2022. Quite a few had left their communities earlier for nearby towns in part to escape the repeating destruction, and in part to find work, as their old occupations, including shrimp and sea food harvesting, had been washed away by climate change.**

**Further East along the coast, the Seminole Tribe of Florida Seminoles, especially in its traditional home in the Everglades, has been suffering from increasingly powerful hurricanes, rising sea levels and erosion combined with heat and periodic drought. Moving North along and near the Atlantic Coast rising oceans, increased severe storms and other previously usual extreme weather have taken a significant toll. The Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina, for example, has suffered from increased flooding of the Lumbee River and the**

upland coastal plains, while being damaged by unprecedented hurricanes. The overall impact of the shifting climate on the Nation, Lumbee citizen Dr. Ryan E. Emanuel stated, will have, "have serious implications for the tribe," including on hunting, fishing, foraging, basket-making, pottery, medicinal plants and religion. "We value those swamps and we value those wetlands," Emanuel told Indian Country Today. "The flooding makes it difficult for us to stay close to our waters. Our ancestors fished, boated, relied on the water a lot more than we do now ... We (now) have a hard time forming bonds with the rivers and swamps."

**In Alaska, numerous costal Native villages have been hit hard by rising seas, as well as melting ice and other aspects of the especially rapid climate change that has been damaging to people all over the state, especially to Natives and others who live by full or partial substance. Melting ice and tundra make hunting, trapping, fishing and gathering difficult and dangerous in many areas, while habitat and wildlife ways are changing.**

Among the Alaskan villages hard hit by a warming climate is **the Southwest Alaska Yup'ik village of Newtok**. The ice that protected the village from storms has been rapidly disappearing, allowing wave action tear away the ground, moving the ocean inland more than a mile, while the melting of the permafrost has caused once firm ground to sink and shift. Barges are no longer able to land with supplies or to transport people, and the riverbank is eroding the runway on which small planes land, a vital connection to the outside. **In the last decade the village, which stands between two rivers, has flooded several times, with a storm in fall of 2005 washing away land behind the village, so that it has become an island. More recently, the nearest riverbank has been eroding land at about 100 feet a year, until it is coming close to major community buildings. Congress has approved a site for the village of around 350 people to move to nearby Mertarvik, on erosion resistant Nelson Island, which is within the village's traditional territory.**

**Three other Alaska Native villages, Kivalina, Shishmaref and Shaktoolik, have been found by the U.S. government to become uninhabitable within the next five years. But as fall 2021, only Newtok had made substantial progress in moving to a new, long-term safe, location. Other Alaska Native villages have been suffering from erosion as well. For example, the Yup'ik village of Akiak recently moved six homes being undermined by the Kuskokwim River, and like others, its members have found climate change reducing their harvesting of sea life and game.**

Along the Pacific Northwest coast, **in Washington state, the Quinault Nation community of Taholah was flooded in 2021 and, as the coastline washes away, is increasingly vulnerable to storm surges, tsunamis and the ever-rising ocean. A new village site is under construction a half mile from the present location, on higher ground considered safe for the foreseeable future. Taholah plans to complete its move by 2030, and has been assisted by U.S. government funding, and additional relocation funds are being considered by Congress.**

**The Quileute Tribe in La Push, Washington also had experienced flooding in their increasingly vulnerable location by the shore, and also is in the process of moving to higher ground, financial help for which is also under consideration by Congress. Some citizens of the tribe plan to continue to live in the present village site, which since ancient times has been the location for the nation's sea harvesting. Other western coastal tribes also impacted by rising seas and more powerful storms, as well as by climate change reducing their traditional harvests.**

**Among those nations reporting reduced land and/or sea wildlife harvesting, or a shifting in habitats and in wildlife location and behavior as a result of changing climate, in**

Oregon and Idaho are the five tribal nations that make up the Upper Snake River Tribes Foundation — Burns Paiute Tribe, Fort McDermitt Paiute and Shoshone Tribes, Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of Fort Hall, and Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of Duck Valley. In northeastern Oregon, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation report that their traditional foods are being impacted by warming temperatures, while heat, drought and smoke from wildfires have been reducing the Tubatulabal Tribe of California's Kern Valley to access to traditional foods, as well as generally lowering the quality of life.

The increase in number size, intensity of western wildfires over longer and longer periods of time have also been harmful to many nations, both from smoke and from direct threat and damage. For example, Hundreds of families in the Flathead Indian and Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservations, and in the Fort Belknap Indian Community in Montana were evacuated and tribal citizens worked to save homes and sacred sites as 200,000 acres were consumed by flames, in summer 2022.

In the Southwest, severe drought and heat have made farming more difficult, causing the Hopi, among others to discuss if, and how, they might change the way they farm. And often when it does rain, it is in, at times, previously unknown torrents causing flooding. Wild fires have also been a threat and problem, including from choking and health impacting smoke from the huge fires further west. At times and places across the region, the hot dryness has caused corn to die in the fields, sheep and wildlife to forage farther for food and drink, while some herds have been reduced of necessity and families have been forced to wait in lines to get water for their homes.

Meghan Sullivan, "‘Drastic changes’: Sea ice levels affecting seal hunting: Seal hunting is an Inupiaq tradition that isn’t just food security, but is also part of community bonding and generational ties," *ICT*, September 15, 2021, <https://indiancountrytoday.com/news/drastic-changes-sea-ice-levels-affecting-seal-hunting>, reported, "a recently released research project about climate change’s impact on the regional *ugruk*. The study revealed an unignorable trend: Kotzebue’s seal hunting season has shrunk about one day per year over the last 17 years, primarily due to a decline in sea ice."

Kenny Stancil, "A Quarter of All 'Critical' US Infrastructure at Risk From Flooding: Report: 'Our nation's infrastructure is not built to a standard that protects against the level of flood risk we face today, let alone how those risks will grow over the next 30 years as the climate changes,' said one expert," *Common Dreams*, October 11, 2021, [https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/10/11/quarter-all-critical-us-infrastructure-risk-flooding-report?utm\\_term=AO&utm\\_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_content=email&utm\\_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_medium=Email](https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/10/11/quarter-all-critical-us-infrastructure-risk-flooding-report?utm_term=AO&utm_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_content=email&utm_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_medium=Email), reported, "Underscoring the need to slash greenhouse gas emissions and invest in public goods to better prepare communities across the United States for escalating extreme weather, a new report released Monday finds that one-quarter of the nation's "critical" infrastructure is already susceptible to flooding that renders it inaccessible, with risks projected to increase in the coming decades.

Described as the first-ever nationwide evaluation of community-level vulnerability to flooding, the report—*Infrastructure on the Brink* (<https://firststreet.org/research-lab/published-research/highlights-from-infrastructure-on-the-brink/>), compiled by the First Street Foundation, a

nonprofit research group that specializes in environmental risk assessment—highlights localities where housing, commercial real estate, transportation networks, schools, hospitals, power plants, and other pieces of infrastructure face operational flood risk in 2021.

**The analysis also explores how spatial patterns of flood risk are expected to change over the next 30 years, as the fossil fuel-driven climate emergency exacerbates sea-level rise and extreme rainfall events, which pose direct and indirect threats to the safety and well-being of people throughout the U.S.**

'It is clear, now more than ever,' the report states, 'that the ways and places in which we live are likely to continue to be impacted by our changing environment. One of the most important implications in this development is the vulnerability of our national infrastructure.'

Using a unique national database that contains parcel-level flood risk information—combining hazards, exposure, and vulnerability—as well as over 20,000 flood adaptation measures, the report maps Americans' current and future flood risks based on their proximity to coasts and flood plains plus the estimated impacts of flood-damaged infrastructure at the broader scales of neighborhoods, zip codes, cities, and counties.

As the authors note, **'Individuals whose homes were spared the impact of a particular flood event are increasingly likely to find their local roads, businesses, critical infrastructure, utilities, or emergency services affected.'**

The report assesses risk to (1) residential properties; (2) roads; (3) commercial properties; (4) critical infrastructure (airports, fire stations, hospitals, police stations, ports, power stations, superfund/hazardous waste sites, water outfalls, and wastewater treatment facilities); and (5) social infrastructure (government buildings, historic buildings, houses of worship, museums, and schools).

Defining risk as 'the unique level of flooding for each infrastructure type relative to operational thresholds,' **the report finds:**

**Risk to residential properties is expected to increase by 10% over the next 30 years with 12.4 million properties at risk today (14%) and 13.6 million at risk of flooding in 2051 (16%);**

**Two million miles of road (25%) are at risk today and that is expected to increase to 2.2 million miles of road (26%) over the next 30 years (a 3% increase over the next 30 years);**

**Commercial properties are expected to see a 7% increase in risk of flooding from 2021 to 2051, with 918,540 at risk today (20%) and 984,591 at risk of flooding in 30 years (21%);**

**Currently, 35,776 critical infrastructure facilities are at risk today (25%), increasing to 37,786 facilities by 2051 (26%), a 6% increase in risk; and**

**Compounding that risk, 71,717 pieces of social infrastructure facilities are at risk today (17%), increasing to 77,843 by 2051 (19%), an increase of 9% over that time period.**

The report comes in the wake of several highly destructive flooding events that affected various parts of the U.S. this summer, including one in Tennessee in August as well as the inundation of New York City's subway system in July and again in September during Hurricane Ida—deadly and costly disasters that exposed how ill-prepared the country is to reduce extreme weather-related infrastructure damage and the ensuing consequences.

The new analysis also points to earlier catastrophes, such as Hurricane Sandy, which hit the New York City metropolitan area in 2012 and "flooded hospitals, crippled

**electrical substations, overwhelmed wastewater treatment centers, and shut down power and water to tens of millions of people."**

**Our nation's infrastructure is not built to a standard that protects against the level of flood risk we face today, let alone how those risks will grow over the next 30 years as the climate changes,"** Matthew Eby, founder and executive director of the First Street Foundation, said in a statement.

'This report highlights the cities and counties whose vital infrastructure are most at risk today and will help inform where investment dollars should flow in order to best mitigate against that risk,' Eby added.

According to the report:

There are significant differences at the county and city level in the amount of risk that exists today and into the future. Most importantly, there are a group of counties and cities that have persistent patterns of vulnerability across multiple dimensions of physical risk from flooding. These areas tend to be in regions with well-established flood risk, such as coastal flood plains along the Gulf and Southeastern coasts of the U.S., but also in less well-known flood zones, such as in the Appalachian Mountain regions of West Virginia and Kentucky.

**To that point, 17 of the top 20 counties in the U.S. which are most at risk (85%) are in the states of Louisiana, Florida, West Virginia, and Kentucky. Additionally, the top cities at risk of flooding persistently show up in the states of Louisiana, Florida, Texas, and South Carolina. The analysis further uncovered a high degree of vulnerability in some of the major population centers in the U.S., including New Orleans, Miami, Tampa, Charleston, Chicago, and Los Angeles.**

**Even as extreme storms and material insecurity become more common and severe—rendering continued inaction far more expensive than prevention—congressional Republicans and a handful of conservative Democratic lawmakers swimming in corporate cash continue to fight against the Build Back Better Act, a President Joe Biden-endorsed proposal to invest trillions in strengthening climate action and expanding the nation's relatively underdeveloped welfare state.**

Opposition to greening the nation's physical infrastructure and improving its social infrastructure increases disaster vulnerabilities and worsens impacts, particularly in marginalized communities, experts say, although the inverse—simultaneously addressing the intensifying crises of climate and inequality—is also possible.

'The decarbonization question, the infrastructure question, and the inequalities question are the same question,' Daniel Aldana Cohen, assistant professor of sociology at the University of California, Berkeley, tweeted last week. "Only an epic struggle from the left, combining mass organization, mobilization, and technical expertise—across borders—can provide a good answer in the 2020s.'

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Julia Conley, "Africa's Disappearing Glaciers Signal 'Irreversible' Threat to Earth System: Report: The authors of a U.N. report urge greater investment in climate adaptation and weather services on the continent," *Common Dreams*, October 19, 2021, [https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/10/19/africas-disappearing-glaciers-signal-irreversible-threat-earth-system-report?utm\\_term=AO&utm\\_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_content=email&utm\\_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_medium=Email](https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/10/19/africas-disappearing-glaciers-signal-irreversible-threat-earth-system-report?utm_term=AO&utm_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_content=email&utm_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_medium=Email), reported, **"A new United Nations-backed report**

reveals the extent of Africa's 'disproportionate vulnerability' to the climate emergency, with the continent's three glaciers expected to disappear entirely in the next two decades as the population faces the increasingly dire effects of the heating of the planet.

'Total deglaciation' of the glaciers of the Rwenzori Mountains in Uganda and Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania is expected by the 2040s, while the Mount Kenya massif could lose its ice caps a decade sooner, 'which will make it one of the first entire mountain ranges to lose glacier cover due to human-induced climate change,' according to the State of the Climate in Africa 2020 report ([https://library.wmo.int/doc\\_num.php?explnum\\_id=10833](https://library.wmo.int/doc_num.php?explnum_id=10833)).

'In sub-Saharan Africa, climate change could further lower gross domestic product (GDP) by up to 3% by 2050.'

**The loss of the three glaciers in East Africa, which are retreating at faster rates than the global average, 'signals the threat of imminent and irreversible change to the Earth system,'** said World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Secretary-General Petteri Taalas.

'Administrative barriers' currently put long term observation efforts at the mountains' summits at risk of being abandoned, according to the report by the WMO, the African Union Commission (AUC), the Economic Commission for Africa, and other agencies—but the authors noted that "investing in climate adaptation, early warning systems, and weather and climate services can pay off.'

**'In sub-Saharan Africa, climate change could further lower gross domestic product (GDP) by up to 3% by 2050,'** wrote Josefa Leonel Correia Sacko, commissioner for rural economy and agriculture at the AUC. "This presents a serious challenge for climate adaptation and resilience actions because not only are physical conditions getting worse, but also the number of people being affected is increasing."

While the loss of the three glaciers could have significant adverse effects for tourism revenue, investing in climate adaptation would cost \$30 to \$50 billion annually over the next decade, or 2% to 3% of the GDP, while sparking economic development and generating 'more jobs in support of economic recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic.'

As African nations' economies face long-term threats from the climate emergency, the report notes that millions of people's lives are already being upended on the continent by the effects of the warming planet.

More than 800,000 people were affected by severe flooding in the Sudan last year; 155 deaths were reported there and 285 were reported in Kenya due to the flooding, which scientists have linked to heavier rainfall resulting from the warming atmosphere.

South Sudan, Ethiopia, Uganda, and Chad were among several countries that reported significant displacement due to drought, flooding, and other climate crisis impacts last year, while in Madagascar, as *Common Dreams* reported in August, 'famine-like conditions have been driven by climate change.'

With each flood or drought in sub-Saharan Africa, said the WMO, food insecurity increases by 5% to 20%.

Central African countries reported extreme events including landslides and heavy rainfall which led to economic losses and the collapse of Palar Bridge in Cameroon.

While Africa's 54 countries are responsible for less than 4% of fossil fuel emissions, the report estimates that by 2030, up to 118 million people on the continent will be exposed to drought, floods, and extreme heat fueled by the continued extraction of oil, gas, and coal advanced by the Global North.



**'This will place additional burdens on poverty alleviation efforts and significantly hamper growth in prosperity,' the report said.**

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Nadja Popovich and Brad Plumer, "Who Has The Most Historical Responsibility for Climate Change?" *The New York Times*, November 12, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/11/12/climate/cop26-emissions-compensation.html>, reported, **"One of the biggest fights at the United Nations climate summit in Glasgow is whether — and how — the world's wealthiest nations, which are disproportionately responsible for global warming to date, should compensate poorer nations for the damages caused by rising temperatures.**

**23 rich, developed countries are responsible for half of all historical CO2 emissions.**

**More than 150 countries are responsible for the other half." The details with charts are in this article in print and on line.**

**Rich countries, including the United States, Canada, Japan and much of western Europe, account for just 12 percent of the global population today but are responsible for 50 percent of all the planet-warming greenhouse gases released from fossil fuels and industry over the past 170 years."**

Over that time, Earth has heated up by roughly 1.1 degrees Celsius (2 degrees Fahrenheit), fueling stronger and deadlier heat waves, floods, droughts and wildfires. Poorer, vulnerable countries have asked richer nations to provide more money to help adapt to these hazards."

Dan Egan, "The climate crisis haunts Chicago's future. A Battle Between a Great City and a Great Lake," *The New York Times*, July 7, 2021, [https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/07/07/climate/chicago-river-lake-michigan.html?campaign\\_id=54&emc=edit\\_clim\\_20210714&instance\\_id=35319&nl=climate-fwd%3A&regi\\_id=52235981&segment\\_id=63444&te=1&user\\_id=2984790c14170290245238c0cd4fd927](https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2021/07/07/climate/chicago-river-lake-michigan.html?campaign_id=54&emc=edit_clim_20210714&instance_id=35319&nl=climate-fwd%3A&regi_id=52235981&segment_id=63444&te=1&user_id=2984790c14170290245238c0cd4fd927) reported that **Climate Change has been bringing a serious threat to both Chicago and Lake Michigan.** For about 300 years, the lake maintained close to the same level. But that has changed. **In 2014, it reached record lows.** More recently, **with record precipitation in the middle of North America the level has been rising beyond its usual highs.** **If the level rises high enough, it will overflow the lock separating the Chicago River from Lake Michigan.** **The river is heavily polluted by sewage that flows into it from Chicago's storm sewers. If the waters mix, the lake, a major source of drinking water will be seriously polluted.** **Increasingly heavy downpours could have the same result if they raise the river level high enough.** To attempt to prevent that disaster, the city has been constructing a huge network of underground storage tanks to capture up to billions of gallons sewage tainted water when downpours occur. In addition, **if the level of the lake falls low enough, it will reverse the course of the Chicago River with its sewage into the lake.** Finally, **if the lake level rises sufficiently, it cause serious flooding in the relatively flat and low level city.**

Saul Elbein, "Seeking tribal sovereignty through solar," *The Hill*, December 8, 2021, [https://thehill.com/policy/equilibrium-sustainability/584824-seeking-tribal-sovereignty-through-solar?rl=1&bbeml=tp-pck9Q6QNPEiuBt3JmyTokQ.jAYeqA8JWck2L\\_OFM1\\_G0BA.rG9RAYASebEeM7bVI\\_zKuM](https://thehill.com/policy/equilibrium-sustainability/584824-seeking-tribal-sovereignty-through-solar?rl=1&bbeml=tp-pck9Q6QNPEiuBt3JmyTokQ.jAYeqA8JWck2L_OFM1_G0BA.rG9RAYASebEeM7bVI_zKuM)

g.lcdYwbzQ4AkeEghG will26DkivA, reported, "A group of **Midwestern Native American “solar warriors”** is working to help tribes break cycles of energy poverty and what they call **“colonial exploitation”** with access to locally controlled, low-cost renewable power.

Recently rebranded the **Indigenized Energy Initiative (IEI)**, they serve as a kind of utility incubator that assists with the creation of new solar installations, including offering education on construction and how to secure federal funds."

Positive Energy Solar reported in a November 1, 2021, "**Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham has announced that we [New Mexico] are aiming for net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. The announcement was made on day one of our state’s first-ever Climate Summit** (<https://www.facebook.com/login/?next=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2FNMSierraClub%2Fposts%2F10158442388398434>) which took place October 25-26. You can hear her announcement in the recording of the Climate Summit (2:33:35). The Governor intends to push for this initiative by codifying it into law in the January 2022 legislative session. **Also on the legislative agenda will be clean fuel standards, as well as the introduction of a hydrogen hub act, intended to help decarbonize New Mexico’s transportation sector with new technology.**" But this hydrogen production facility would use fossil fuels to produce the hydrogen and thus is green friendly and is opposed by environmentalists.

By putting net-zero greenhouse emissions by 2050 into law in 2022, New Mexico will continue aiming for its goals in becoming a national leader in sustainability and the clean energy transition. Governor Lujan-Grisham will be representing our climate-action leading state on the world stage at the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference taking place thru Nov. 12 in Scotland.

More good clean energy news...

Did you know that **the city of Santa Fe is working toward becoming a 100% renewable city by 2040**? We had the privilege to take part in the groundbreaking ceremony of the city’s sustainability initiatives that will help Santa Fe bring their green goals to fruition.

Among the many projects are 2.75MW of solar that Positive Energy Solar will be integrating throughout the city. Beyond the significant environmental benefits, these projects will help to lower energy costs for the city and its taxpayers.

See the coverage on KRQE right here: <https://www.krqe.com/news/politics-government/city-of-santa-fe-adding-solar-arrays-to-some-facilities/?fbclid=IwAR1YxgTqeWtzBDdMJ7SAdEPhhJSo-5ZGWcyinsMQPV5qYOfK0c5rqHYVjDM>."

"Solar farm in desert restores ecosystem, boosts green economy," reporting, "**Once totally barren and called the 'sea of death,' China's 7th largest desert Kubuqi takes on a new look after years of green efforts. Follow Xinhua's Zhao Zehui to a solar farm in Kubuqi to explore how it combines planting, breeding and green power generation,**" on YouTube, Oct 21, 2021, [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_Uv-Yw9MZFE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_Uv-Yw9MZFE).

Christopher Flavelle, "Climate Change Is Bankrupting America’s Small Towns: Repeated shocks from hurricanes, fires and floods are pushing some rural communities, already struggling economically, to the brink of financial collapse," *The New York Times*, September 5, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/09/02/climate/climate-towns-bankruptcy.html>, reported, "**Climate shocks are pushing small rural communities like Fair Bluff, many of which were**

**already struggling economically, to the brink of insolvency. Rather than bouncing back, places hit repeatedly by hurricanes, floods and wildfires are unraveling: residents and employers leave, the tax base shrinks and it becomes even harder to fund basic services.**

That downward spiral now threatens low-income communities that were in the path of Hurricane Ida and those hit by the recent flooding in Tennessee — hamlets regularly pummeled by storms that are growing more frequent and destructive because of climate change." And for residents of these towns, the impact is strongly negative. If they stay jobs, income and supportive service are reduced, and if they move, the value of their property has been reduced making it more difficult to sell and get a new start elsewhere.

Hiroko Tabuchi, "For Many, Hydrogen Is the Fuel of the Future. New Research Raises Doubts: Industry has been promoting hydrogen as a reliable, next-generation fuel to power cars, heat homes and generate electricity. It may, in fact, be worse for the climate than previously thought," *The New York Times*, August 12, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/08/12/climate/hydrogen-fuel-natural-gas-pollution.html>, reported, "...a new peer-reviewed study (<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/ese3.956>) on the climate effects of hydrogen, the most abundant substance in the universe, casts doubt on its role in tackling the greenhouse gas emissions that are the driver of catastrophic global warming.

The main stumbling block: **Most hydrogen used today is extracted from natural gas in a process that requires a lot of energy and emits vast amounts of carbon dioxide. Producing natural gas also releases methane, a particularly potent greenhouse gas."**

Thus, "Blue Hydrogen," that the natural gas industry wishes to produce, and for which many billions of dollars have been allocated in the 2021 infrastructure bill to produce it, is more harmful than helpful for meeting global warming.

**The Biden Administration and European Nations have stated a plan to use tariffs and import requirements to favor steel and other meals made with low carbon emissions, prohibiting entry of materials made with high greenhouse gas emissions** (Ana Swanson, "Steel Plan Links Trade with Climate," *The New York Times*, November 4, 2021).

Niraj Chokshi, Matthew Goldstein and Erin Woo, "Biden's Electric Car Plans Hinge on Having Enough Chargers: The United States has about 100,000 public chargers, far fewer than Europe and China. It needs 10 times as many, auto experts say, to complete the switch from combustion engine vehicles," *The New York Times*, September 7, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/09/07/business/energy-environment/electric-vehicle-charging-stations.html>, reported, **"In President Biden's vision of a green future, half of all new cars sold in 2030 will be electric. But something really basic is standing in the way of that plan: enough outlets to plug in all those cars and trucks.**

**The country has tens of thousands of public charging stations — the electric car equivalent of gas pumps — with about 110,000 chargers. But energy and auto experts say that number needs to be at least five to 10 times as big to achieve the president's goal. Building that many will cost tens of billions of dollars, far more than the \$7.5 billion that lawmakers have set aside in the infrastructure bill."**

Jonathan Weisman, Emily Cochrane and Catie Edmondson, "House Passes \$1 Trillion Infrastructure Bill, Putting Social Policy Bill on Hold: Progressives who had threatened to sink

the measure agreed to support it after extracting a promise from moderates that they would ultimately back the social safety net and climate bill," *The New York Times*, November 6, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/11/05/us/politics/house-infrastructure-reconciliation.html>, reported, **"The House passed a \$1 trillion bill on Friday night to rebuild the country's aging public works system, fund new climate resilience initiatives and expand access to high-speed internet service, giving final approval to a central plank of President Biden's economic agenda after a daylong drama that pitted moderate Democrats against progressives."** The President was expected to quickly sign the bill.

**"It will provide \$550 billion in new funds over 10 years to shore up roads, bridges and highways, improve internet access and modernize the nation's power grid. The measure also includes the United States' largest investment to prepare for climate change: \$50 billion to help communities grapple with the devastating fires, floods, storms and droughts that scientists say have been worsened by global warming."**

Meanwhile, the \$1.85 trillion social safety net and climate change bill was put on hold.

**A listing of what a number of states were likely to use the infrastructure bill money for is in** Shawn Hubler, Emily Cochrane and Zach Montague, "This Is Where the States Want Billions in Infrastructure Funding Spent: The plan finally approved on Friday will address transportation, water, broadband, energy and public safety needs that have been building for years, sometimes decades," *The New York Times*, November 6, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/11/06/us/states-infrastructure-bill-funding.html>. **A listing of what New Mexico might use these funds for is in** "Roads, Transit, Internet: What's In The \$1 Trillion Infrastructure Bill For New Mexico? New Mexico legislators weigh in on their additions to the bill," *The Paper*, November 7, 2021, [https://abq.news/2021/11/roads-transit-internet-whats-in-the-1-trillion-infrastructure-bill-for-new-mexico/?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=The+Paper.+Subscriber&utm\\_campaign=c8934a4931-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2021\\_11\\_07\\_03\\_24&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_f8e2121d66-c8934a4931-68116799&mc\\_cid=c8934a4931&mc\\_eid=822e39214e](https://abq.news/2021/11/roads-transit-internet-whats-in-the-1-trillion-infrastructure-bill-for-new-mexico/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=The+Paper.+Subscriber&utm_campaign=c8934a4931-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2021_11_07_03_24&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f8e2121d66-c8934a4931-68116799&mc_cid=c8934a4931&mc_eid=822e39214e).

Jonathan Watts, Ashley Kirk, Niamh McIntyre, Pablo Gutiérrez and Niko Kommenda, "Half world's fossil fuel assets could become worthless by 2036 in net zero transition: \$11tn fossil fuel asset crash could cause 2008-style financial crisis, warns new study." *The Guardian*, November 4, 2021, <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/ng-interactive/2021/nov/04/fossil-fuel-assets-worthless-2036-net-zero-transition>. reported, **"About half of the world's fossil fuel assets will be worthless by 2036 under a net zero transition,** according to research (<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41560-021-00934-2>).

**Countries that are slow to decarbonise will suffer but early movers will profit; the study finds that renewables and freed-up investment will more than make up for the losses to the global economy."**

Brad Plumer, "Energy Department Aims to Slash Cost of Removing Carbon from the Air: Scientists say carbon removal may be needed to avert the worst effects of climate change. But it still needs to be much cheaper and more reliable," *The New York Times*, November 6, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/11/05/climate/glasgow-carbon-removal-climate.html>, reported, **"The U.S. Department of Energy on Friday unveiled its biggest effort yet to drastically reduce the cost of technologies that suck carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere,**

in a recognition that current strategies to lower greenhouse gases may not be enough to avert the worst effects of climate change.

At the United Nations climate summit, Jennifer Granholm, the energy secretary, said that her agency would invest in research in the nascent field of carbon removal, with a goal of pushing the cost under \$100 per ton by 2030. That's far below the price tag for many current technologies, which are still in early stages of development and can currently cost as much as \$2,000 per ton."

"Study: Recycled Lithium Batteries as Good as Newly Mined: Cathodes made with novel direct-recycling beat commercial materials," IEEE, October 15, 2021, <https://spectrum.ieee.org/recycled-batteries-good-as-newly-mined>. reported, that as **the lithium recycling industry is beginning to expand**, with auto makers initially unsure of how good recycled batteries are, **'Lithium-ion batteries, with their use of riskily mined metals, tarnish the green image of EVs. Recycling to recover those valuable metals would minimize the social and environmental impact of mining, keep millions of tons of batteries from landfills, and cut the energy use and emissions created from making batteries.'**

A new study by Wang and a team including researchers from the US Advanced Battery Consortium (USABC: <http://www.uscar.org/guest/teams/12/U-S-Advanced-Battery-Consortium-LLC>), and battery company A123 Systems, shows that battery and carmakers needn't worry. The results, published in the journal Joule, **shows that batteries with recycled cathodes can be as good as, or even better than those using new state-of-the-art materials.**"

"13 Battery Gigafactories Are Coming To the US By 2025 (electrek.co), *Slashdot*, Posted by BeauHD, December 28, 2021, <https://hardware.slashdot.org/story/21/12/28/2152236/13-battery-gigafactories-are-coming-to-the-us-by-2025>, reported, "schwit1 shares a report from Electrek: **There are 13 new battery cell gigafactories coming online in the US by 2025, according to the Department of Energy.** These factories are ushering in a new era of battery production in the US. [...] Now the Department of Energy has issued a report listing all the battery factory projects in the US: "In addition to electric vehicle battery plants that are already in operation in the United States, 13 additional plants have been announced and are expected to be operational within the next 5 years. Of the 13 plants that are planned, eight are joint ventures between automakers and battery manufacturers. Many of these new plants will be located in the Southeast or Midwest."

Gilberto Neto and Ruth Maclean, "Waste From Mine in Angola Kills 12 Downstream in Congo, Minister Says: Toxic metals from Angola's largest diamond mine spilled into the Kasai River in July, sickening thousands and causing an 'environmental catastrophe,' researchers said.." *The New York Times*, September, 3, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/09/03/world/africa/mine-waste-angola-congo.html>, reported that **a toxic leak from Angola's largest diamond mine, run by Catoca, a joint venture owned by the Angolan state mining company, Endiama, and the Russian mining giant Alrosa, has not only thousands of killed fish while fouling an ecosystem, but downstream in Congo has killed at least 12 people and 'caused about 4,500 people got sick from diarrhea as a result of the pollution and nearly one million were affected overall,'** said Eve Bazaiba, Congo's minister of environment and sustainable development."

**A dark aspect of moving to green energy is that a great deal of highly polluting mining is required to provide necessary minerals, especially for batteries for electric cars and energy storage. Fortunately, at least for some of the minerals, recycling of them is a growing option, as indicated above. At the moment, however, and international rush to mine cobalt, and to gain advantage and perhaps control of that market, is underway** (Dionne Searcey, Michael Forsythe and Eric Lipton, "Race To The Future: A Power Struggle Over Cobalt Rattles the Clean Energy Revolution: The quest for Congo's cobalt, which is vital for electric vehicles and the worldwide push against climate change, is caught in an international cycle of exploitation, greed and gamesmanship," *The New York Times*, November 20, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/11/20/world/china-congo-cobalt.html>).

Coral Davenport, "Biden Crafts a Climate Plan B: Tax Credits, Regulation and State Action: The new strategy could deeply cut greenhouse gases that are heating the planet but it will still face considerable political, logistical and legal hurdles," *The New York Times*, October 22, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/10/22/climate/biden-climate-plan.html>, reported, **"After losing the centerpiece of his climate agenda just a week before heading to a major global warming summit, President Biden intends to make the case that the United States has a new plan that will still meet its ambitions to sharply cut greenhouse gases that are warming the planet.**

**The administration's strategy now consists of a three-pronged approach of generous tax incentives for wind, solar and other clean energy, tough regulations to restrict pollution coming from power plants and automobile tailpipes, and a slew of clean energy laws enacted by states."**

Theoretically **the plan could achieve what has been blocked in Congress, but it is unlikely to succeed.** Regulations could take years to establish and surmount court challenges, while many states are unlikely to collaborate, and there are other difficulties as well.

Hiroko Tabuchi, **Biden Outlines a Plan for Cleaner Jet Fuel. But How Clean Would It Be? Some biofuels may contribute to greenhouse gas emissions in ways that can significantly reduce, and sometimes offset, their advantages over fossil fuels, studies have shown,"** *The New York Times*, September 13, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/09/13/climate/sustainable-jet-fuel-biden.html>, reported, **"At first glance, it's a big step forward in curbing climate change. In a deal announced Thursday, the Biden administration and the airline industry agreed to an ambitious goal of replacing all jet fuel with sustainable alternatives by 2050, a target meant to drive down flying's environmental toll.**

**As early as 2030, President Biden said, the United States will aim to produce three billion gallons of sustainable fuel — about 10 percent of current jet fuel use — from waste, plants and other organic matter, reducing aviation's emissions of planet-warming gases by 20 percent and creating jobs."**

**The question to be answered over time is how green the new biofuels will actually be, considering not only how much greenhouse pollution they produce when consumed, but also how much greenhouse gas pollution occurs in producing those fuels.**

Brett Wilkins, "Indigenous Leaders Hail Biden's Proposed Chaco Canyon Drilling Ban as 'Important First Step': 'We are most hopeful that this action is a turning point where the United

States natural resource management planning philosophy focuses on the protection of all living beings," *Common Dreams*, November 15, 2021, [https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/11/15/indigenous-leaders-hail-bidens-proposed-chaco-canyon-drilling-ban-important-first?utm\\_term=AO&utm\\_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_content=email&utm\\_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_medium=Email](https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/11/15/indigenous-leaders-hail-bidens-proposed-chaco-canyon-drilling-ban-important-first?utm_term=AO&utm_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_content=email&utm_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_medium=Email), reported, "A coalition of Southwestern Indigenous leaders on Monday applauded **President Joe Biden and Interior Secretary Deb Haaland** following the **announcement of a proposed 20-year fossil fuel drilling ban around the sacred Chaco Canyon in northwestern New Mexico—even as the administration prepares to auction off tens of millions of acres in the Gulf of Mexico for oil and gas extraction later this week.**"

Hannah Grover, "Groups express concerned about hydrogen hub push," New Mexico Political Report, October 11, 2021, [https://nmpoliticalreport.com/2021/10/11/groups-express-concerned-about-hydrogen-hub-push/?mc\\_cid=82b102dd0c&mc\\_eid=cde7993ced](https://nmpoliticalreport.com/2021/10/11/groups-express-concerned-about-hydrogen-hub-push/?mc_cid=82b102dd0c&mc_eid=cde7993ced), reported that **there is a push by supporters to gain approval for a hydrogen fuel cell production facility in New Mexico**, "Supporters of hydrogen power say it can create good-paying jobs while also providing zero-emission energy, but some environmental advocacy groups are concerned about a proposal to create a hydrogen hub in New Mexico."

**Opponents point out that this method of producing hydrogen is environmental counterproductive as it requires fossil fuels to produce the hydrogen. Hydrogen is only a viable fuel when it requires no, or very little, fossil fuel to produce.**

"Biden to Restore Three National Monuments in Utah and New England: President Biden is restoring Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante in Utah and a marine monument off the New England coast, all severely reduced by former President Donald J. Trump," *The New York Times*, October 7, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/10/07/climate/bears-ears-grand-staircase-escalante-biden.html>, reported, "**President Biden is expected to announce on Friday that he will use his executive authority to restore sweeping environmental protections to three major national monuments that had been stripped away by former President Donald J. Trump, according to two people familiar with the matter.**"

**Mr. Biden will reinstate and slightly expand the original 1.3 million acre boundaries of Bears Ears National Monument, and restore the original 1.8 million acre boundaries of Grand Staircase-Escalante**, two rugged and pristine expanses in Utah that are defined by red rock canyons, rich wildlife and archaeological treasures.

**He will also restore protections covering the Atlantic Ocean's first marine monument**, the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts, an expanse of sea canyons and underwater mountains off the New England coast."

Ivan Penn, "California Panel Backs Solar Mandate for New Buildings: A state agency voted to require many new commercial structures, along with high-rise residential projects, to have solar power and battery storage," *The New York Times*, August 11, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/08/11/business/energy-environment/california-solar-mandates.html>, reported, "**California regulators voted Wednesday to require builders to include solar power and battery storage in many new commercial structures as well as high-rise residential projects. It is the latest initiative in the state's vigorous efforts to hasten a**

**transition from fossil fuels to alternative energy sources."**

"Fishing, recreation advocates topple critical Trump-era Clean Water Act federal power grab," Western Environmental Law Center, October 22, 2021, <https://westernlaw.org/fishing-recreation-advocates-topple-critical-trump-era-clean-water-act-federal-power-grab/>, reported, **"Late last night, fishing and recreation advocates won a significant victory for clean water when a federal district court threw out (vacated) a critical Trump Clean Water Act rule. Today's order from the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California restores state and Tribal authority to ensure federally permitted activities in rivers and lakes comply fully with state and tribal law. The Biden administration had planned to revise the rule to an unknown degree through a years-long public process. This court decision erases the Trump rule completely and immediately.**

The Trump-era rule implementing section 401 of the Clean Water Act allowed federal agencies to approve large projects against state and Tribal wishes, including fossil fuel pipelines, hydropower, industrial plants, wetland development, and municipal facilities. Today's order from Judge William H. Alsup restores the broad authority of states and Tribes to halt such projects, and alternatively to impose conditions on them, and restores opportunities for robust public participation in permit decisions.

'The Trump administration took an industry wish list and ran with it, trampling over state and Tribal authority and public rights to clean water in the process,' said Sangye Ince-Johannsen, attorney at the Western Environmental Law Center. 'We feel vindicated by this win today. The court's order immediately restores an essential clean water safeguard—and the careful balance of state and federal power to protect clean water—that Congress intended when it wrote the Clean Water Act.'

'The Trump administration's unlawful 401 rules abandoned the Clean Water Act's commitment to provide a voice for states and communities to protect and manage their rivers and streams, allowing potentially harmful projects to escape critical local review,' said Jennifer Marshall, general counsel for American Rivers. 'We're proud to have played a role in protecting the rights of states and Tribes to defend clean water safeguards.'

'The rule changes would have devastated California's ability to manage its rivers,' said Redgie Collins, legal and policy director at California Trout. "We are relieved hydroelectric projects must still comply with local and state rules to provide flowing water and protect fish.'

The Trump administration's rule change is distinct from its rollbacks to the Waters of the United States (WOTUS) Rule, which excluded many waterbodies across the country from the Clean Water Act's safeguards, and was also recently invalidated by a federal court. Together these two court decisions restore both (1) the Clean Water Act's broad application to waters across the nation, and (2) state and Tribal authority to ensure their standards and laws apply to those waters.

'We are thrilled to have defended the Clean Water Act from an attack that would have undermined the public's ability to protect rivers and communities from harms to the environment and recreation opportunity at hydropower dams and other federally-licensed energy projects' said Bob Nasdor, American Whitewater legal director. "This victory restores our access to information, time for review, and ability of the states to protect water quality that we've counted on for the past 50 years to ensure our rivers are safe, healthy, and accessible.'

'Today's victory is not just a win for clean water, it also restores important, basic rights of democracy to participate in public review for permitting,' said Nic Nelson of Idaho Rivers



United. "Importantly, this ruling also represents an inverse from the previous administration's attempt to subvert states' rights and Tribal authority and oversight."

Photos for media use available here: <http://defendcleanwater.org/media/>.

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Walter "Redgie" Collins, California Trout, 415-748-8755, [rcollins@caltrout.org](mailto:rcollins@caltrout.org)

The Washington Environmental Council, *Synthesis* December 2, 2021, <https://waenvironment.cmail19.com/t/ViewEmail/i/24DD8D919CFEDC042540EF23F30FEDED/4FDCB9C5661E177F6CBD507C784BD83B?alternativeLink=False>, reported, "In November, the [Washington] **Forest Practices Board voted to initiate rulemaking to limit timber harvests near streams in western Washington.** The rulemaking will adopt rules for harvests on private timber lands to protect water temperature, in response to a 2018 scientific study that demonstrated the current rules are not maintaining water temperature on millions of acres of land. Before the meeting, we held a workshop for volunteers and **sent hundreds of letters to the Forest Practices Board urging them to initiate rulemaking.** We're pleased that the Board has recognized the need for a new rule, but urgency is needed to protect cool stream temperatures. We'll continue to work with the Adaptive Management Program to adopt a new rule as quickly as possible to **protect the clean, cool water vital to all our unique** aquatic species across the state."

"Board Decides Tacoma LNG Facility Can Operate Despite Flawed and Dangerous Analysis in Air Permits," Washington Environmental Council, November 22nd, 2021, <https://wecprotects.org/news/board-decides-tacoma-lng-facility-can-operate-despite-flawed-and-dangerous-analysis-in-air-permits/>,

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"Today, **the Washington Pollution Control Hearings Board (PCHB) ruled that Puget Sound Energy's (PSE) air permits, issued by Puget Sound Clean Air Agency (PSCAA), given to the Tacoma Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) facility were adequate, in spite of misleading and inaccurate information used to evaluate the project. This is a disappointing decision for the Puyallup Tribe of Indians and community organizations, represented by Earthjustice, that had challenged PSE's air permits for the facility, presenting information that PSCAA issued the permits based on flawed and inadequate environmental analysis that dramatically underestimates the climate impacts of the project. They had requested the Board require PSCAA to conduct a new environmental analysis and permitting process based on best available science and an accurate assessment of the facility's climate impacts.**

The Puyallup Tribal Council shared this statement: 'We are pleased that the board required detailed monitoring of certain emissions, and our legal and technical teams are evaluating what that means for future operations. However, we are profoundly disappointed the board upheld the remainder of the permit. We expect the decision will embolden companies that start projects that feed climate change and put vulnerable communities at risk.'

Jaimini Parekh, Earthjustice Northwest attorney representing the environmental organizations that appealed PSCAA's permits, said: 'Today, **the PCHB put Washington State on a path toward catastrophic global climate change by blessing the build out of fossil fuel infrastructure that will keep the Puget Sound shipping industry addicted to fracked gas for decades to come.**'

Todd Hay, President of Advocates for a Cleaner Tacoma, said: 'Today the PCHB failed the citizens of Washington state to act as a safeguard against faulty environmental analysis. By PSCAA's own report and admission, this LNG facility will be more harmful for climate change than doing nothing, yet the ruling today allows it to operate. It literally is adding more fuel to the wildfires and extreme temperatures that are burning up our region. How can this possibly be allowed?'

Barb Church, longtime resident and member of the social justice organization The Conversation shared her reflections: "First, I'd like to acknowledge that we are on the occupied, ancestral lands of the Puyallup Tribe. We are extremely disappointed with the court's decision. Puget Sound Energy & PSCAA were able to manipulate results by using 2007 data and ignoring the health and safety risks for local residents. This decision fits into a century's old pattern of systemic racism that has used legal and illegal means to target and marginalize the Puyallup Tribe's culture and their sovereign Treaty Rights and BIPOC communities."

Mark Vossler, MD, WPSR. As health care professionals, we are appalled with the decision by the PCHB to allow the Tacoma LNG facility. Whether we are talking about local risks from explosions, fires, and toxic chemicals in the water and air, or talking about the global climate crisis made worse from upstream fracking and methane leaks, we simply cannot afford to continue our use of fracked gas.

Sr. Jessica Zimmerle, Program & Outreach Director of Earth Ministry/Washington Interfaith Power & Light, said: 'People of faith have been in a prayerful stance of solidarity supporting the Puyallup Tribe and co-litigants' appeal of PSE's immoral project. We are incredibly disappointed that the PCHB failed to make the right decision to require further review of this dirty and dangerous fracked gas facility.'

Background: During the trial this past April, **the Puyallup Tribe and community groups brought forward a number of expert witnesses who highlighted deep flaws in the environmental review for the PSE LNG project, which resulted in the inaccurate evaluation that this facility would be a net improvement to greenhouse gas emissions. The project would, in fact, lock in decades of increased use of fracked gas and hinder a shift to clean energy alternatives. Experts also explained how changes in the project design raised serious safety concerns, which were ignored by regulators.**

**The Tacoma LNG refining facility, located on the Tacoma Tideflats on the ancestral territory of the Puyallup Tribe, is capable of refining and storing 8 million gallons of LNG.** The project has faced years of fierce opposition from the the Puyallup Tribe and the local community who cite climate, health, and safety concerns from the facility as well as permitting agencies' failure to consult with the Puyallup Tribe. They also cite PSE's willful

misrepresentation of the facility as clean energy and illegal construction of the facility prior to receiving proper permits.

The **Puyallup Tribe and community groups have up to 30 days to file an appeal** of this decision by the PCHB."

"Proposed Millennium Bulk Terminals project was last of seven Pacific Northwest coal terminals proposed since 2010," Washington Environmental Council, June 28, 2021, <https://wecprotects.org/news/u-s-supreme-court-dismisses-last-legal-appeal-for-washington-state-coal-export-proposal/>, reported, **"Today, the United States Supreme Court officially dismissed the coal industry's last remaining legal appeal of Washington State's 2017 decision to deny water quality permits for the proposed Millennium Bulk Terminals coal export terminal, signaling the official end of the project."**

Clifford Krauss, "As Western Oil Giants Cut Production, State-Owned Companies Step Up: In the Middle East, Africa and Latin America, government-owned energy companies are increasing oil and natural gas production as U.S. and European companies pare supply because of climate concerns," *The New York Times*, October 14, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/10/14/business/energy-environment/oil-production-state-owned-companies.html>, reported, **"After years of pumping more oil and gas, Western energy giants like BP, Royal Dutch Shell, Exxon Mobil and Chevron are slowing down production as they switch to renewable energy or cut costs after being bruised by the pandemic."**

**But that doesn't mean the world will have less oil. That's because state-owned oil companies in the Middle East, North Africa and Latin America are taking advantage of the cutbacks by investor-owned oil companies by cranking up their production."**

Matthew Daly, "Biden Sets Out Oil, Gas Leasing Reform, Stops Short of Ban," *The Paper*, November 26th, 2021, [https://abq.news/2021/11/biden-sets-out-oil-gas-leasing-reform-stops-short-of-ban/?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=The+Paper.+Subscriber&utm\\_campaign=253fec80d1-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2021\\_11\\_26\\_07\\_35&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_f8e2121d66-253fec80d1-68116799&mc\\_cid=253fec80d1&mc\\_eid=822e39214e](https://abq.news/2021/11/biden-sets-out-oil-gas-leasing-reform-stops-short-of-ban/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=The+Paper.+Subscriber&utm_campaign=253fec80d1-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2021_11_26_07_35&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f8e2121d66-253fec80d1-68116799&mc_cid=253fec80d1&mc_eid=822e39214e), reported, **"The Biden administration on Friday recommended an overhaul of the nation's oil and gas leasing program to focus on areas that are most suitable for energy development and raise costs for energy companies to drill on public lands and water."**

**The long-awaited report by the Interior Department stops short of recommending an end to oil and gas leasing on public lands, as many environmental groups have urged. But officials said the report would move toward a more responsible leasing process that provides a better to return to U.S. taxpayers for oil and gas drilling on the nation's vast public lands and waters."**

**Environmentalists were very concerned that the report said little about climate change and did not make permanent the moratorium on gas and oil drilling while the report was being completed.**

Taylor McKinnon, [tmckinnon@biologicaldiversity.org](mailto:tmckinnon@biologicaldiversity.org), "Interior Department Announces Federal Coal Review, First Step Toward Ending Federal Leasing Program," Center for Biological Diversity, August 19,

2021, [https://www.commondreams.org/newswire/2021/08/19/interior-department-announces-federal-coal-review-first-step-toward-ending?utm\\_term=AO&utm\\_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_content=email&utm\\_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_medium=Email](https://www.commondreams.org/newswire/2021/08/19/interior-department-announces-federal-coal-review-first-step-toward-ending?utm_term=AO&utm_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_content=email&utm_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_medium=Email)," reported, **"The Biden administration today announced the launch of a long-overdue formal climate review of the federal coal program. President Biden has paused federal oil and gas leasing pending a climate review of that program.**

The Interior Department will be taking public comments on the review until Sept. 20.

'We can't save life on earth unless we end coal mining, and this is a critical first step,' said Taylor McKinnon, a senior campaigner at the Center for Biological Diversity. **'A scientific review will show that the federal coal leasing program must end. The Biden administration can't claim to care about the climate emergency and land conservation while auctioning off more public land for filthy coal mines.** If Biden officials needed any more evidence, the latest U.N. report makes clear that the world is burning and it's long past time to stop locking in any new federal fossil fuels.'

Today's **Interior Department action follows years of litigation by conservation groups challenging the Trump administration's abandonment of a 2016 federal coal leasing moratorium and climate review. In May tribal and environmental groups went to court to challenge the Biden administration's decision to defend Trump's policy continuing coal leasing on public lands.**

In January, **574 climate, conservation, Indigenous, religious and business groups sent then-President-elect Biden text for a proposed executive order to use the full force of the law to ban new fossil fuel leasing and permitting on federal public lands and waters.** In February the Biden administration issued an executive order pausing oil and gas leasing onshore and offshore pending a climate review of federal fossil fuel programs, including coal.

**Federal fossil fuel extraction harms people, land and wildlife across the country.** Numerous reports and analyses have shown that climate pollution from the world's already-producing oil, gas and coal developments would push warming past 1.5 degrees Celsius. Those analyses, including one by the International Energy Agency, show that limiting warming to 1.5 degrees requires halting new fossil fuel extraction and investment in new fossil fuel projects, like federal fossil fuel leasing.

Background

**Fossil fuel production on public lands causes about a quarter of U.S. greenhouse gas pollution. Peer-reviewed science estimates that a nationwide federal fossil fuel leasing ban would reduce carbon emissions by 280 million tons per year, ranking it among the most ambitious federal climate-policy proposals in recent years.**

**Oil, gas and coal extraction uses mines, well pads, gas lines, roads and other infrastructure that destroys habitat for wildlife, including threatened and endangered species. Oil spills and other harms from offshore drilling have done immense damage to ocean wildlife and coastal communities. Fracking and mining also pollute watersheds and waterways that provide drinking water to millions of people.**

**Federal fossil fuels that have not been leased to industry contain up to 450 billion tons of potential climate pollution; those already leased to industry contain up to 43 billion tons. Pollution from the world's already producing oil and gas fields, if they're fully developed, would push global warming well past 1.5 degrees Celsius.**

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At the Center for Biological Diversity, we believe that the welfare of human beings is deeply linked to nature — to the existence in our world of a vast diversity of wild animals and plants. Because diversity has intrinsic value, and because its loss impoverishes society, we work to secure a future for all species, great and small, hovering on the brink of extinction. We do so through science, law and creative media, with a focus on protecting the lands, waters and climate that species need to survive."

Hannah Grover, "Archaeology Southwest report finds lack of tribal consultation in oil and gas leasing," *New Mexico Political Report*, August 23, 2021, [https://nmpoliticalreport.com/2021/08/25/archaeology-southwest-report-finds-lack-of-tribal-consultation-in-oil-and-gas-leasing/?mc\\_cid=626b40d000&mc\\_eid=cde7993ced](https://nmpoliticalreport.com/2021/08/25/archaeology-southwest-report-finds-lack-of-tribal-consultation-in-oil-and-gas-leasing/?mc_cid=626b40d000&mc_eid=cde7993ced), reported, **"Oil and gas development on federal lands has prioritized development over protection of cultural sites and has occurred with inadequate tribal consultation,** according to a new report authored by Paul Reed ("Oil and Gas Leasing in the West," [https://www.archaeologysouthwest.org/wp-content/uploads/Oil-and-Gas-Leasing-Paper\\_Reed-2021.pdf](https://www.archaeologysouthwest.org/wp-content/uploads/Oil-and-Gas-Leasing-Paper_Reed-2021.pdf)), a preservation archaeologist with Archaeology Southwest."

Jessica Corbett, "'Momentous Win': Years of Local Opposition Defeats PennEast Pipeline: Opponents in Pennsylvania and New Jersey cheer 'cancellation of this unneeded, dangerous fracked gas pipeline,'" *Common Dreams*, September 27, 2021, [https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/09/27/momentous-win-years-local-opposition-defeats-penneast-pipeline?utm\\_term=AO&utm\\_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_content=email&utm\\_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_medium=Email](https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/09/27/momentous-win-years-local-opposition-defeats-penneast-pipeline?utm_term=AO&utm_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_content=email&utm_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_medium=Email), reported, **"Environmental and public health advocates on Monday celebrated the demise of a proposed fracked gas pipeline across Pennsylvania and New Jersey after PennEast decided to cease development because of difficulties acquiring certain state permits."**

Previously, in June 2021, The U.S. Supreme Court in a 5-4 vote allowed the U.S. to delegate its power of eminent domain, permitting the PennEast Pipeline Company to seize land owned by the State of New Jersey for its Pipeline (Adam Liptak, "Justices Back Pipeline's Ability to Seize Land Owned by New Jersey," *The New York Times*, June 30, 2021).

Stop Pipeline 3 reported in a November 6, 2021 E-mail, **"Just shortly after Enbridge announced completion of the Line 3 pipeline construction, we are already seeing their pollution heading downriver. It's infuriating.**

This week, the big news all the papers are talking about is **COP26**. Representatives from governments around the world are coming to talk about their commitments to fighting climate change. **Minnesotans Against Line 3 will also be there, to talk about the Line 3 fight and remind the politicians that commitments aren't worth much without accountability.**

While there, **some of the leaders of the resistance to this pipeline and leading Minnesota climate advocates will present a panel discussion of the international community.** If you'd like to watch live or catch the video afterward, here are the details:

What: Indigenous Resistance on Minnesota's Line 3 Pipeline

When: Tuesday November 9, 5:00 AM Central Time

Where: U.S. Climate Action Center -- Glasgow, Scotland and online:  
<https://www.facebook.com/events/562040831692118/>

**This panel discussion will take place at the COP26 talks because the consequences of the Line 3 tar sands pipeline with its carbon equivalent of 50 new coal plants go well beyond Minnesota. The panel will discuss how the Indigenous led resistance effort that continues to oppose Line 3 represents the kind of growing, deeply rooted resistance to fossil fuels that will be necessary for the people and the planet to survive.**

**The panel will also look at the damage that Enbridge's tar sands oil pipeline has already wrought in northern Minnesota, including the breaching of at least 3 aquifers, including one that has been hemorrhaging 100,000 gallons of water a day since it was pierced in January, covered up, and not reported until late this year and the ongoing frac-outs, including those photographed by Ron Tunney in this email's header and below."**

Ian Austen, "2 Canadian Journalists Arrested at Indigenous Protest Are Freed on Bail: Journalist groups denounced the arrest of a photographer and a filmmaker covering an Indigenous pipeline protest in British Columbia," *The New York Times*, November 22, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/11/22/world/canada/canada-indigenous-journalist-arrests.html> reported, **"Two journalists arrested at an Indigenous protest against a pipeline last week in western Canada were released Monday on bail, but journalism groups in the country condemned the decision to continue with contempt charges against them.**

**Amber Bracken, who is a photographer, and a filmmaker, Michael Toledano, were arrested Friday as they covered a protest by Indigenous Canadians against construction of a natural gas Pipeline" on Wet'suwet'en First Nation land."**

Neil Vigdor and Melina Delkic, "'Major' Oil Spill Off California Coast Threatens Wetlands and Wildlife: A pipeline failure sent at least 126,000 gallons of oil into the Pacific off the coast of Orange County, creating a 13-square-mile slick. Dead fish and birds washed ashore in some areas," *The New York Times*, October 3, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/10/03/us/pipeline-broken-oil-pacific-ocean.html>, reported, **"A pipeline failure off the coast of Orange County, Calif., on Saturday caused at least 126,000 gallons of oil to spill into the Pacific Ocean, creating a 13-square-mile slick that continued to grow on Sunday, officials said.**

**Dead fish and birds washed ashore in some places as cleanup crews raced to try to contain the spill, which created a slick that extended from Huntington Beach to Newport Beach."**

**The cause of the spill was not yet known. It occurred about three miles off shore.**

Hannah Grover, "Report documents PFAS use in fracking in New Mexico," *New Mexico Political Report*, July 16, 2021, [https://nmpoliticalreport.com/2021/07/16/report-documents-pfas-use-in-fracking-in-new-mexico/?mc\\_cid=a108eda8b9&mc\\_eid=cde7993ced](https://nmpoliticalreport.com/2021/07/16/report-documents-pfas-use-in-fracking-in-new-mexico/?mc_cid=a108eda8b9&mc_eid=cde7993ced), reported, **"Physicians for Social Responsibility released a report this week that found PFAS chemicals, also known as per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or chemicals that could break down into PFAS have been used in fracking operations in 1,200 wells in half a dozen states, including New Mexico.**

**PFAS chemicals have a broad range of applications and can be found in household objects including non-stick cookware. In recent years, there has been growing concern about**

the potential health impacts of these 'forever chemicals,' which do not break down under normal environmental conditions."

Jerry Redfern, "Rise in New Mexico earthquakes likely triggered by oil industry," *New Mexico Political Report*, September 30, 2021, [https://nmpoliticalreport.com/2021/09/30/rise-in-new-mexico-earthquakes-likely-triggered-by-oil-industry/?mc\\_cid=e63c5bc90e&mc\\_eid=cde7993ced](https://nmpoliticalreport.com/2021/09/30/rise-in-new-mexico-earthquakes-likely-triggered-by-oil-industry/?mc_cid=e63c5bc90e&mc_eid=cde7993ced), reported, **"New Mexico's oil and gas regulators and scientists are on alert after a dramatic increase in earthquake activity in southern New Mexico — an increase likely triggered by oil and gas industry injection wells in the Permian Basin.**

Since 2018 the number of small quakes of magnitude 1 or greater in the basin has risen from about 40 to nearly 500 in 2020, and over that period quakes of magnitude of 2 or greater rose from none to 158, according to data from the New Mexico Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources."

The increased earthquakes in southern New Mexico, more recently reported partially resulting from the injecting of highly polluted water from fracking into deep wells in Texas, that are in the same basin where oil and gas drilling has increased in New Mexico, are only one of the serious problems stemming from oil and gas extraction in the state. Serious air pollution, causing health problems for residents near drilling sites, increases in global warming from a huge cloud of highly warming methane from fracking and leaks in gas storage and transportation, water pollution, and using up of increasingly scarce usable water in the drying up Southwest are all serious results of the extraction (Gwynne Ann Unruh, "Risk of Earthquakes Caused by Oil and Gas Increasing: New Mexico Deciding Whether It Wants to Be Left 'Holding Santa's Bag of,'" *The Paper*, November 30th, 2021, [https://abq.news/2021/11/risk-of-earthquakes-caused-by-oil-and-gas-increasing/?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=The+Paper.+Subscriber&utm\\_campaign=d119af0c9f-d119af0c9f-68116799&mc\\_cid=d119af0c9f&mc\\_eid=822e39214e](https://abq.news/2021/11/risk-of-earthquakes-caused-by-oil-and-gas-increasing/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=The+Paper.+Subscriber&utm_campaign=d119af0c9f-d119af0c9f-68116799&mc_cid=d119af0c9f&mc_eid=822e39214e)).

Jake Johnson, "'Resounding' Climate Win as Judge Blocks Alaska Drilling Project Defended by Biden: 'We must keep Arctic oil in the ground if we want a livable planet for future generations,'" *Common Dreams*, August 19, 2021, [https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/08/19/resounding-climate-win-judge-blocks-alaska-drilling-project-defended-biden?utm\\_term=AO&utm\\_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_content=email&utm\\_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_medium=Email](https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/08/19/resounding-climate-win-judge-blocks-alaska-drilling-project-defended-biden?utm_term=AO&utm_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_content=email&utm_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_medium=Email), reported, **"A federal judge on Wednesday tossed out construction permits for a sprawling, multibillion-dollar Alaska oil drilling project that the Trump administration approved and the Biden Interior Department defended in court earlier this year, infuriating Indigenous groups, climate advocates, and scientists.**

In a 110-page decision (pdf: <https://s3.documentcloud.org/documents/21045581/210818-willow-order.pdf>), Judge Sharon Gleason of the U.S. District Court for Alaska **ruled that the Trump administration failed to adequately consider the climate impacts of the Willow project, which—if completed—would produce up to 160,000 barrels of oil a day over a 30-year period.**

Specifically, Gleason deemed 'arbitrary and capricious' the Bureau of Land Management's failure to include potential greenhouse gas emissions from foreign oil consumption in its analysis of the project, which was planned by ConocoPhillips. Gleason also faulted the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for not detailing how polar bears would be protected from the massive fossil fuel initiative, which would include the construction of several new oil drilling sites and hundreds of miles of pipeline."

Julia Conley, "'Groundbreaking' Win as Court Rules USFWS Can't Ignore Climate Impacts on Joshua Tree: The ruling represents a step forward "for all climate-imperiled species whose fate relies upon the service following the law," said advocacy group WildEarth Guardians," *Common Dreams*, September 22, 2021, [https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/09/22/groundbreaking-win-court-rules-usfws-cant-ignore-climate-impacts-joshua-tree?utm\\_term=AO&utm\\_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_content=email&utm\\_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_medium=Email](https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/09/22/groundbreaking-win-court-rules-usfws-cant-ignore-climate-impacts-joshua-tree?utm_term=AO&utm_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_content=email&utm_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_medium=Email), reported, "A federal court in Los Angeles this week ruled that under former President Donald Trump, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service violated the law when it failed to list the Joshua tree as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act—a decision that the Biden administration has continued to defend."

The U.S. District Court in the Central District of California said in its ruling (pdf: [https://pdf.wildearthguardians.org/support\\_docs/Joshua\\_Tree\\_order.pdf](https://pdf.wildearthguardians.org/support_docs/Joshua_Tree_order.pdf)) on Monday that the USFWS now has one year to reconsider its decision and must take into account all scientific evidence, including climate change models, when deciding whether the Joshua tree should be protected under the ESA."

Andrea Germanos, "Who's Next?': Quebec Declares End to Fossil Fuel Extraction in Province: 'In Canada and around the world, the pressure to end the expansion of oil and gas production will only continue to grow,'" *Common Dreams*, October 20, 2021, [https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/10/20/whos-next-quebec-declares-end-fossil-fuel-extraction-province?utm\\_term=AO&utm\\_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_content=email&utm\\_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_medium=Email](https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/10/20/whos-next-quebec-declares-end-fossil-fuel-extraction-province?utm_term=AO&utm_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_content=email&utm_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_medium=Email), reported, Climate campaigners are welcoming Quebec Premier François Legault's Tuesday announcement that his government has decided to put an end to any further fossil fuel extraction in the province."

"This is the climate leadership we need."

"This is excellent news," said Patrick Bonin, climate and energy campaigner at Greenpeace Canada, in a statement.

Legault's announcement—that the government 'decided to definitively renounce the extraction of hydrocarbons on its territory'—came during the conservative's speech to a new parliamentary session in which he covered a range of topics from the healthcare system to "national cohesion" to a Covid-19 recovery plan.

Calling the development 'a wise decision,' Bonin added that the government "should not compensate oil and gas companies, which are largely responsible for the current climate crisis."

Brett Wilkins, "'It's a Sea of Oil': Outrage in Trinidad Over Latest Spill Destroying Ecosystem, Fishery: 'There have been in excess of 377 oil spills since 2015 and no one has



**ever been charged or prosecuted. Every drop of hydrocarbon has an ever-lasting impact on our marine ecosystem,"** *Common Dreams*, August 13, 2021, [https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/08/13/its-sea-oil-outrage-trinidad-over-latest-spill-destroying-ecosystem-fishery?utm\\_term=AO&utm\\_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_content=email&utm\\_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_medium=Email](https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/08/13/its-sea-oil-outrage-trinidad-over-latest-spill-destroying-ecosystem-fishery?utm_term=AO&utm_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_content=email&utm_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_medium=Email), reported, **"Fishers and environmentalists expressed outrage this week over what they called the inadequate response by Trinidad and Tobago's government and one of the country's leading fossil fuel companies to the latest of hundreds of reported oil spills there in recent years.**

'What is going to happen to the fisherfolk? What will be the environmental impacts, and what will this do to fishing in the Gulf?' — Imtiaz Khan, Carli Bay Fishing Association

Earlier this week Trinidad and Tobago's Environmental Management Authority (EMA), Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries (MEEI), and Institute of Marine Affairs (IMA) announced they were investigating the spill, which Paria Fuel Trading Company Limited said originated from **a leak in a pipeline near its Pointe-a-Pierre refinery** last weekend, according to the *Trinidad & Tobago Guardian*."

Stanley Reed, "Scotland's Oil Industry Is Fading as Wind Energy Beckons: Oil and gas production in the North Sea is not the economic juggernaut it once was. Can floating wind turbines offer an alternative?" *The New York Times*, September 27, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/09/27/business/scotland-oil-wind-energy.html>, reported, **"Oil output from the British North Sea [off Scotland] has been on a steady slide for two decades, and production last year was around one-third of its peak in 1999. Natural gas production in the region is also falling — a problem in recent weeks as gas prices have skyrocketed, causing utility bills to jump. Jobs connected to the offshore oil industry have fallen nearly 40 percent over the last five years, according to Oil and Gas UK, a trade group." Meanwhile, costs of shutting down hundreds of no longer used drilling platforms and dried up wells may soon reach some \$68 billion, more than the remaining wells are earning.**

**"For many, the growth of renewable energy in Scotland, especially the fleets of wind turbines along its coastline, may provide a pathway for gradually replacing oil and gas. Globally, turbines at sea still account for less than 1 percent of power generation, but the business in 2020 attracted \$29 billion in investment, 8 percent of the global total for renewable energy, according to Heymi Bahar, an analyst at the International Energy Agency."**

Kenny Stancil, "Fossil Fuel Expansion in Africa 'Not Compatible With a Safe Climate Future': Report, 'There is now little to gain and everything to lose from building new fossil fuel projects," said Oil Change International,' *Common Dreams*, October 14, 2021, [https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/10/14/fossil-fuel-expansion-africa-not-compatible-safe-climate-future-report?utm\\_term=AO&utm\\_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_content=email&utm\\_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_medium=Email](https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/10/14/fossil-fuel-expansion-africa-not-compatible-safe-climate-future-report?utm_term=AO&utm_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_content=email&utm_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_medium=Email), reported, **"Fossil fuel corporations have plans to expand dirty energy extraction in Africa—proposing more than a trillion dollars worth of new oil, gas, and coal projects over the next three decades—even though such an undertaking would exacerbate climate chaos and create "stranded assets that leave behind unfunded clean-up, shortfalls of government revenue, and overnight job losses."**

That's according to a **new report** (<http://priceofoil.org/2021/10/14/the-skys-limit-africa/>) published Thursday by **Oil Change International in partnership with Oilwatch Africa, Africa Coal Network, 350Africa.org, Health of Mother Earth Foundation, WoMin African Alliance, and Center for International Environmental Law.**

**'Fossil fuel industry plans to sink USD \$230 billion into the development of new extraction projects in Africa in the next decade—and USD \$1.4 trillion by 2050—are not compatible with a safe climate future,'** note the authors, who advocate instead for a just transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy."

**An increasing number of cities around the world have been expanding electric mass transportation to reduce auto use and cut carbon emissions** (Somini Sengupta, "Cities Embrace Vision of Electric Mass Transit," *The New York Times*, October 3, 2021).

**Germany has begun equipping highways with overhead electric lines to power or recharge batteries of electrical powered trailer and other trucks, greatly cutting emissions** (JackEwing, "Electric Highways? Germany is Trying," *The New York Times*, November 6, 2021).

The **U.S. Department of Energy**, in November 2021, **announced its largest effort to date to research into finding ways to lower the cost of pulling carbon out of the air** (Brad Plumer, "Energy Department to Invest in Carbon Renewal Research," *The New York Times*, August 5, 2021).

**The United States is at a decision point on solar and wind power delivery. Should the emphasis be on a massive nationwide power grid built around large solar and wind power producers, with less emphasis on roof top and other individualized green power producers; or should the country emphasize roof top and similar power production supplemented with more limited large scale green energy creation and a huge power grid.** Just what should the balance be is at a decision point, intentional, or to be made in fact, by what specific development decisions and policies unfold (Ivan Penn and Clifford Kraus, "U.S. Confronts Critical Choices on Power Lines," *The New York Times*, July 7, 2021).

Christina Kwauk and Amanda BragaMonday, "3 platforms for girls' education in climate strategies," Brookings Institution, September 18, 2017, <https://www.brookings.edu/research/3-platforms-for-girls-education-in-climate-strategies/>, **found** that education of girls was an essential element in effectively adapting to climate change. The report can be downloaded at: <https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/platforms-for-girls-education-in-climate-strategies.pdf/>

The report noted. **"The most vulnerable and least skilled members of these populations, largely women and girls, experience most acutely the impact of climate change, particularly extreme weather events.** Evidence shows that natural disasters lower women's life expectancy more than men's, and in some cases women and girls make up as much as 90 percent of those killed in weather-related disasters. Further, women and girls are increasingly vulnerable to human trafficking or to sexual assault in crowded shelters or camps when they survive. They are also often excluded from participating in decision making

within the household and community, or in risk-reduction activities that could expose them to life-saving information, resources, and skills."

"Climate change increases humanity's vulnerability to the shocks of weather-related disasters; it also exacerbates existing gender inequalities that obstruct opportunities for girls' and women's social and economic empowerment. **The negative effects of climate change have direct implications for programs and policies that target positive life outcomes for marginalized and vulnerable girls. Ignoring this and how girls and women can be change agents in the push for climate action can backfire. It could halt or reverse some of the progress made toward achieving cross-cutting targets of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This includes advances related to Goals 1 (no poverty), 4 (quality education), 5 (gender equality), 8 (decent work and economic growth), 10 (reduced inequalities), 11 (sustainable cities and communities), 12 (responsible consumption and production), and 13 (climate action).**"

Posted by Editor David , "After 47 Years, US Power Company Abandons Still-Unfinished \$6 Billion Nuclear Power Plant," *Slashdot*, September 26, 2021, <https://hardware.slashdot.org/story/21/09/26/0130228/after-47-years-us-power-company-abandons-still-unfinished-6-billion-nuclear-power-plant>, reported, "America's federally-owned electric utility, the Tennessee Valley Authority, has spent billions of dollars with nothing to show for it, reports the *Chattanooga Times Free Press*."

**'Nearly 47 years after construction began on the Bellefonte Nuclear Power Plant in Northeast Alabama, the Tennessee Valley Authority is giving up its construction permit for America's biggest unfinished nuclear plant and abandoning any plans to complete the twin-reactor facility...'Giving up the construction permit at Bellefonte signals the end of any new nuclear plant construction at TVA with only seven of the 17 nuclear reactors the utility once planned to build ever completed.... Since the 1970s, a total of 95 nuclear reactors proposed to be built by U.S. utilities have been canceled due to rising construction costs, slowing power demand and cheapening power alternatives.**

The NRC now regulates 93 remaining commercial nuclear reactors at 56 nuclear power plants, including TVA's Sequoyah and Watts Bar nuclear plants in East Tennessee and the Browns Ferry nuclear plant in Athens, Alabama. Collectively, those nuclear plants provide more than 40% of TVA's power and over 20% of the nation's electricity supply... TVA spokesman Jim Hopson said in the past two decades, the growth in power demand in the Tennessee Valley has continued to slow as more energy efficiency measures have been adopted and the price of natural gas, solar power and additional hydroelectric generation has declined in competition with nuclear."

Arlyssa Becenti, "Navajo Nation pushes for radioactive waste remnants to be removed. The United Nuclear Corporation is asking to transfer 1 million cubic yards of mine waste to a spot still near the Nation," ICT, October 24, 2021, <https://indiancountrytoday.com/news/navajo-nation-pushes-for-radioactive-waste-remnants-to-be-removed>, reported, **"Navajo Nation continues to hold strong on its stance against radioactive waste being dumped near its lands, while also pushing for the waste to be removed completely," and is objecting to a new plan to dump radioactive waste just outside its reservation.**

"Dariel Yazzie is the supervisor at Navajo Superfund Program within the Nation's EPA. He said they are asking the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to come back 'and make more of an

effort to convey at a higher level to the community what is in the draft environmental impact statement.'

**The corporation that owns the [The Church Rock uranium mill] site asked to amend its source material license for its former uranium mill northeast of Gallup. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission prepared an environmental impact statement as part of its review of this request. If the license is amended, that would allow the corporation to transfer about 1 million cubic yards of mine waste from its northeast mine to a location that's less than a mile from the uranium mill site and still on Navajo Nation trust land just south of the reservation."**

Kenny Stancil, "Nearly 42,000 Sources of Toxic 'Forever Chemicals' Put US Drinking Water at Risk: Study: 'It is critical that the EPA start regulating PFAS—now,' said one scientist," *Common Dreams*, October 12, 2021, [https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/10/12/nearly-42000-sources-toxic-forever-chemicals-put-us-drinking-water-risk-study?utm\\_term=AO&utm\\_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_content=email&utm\\_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_medium=Email](https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/10/12/nearly-42000-sources-toxic-forever-chemicals-put-us-drinking-water-risk-study?utm_term=AO&utm_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_content=email&utm_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_medium=Email), **"Bolstering calls for stronger PFAS regulations and more testing, a new analysis released** ([https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/10/12/nearly-42000-sources-toxic-forever-chemicals-put-us-drinking-water-risk-study?utm\\_term=AO&utm\\_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_content=email&utm\\_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_medium=Email](https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/10/12/nearly-42000-sources-toxic-forever-chemicals-put-us-drinking-water-risk-study?utm_term=AO&utm_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_content=email&utm_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_medium=Email)) Tuesday finds **nearly 42,000 potential sources of toxic 'forever chemicals' that could contaminate drinking water in communities throughout the United States.**

In their peer-reviewed study (<https://awwa.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1002/aws2.1252>), which was published in a special issue of *Water Science*, Environmental Working Group (EWG) scientists examined the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Enforcement and Compliance History Online database to identify potential sources of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) pollution in the nation's surface and drinking water.

According to their investigation, **solid waste landfills, wastewater treatment plants, electroplaters and metal finishers, and petroleum refiners were the facilities that appeared most often as possible sources of PFAS contamination.**

Dubbed 'forever chemicals' because they don't break down and can persist in the environment and bioaccumulate over time, PFAS are a class of synthetic compounds that have been linked to adverse health outcomes, including a weakened immune system, reproductive and developmental harms, and an increased susceptibility to cancer, among other negative effects.

**EWG researchers point out that discharges of PFAS with industrial wastewater are a major driver of surface and drinking water pollution—putting the health of tens of millions of Americans in jeopardy.** Despite these risks, the paper notes, **the vast majority of water systems nationwide lack both the technology and the funds to filter out forever chemicals.**

**'It is critical that the EPA start regulating PFAS—now,'** David Andrews, the lead author of the study and a senior scientist at EWG, said in a statement. 'Every community in the U.S. is likely affected by PFAS contamination, but those living near or downstream from industrial facilities may be more at risk.'

'Our investigation identifies a huge number of potential sources of contamination,' Andrews continued. 'It also provides a framework for deciding where and what to test so we can end releases into the environment.'

The paper includes case studies of data available from California and Michigan, which show that PFAS pollution is common at a variety of sites, heightening the importance of widespread testing for forever chemicals in wastewater.

'The results from states like Michigan show there is a wide variety of sources of PFAS in surface water,' said Andrews. 'Many landfills and industrial sites release PFAS at detectable concentrations that may exceed state limits or health guidelines for PFAS in water.'

He added that 'it is urgent that ongoing releases of PFAS be identified. We need to stop nonessential uses of PFAS and use filters to reduce these compounds from our water.'

Getting forever chemicals out of the country's water supplies 'remains a nationwide challenge,' EWG stressed, 'but it's one that can be met through comprehensive tests of surface water and drinking water, along with tests of wastewater from potential PFAS sources.'

**In July, the U.S. House passed the PFAS Action Act of 2021, which would improve the federal oversight and facilitate the cleanup of forever chemicals, but the U.S. Senate has yet to take up the legislation.**

In the meantime, EWG implored the Biden administration to 'use the EPA's powers to regulate as many industrial categories of PFAS discharges as possible,' calling the agency's proposal to regulate just some releases of forever chemicals into the nation's drinking water inadequate "to end the pollution flowing from companies."

Scott Faber, EWG's senior vice president for government affairs, said that **'we need to turn off the tap of PFAS pollution from these industrial discharges, which affects more and more Americans every day. That's the first step;**

**'The second step is for the EPA to set a national PFAS drinking water standard,' said Farber. ;And the third is to clean up legacy pollution.'**

Our work is licensed under Creative Commons (CC BY-NC-ND 3.0)."

Kenny Stancil, "US House Passes Bill to Protect Drinking Water, Environment From Forever Chemicals," *Common Dreams*, July 21, 2021, <https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/07/21/us-house-passes-bill-protect-drinking-water-environment-forever-chemicals>, reported, "The U.S. House on Wednesday **passed the PFAS Action Act of 2021, a bill that, if passed by the U.S. Senate, would improve the regulation and facilitate the cleanup of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances—long-lasting synthetic chemicals that pose a threat to public and environmental health.**

H.R. 2467, introduced by Rep. Debbie Dingell (D-Mich.) in April, passed by a margin of 241-183. Twenty-three Republicans joined nearly every Democrat in supporting the bill to protect people and ecosystems from harmful PFAS, also known as "forever chemicals" because they persist and bioaccumulate for years on end. Five Republicans and Rep. Mike Doyle (D-Pa.) abstained."

Environmental Action stated in an October 24, 2021 E-mail, **"The Biden administration is poised to protect the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.**

**From moose to otters to gray wolves, the 1 million acres of Boundary Waters wilderness is teeming with life. Ever since a Trump administration rollback, this wildlife has been threatened by the prospect of dangerous copper-nickel mining.**

The mining procedure's process of crushing rock for ore can leach sulfide and heavy metals, poisoning ecosystems. The Boundary Waters wilderness is essentially one big interconnected system of streams and lakes -- which means that if these toxins hit its waters at any point, they could quickly spread through the entire system.<sup>1</sup>

**But this move by the Biden administration could be the start of a 20-year mining ban in the area surrounding the Boundary Waters,** protecting the wildlife and water that flows through this extraordinary wilderness.<sup>2</sup>

This announcement is a win for clean water, conservation, and all the people and wildlife that cherish this precious wilderness.

This is the first step toward securing a 20-year ban on mining around the Boundary Waters, which would halt the proposed Twin Metals mining project.<sup>3</sup> While the study is underway, there will be no new leases granted for any mining or mining-related activities.

**The Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management will work together to complete a careful environmental analysis to determine whether the ecosystem is harmed by mining near the Boundary Waters. They will also survey public opinion to decide whether or not to allow mining in the area.**

Environmental Action and our supporters sent more than 55,000 messages to politicians urging them to protect the Boundary Waters, and our message has been heard. With activists like you by our side, we'll keep working to make sure this wilderness is fully and permanently protected.

Thank you for protecting our wilderness,  
The Environmental Action team

P.S. Protecting our public lands is one of our most important campaigns, but we can't do it without the support of activists like you. Donate today to ensure we can keep working to protect our special places -- from the Boundary Waters to the Tongass National Forest.

1. Jennifer Bjorhus, "Federal judge hands Twin Metals major win in fight over mining near Boundary Waters," *Star Tribune*, March 18, 2020.

2. Steve Karnowski, "Biden administration move could block Minnesota copper mine," *AP News*, October 20, 2021.

3. Steve Karnowski, "Biden administration move could block Minnesota copper mine," *AP News*, October 20, 2021."

David Gelles and Emily Steel, **"How Chemical Companies Avoid Paying for Pollution: DuPont factories pumped dangerous substances into the environment. The company and its offspring have gone to great lengths to dodge responsibility,"** *The New York Times*, October 20, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/10/20/business/chemours-dupont-pfas-genx-chemicals.html>, reported, **"GenX is part of a family of chemicals called per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS. They allow everyday items — frying pans, rain jackets, face masks, pizza boxes — to repel water, grease and stains. Exposure to the chemicals has been linked to cancer and other serious health problems.**

**To avoid responsibility for what many experts believe is a public health crisis, leading chemical companies like Chemours, DuPont and 3M have deployed a potent mix of tactics.**

They have used public charm offensives to persuade regulators and lawmakers to back off. They have engineered complex corporate transactions to shield themselves from legal

liability. And they have rolled out a conveyor belt of scantily tested substitute chemicals that sometimes turn out to be just as dangerous as their predecessors."

Russell Contreras, Andrew Freedman, "The Toll of Environmental Racism, Axios, September 18, 2021, <https://www.axios.com/authors/rcontreras/>, reported, "In August 2015, Steve Benally walked out of his Halchita, Utah, home on the Navajo Nation and heard a warning: Don't use the water. The Gold King Mine near Silverton, Colorado, had spilled toxic wastewater into the Animas River watershed.

The big picture: Benally would lose his harvest and suffer from secondary health effects, highlighting just one of **the environmental dangers some Native Americans, Black Americans and Latinos face from pollution and poor government oversight.**

**Details: Study after study shows communities of color are exposed to more air and water pollution, lead poisoning and toxic waste than more affluent, white neighborhoods.** A few examples: <https://www.axios.com/authors/rcontreras/>."

Brett Wilkins, "Doctor Who Revealed Flint Lead Crisis Calls Benton Harbor Emergency More 'Environmental Injustice:' Dr. Mona Hanna-Attisha says the Michigan city's water crisis is another example of 'how a predominantly poor and minority population disproportionately suffers the burden of environmental contamination,'" *Common Dreams*, October 12, 2021, [https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/10/12/doctor-who-revealed-flint-lead-crisis-calls-benton-harbor-emergency-more?utm\\_term=AO&utm\\_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_content=email&utm\\_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_medium=Email](https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/10/12/doctor-who-revealed-flint-lead-crisis-calls-benton-harbor-emergency-more?utm_term=AO&utm_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_content=email&utm_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_medium=Email), reported, "**As the people of Benton Harbor, Michigan are being advised to drink only bottled water due to lead contamination in the city's pipes, the doctor whose research revealed Flint's lead crisis described similarities between the two emergencies, which she called examples of 'environmental injustice' in an interview published Monday.**

**The 9,700 residents of Benton Harbor—85% of whom are Black and nearly half of whom are poor—were told last week to not use tap water for drinking, cooking, or bathing after lead concentrations up to 60 times the federal limit were first detected three years ago. That's a higher level of contamination than Flint suffered during its five-year crisis."**

Kenny Stancil, "'Invisible Toxic Cocktail' in Tap Water Across US Due to 'Regulatory Capture': Analysis: A new database reveals 'widespread contamination from toxic substances such as arsenic, lead, and the 'forever chemicals' known as PFAS in the drinking water of tens of millions of households,'" *Common Dreams*, November 3, 2021, <https://www.ewg.org/tapwater/what-about-lead.php?pws=NM3510701>, reported, "**Millions of people throughout the United States "are unwittingly drinking water that includes an invisible toxic cocktail made up of contaminants linked to cancer, brain damage, and other serious health harms," according to the Environmental Working Group, which updated its nationwide Tap Water Database** (<https://www.ewg.org/tapwater/>) on Wednesday.

'Our government needs to wake up to the fact that clean water is a human right.'

**'EWG's Tap Water Database offers a panoramic view of what drinking water quality looks like when the federal office meant to protect our water is in an advanced stage of regulatory capture,'** Environmental Working Group (EWG) president Ken Cook said in a statement.

**'The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of Groundwater and Drinking Water has demonstrated for decades that it is utterly incapable of standing up to pressure from water utilities and polluters to protect human health from the dozens of toxic contaminants in America's drinking water,'** said Cook.

EWG's unique database—assembled over the course of multiple years by researchers who collected and analyzed test data from nearly 50,000 water systems in the U.S.—reveals **'widespread contamination from toxic substances such as arsenic, lead, and the 'forever chemicals' known as PFAS in the drinking water of tens of millions of households in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.'**

The **'comprehensive consumer tool'** enables individuals to **'enter a ZIP code into the database and see a report of the type and amount of toxic chemicals detected in that location's drinking water. They can also see safety assessments developed by EWG scientists about the adverse health effects associated with exposure to those contaminants.'**

EWG stressed that its database **'underscores the need for stricter federal water quality standards and a massive injection of funding for badly needed water infrastructure improvements across the country.'**

**'The U.S. tap water system,'** EWG added, **'is plagued by antiquated infrastructure and rampant pollution of source water, while out-of-date EPA regulations, often relying on archaic science, allow unsafe levels of toxic chemicals in drinking water.'**

Jessica Corbett, "WHO's New Air Pollution Guidelines Reflect Deadly Toll of Fossil Fuels: 'What matters most is whether governments implement impactful policies to reduce pollutant emissions, such as ending investments in coal, oil, and gas and prioritizing the transition to clean energy,' said a Greenpeace scientist," Common Dreams, September 22, 2021, [https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/09/22/whos-new-air-pollution-guidelines-reflect-deadly-toll-fossil-](https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/09/22/whos-new-air-pollution-guidelines-reflect-deadly-toll-fossil-fuels?utm_term=AO&utm_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_content=email&utm_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_medium=Email)

[fuels?utm\\_term=AO&utm\\_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_content=email&utm\\_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_medium=Email](https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/09/22/whos-new-air-pollution-guidelines-reflect-deadly-toll-fossil-fuels?utm_term=AO&utm_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_content=email&utm_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_medium=Email), reported, **"Bolstering arguments for rapidly phasing out fossil fuels to not only combat the climate emergency but also potentially save millions of lives annually, the World Health Organization on Wednesday updated its guidelines on air quality for the first time in over 15 years.**

**'The burden of disease attributable to air pollution is now estimated to be on a par with other major global health risks such as unhealthy diet and tobacco smoking, and air pollution is now recognized as the single biggest environmental threat to human health,'** says (pdf: <https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/345329/9789240034228-eng.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>) the United Nations agency's new Global Air Quality Guidelines (AQGs).

Since the previous guidelines were issued in 2005, a growing body of research has strengthened experts' understanding of how polluted air affects human health, even at low levels.

While the World Health Organization (WHO) noted that exposure to air pollution causes at least seven million premature deaths per year, some research suggests the true toll is even higher. A study published in February estimated that **fossil fuel-related air pollution alone killed about 8.7 million people in 2018, accounting for 18% of global deaths that year.**

**'Air pollution is a threat to health in all countries, but it hits people in low- and middle-income countries the hardest,'** WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said in a statement announcing the AQGs Wednesday.



'WHO's new Air Quality Guidelines are an evidence-based and practical tool for improving the quality of the air on which all life depends,' Tedros added. 'I urge all countries and all those fighting to protect our environment to put them to use to reduce suffering and save lives.'

Laura Corlin, an epidemiologist at Tufts University who studies the health effects of air pollution, detailed some of the changes in the AQGs for The Conversation on Wednesday:

**The WHO cut in half its recommended limit for exposure to PM2.5, tiny particles commonly produced by cars, trucks, and airplanes, and a major component of wildfire smoke, lowering the average maximum exposure from 10 micrograms per cubic meter per year to 5.**

**It also tightened the limits for gaseous air pollutants like nitrogen dioxide that are produced when fossil fuels are burned by vehicles and power plants. The WHO now recommends limiting nitrogen dioxide to one-quarter of the previous level, from 40 to 10 micrograms per cubic meter.**

Corlin also highlighted the health benefits of limiting PM2.5 levels in line with the new guidance.

**Along with helping to prevent low birth weights, research shows cutting pollution levels decreases the chances of heart attacks and cardiovascular-related deaths, lung cancer, and Alzheimer's disease, she explained. Further, the World Bank estimates that reducing the health burden related to air pollution exposure could save \$225 billion in labor productivity and \$5 trillion in health-related costs each year.**

**'Countries can improve their air quality by moving to cleaner sources of energy and cutting out fossil fuels, which are a major source of PM2.5. Electric vehicles can help reduce traffic-related air pollution,'** the expert wrote, encouraging governments to take action.

In a Wednesday tweet, Dr. Aaron Bernstein, interim director of the Center for Climate, Health, and the Global Environment at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, similarly called on governments to commit to a 'healthier future' by agreeing to phase out fossil fuels at COP 26, a U.N. climate summit for world leaders that's set to kick off in Scotland on October 31.

**Air pollution from #fossilfuels causes children to have asthma, it causes pneumonia, it causes women to have babies born prematurely, & it increases the risks of people dying from #COVID19.** At #COP26, the world must urgently commit to healthier future & phase out fossil fuels.

Every year, exposure to #AirPollution is estimated to cause million premature deaths and result in the loss of millions more healthy years of life.

[WHO's guidelines recommend air quality levels to protect health and save lives around the world are at: [https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/09/22/whos-new-air-pollution-guidelines-reflect-deadly-toll-fossil-fuels?utm\\_term=AO&utm\\_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_content=email&utm\\_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_medium=Email](https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/09/22/whos-new-air-pollution-guidelines-reflect-deadly-toll-fossil-fuels?utm_term=AO&utm_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_content=email&utm_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_medium=Email),

Aidan Farrow, a Greenpeace International air pollution scientist based at the United Kingdom's University of Exeter, also demanded urgent action, noting a Greenpeace India analysis (pdf) that found last year air quality in all of the world's 100 biggest cities didn't meet WHO's new guidelines.

'The science is unequivocal—exposure to air pollution, even at low levels, shortens lives and has serious implications for public health,' Farrow said. 'The WHO has strengthened its

guidelines incorporating new advances in research, but these targets for clean air are meaningless if they aren't addressed with government action.'

**'What matters most is whether governments implement impactful policies to reduce pollutant emissions, such as ending investments in coal, oil, and gas and prioritizing the transition to clean energy,'** he said. "The failure to meet the outgoing WHO guidelines must not be repeated."

Emphasizing that "there is no safe level of air pollution exposure," because even at low levels it can lead to lung cancer, stroke, diabetes, and death, Farrow argued that policies "must prioritize health and strive for continuous air quality improvements in all places."

Greenpeace India air pollution campaigner Avinash Chanchal noted that 'we have all the economically viable tools we need to solve the air pollution crisis.'

**'In most parts of the world, it is more cost effective to develop renewable energy sources, such as wind and solar, than to keep burning coal, oil, or gas, even before taking the economic burden of air pollution into account,'** Chanchal said. 'At this point, **addressing air pollution is a question of political will, not technology.'**

Our work is licensed under Creative Commons (CC BY-NC-ND 3.0)."

Ivan Penn, "From 4% to 45%: Energy Department Lays Out Ambitious Blueprint for Solar Power: The department's analysis provides only a broad outline, and many of the details will be decided by congressional lawmakers," *The New York Times*, September 8, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/09/08/business/energy-environment/biden-solar-energy-climate-change.html>, reported, **"The Biden administration on Wednesday released a blueprint showing how the nation could move toward producing almost half of its electricity from the sun by 2050 — a potentially big step toward fighting climate change but one that would require vast upgrades to the electric grid."**

**"Such a large increase, laid out in the report, is in line with what most climate scientists say is needed to stave off the worst effects of global warming.** It would require a vast transformation in technology, the energy industry and the way people live."

**To achieve the goal would require doubling the amount of solar energy the U.S. produces every four years. The announced plan is only an outline, with the details needing development which must be backed by the continuing significant political will to achieve the target."**

Lisa Friedman, "Biden Orders Federal Vehicles and Buildings to Use Renewable Energy by 2050: Under an executive order, the federal government would phase out the purchase of gasoline-powered vehicles, and its buildings would be powered by wind, solar or other clean energy," *The New York Times*, December 9, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/12/08/climate/biden-government-carbon-neutral.html>, reported, **"President Biden on Wednesday set in motion a plan to make the federal government carbon neutral, ordering federal agencies to buy electric vehicles, to power facilities with wind, solar and nuclear energy, and to use sustainable building materials."**

In a series of executive orders, Mr. Biden directed the government to transform its 300,000 buildings, 600,000 cars and trucks, and use its annual purchases of \$650 billion in goods and services to meet his goal of a federal government that stops adding carbon dioxide into the atmosphere by 2050."

Brad Plumer, "Energy Department Targets Vastly Cheaper Batteries to Clean Up the Grid: The Biden administration's push for more wind and solar power poses big challenges. New types of energy storage could help — but only if they get much cheaper," *The New York Times*, July 14, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/07/14/climate/renewable-energy-batteries.html>, reported, **"The Energy Department on Wednesday announced a new effort to tackle one of the toughest technical challenges facing President Biden's push for an electric grid dominated by solar and wind power — namely, what to do when the sun stops shining and the wind stops blowing."**

The government is **chasing a promising but uncertain solution: a low-cost way to store electricity generated by the sun or wind for hours, days or even weeks at a time, saving it for when it's most needed. That goes far beyond what current batteries can do.** While dozens of companies are working on different ideas for so-called 'long-duration energy storage,' most are still too expensive to be useful."

Julia Conley, "In 'Landmark' Decision, EPA Finalizes Rule Cutting Use of Super-Pollutant HFCs: The regulation will drastically curb the use of 'the most potent super-pollutants known to mankind at the moment,' one climate campaigner said," *Common Dreams*, September 23, 2021, [https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/09/23/landmark-decision-epa-finalizes-rule-cutting-use-super-pollutant-hfcs?utm\\_term=AO&utm\\_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_content=email&utm\\_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_medium=Email](https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/09/23/landmark-decision-epa-finalizes-rule-cutting-use-super-pollutant-hfcs?utm_term=AO&utm_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_content=email&utm_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_medium=Email), reported, **"The Environmental Protection Agency on Thursday finalized a rule long pushed for by climate campaigners that slashes the use of chemicals identified as 'super-pollutants' that are commonly used in air conditioners and refrigerators."**

'I applaud President Biden's actions to cut down these super-pollutants while strengthening our ability to compete in a global clean energy market.'  
—Sen. Ed Markey (D-Mass.)

The Biden administration announced (<https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/2021/09/23/biden-climate-rule-hydrofluorocarbons/>) a new rule requiring the use of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) be cut by 85% over the next 15 years, implementing a measure in the American Innovation and Manufacturing Act, which was passed by Congress last year." **HFC's are potent greenhouse gasses.**

"Victory for great gray owls and forests in Oregon!" The Western Environmental Law Center, October 14, 2021, <https://myemail.constantcontact.com/Victory-for-owls--plus-new-climate-advocacy.html?soid=1102253797647&aid=Doj9SNIdI1k>, reported, **"We won a recent victory for forests and great gray owls in Oregon. The Griffin Half Moon timber project would have logged more than 900 acres home to perhaps the largest and most well-known population of great gray owls in southwest Oregon. We successfully argued the Bureau of Land Management's assessment did not consider the effects of logging on this at-risk owl. We are elated to have protected not only the forest, but also this iconic owl."**

Jack Ewing, "The World Wants Greenland's Minerals, but Greenlanders Are Wary: The island has rare elements needed for electric cars and wind turbines. But protesters are blocking one project, signaling that mining companies must tread carefully," *The New York Times*, October 1, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/10/01/business/greenland-minerals->

mining.html, reported, "As global warming melts the ice that covers 80 percent of the island, it has spurred demand for Greenland's potentially abundant reserves of hard-to-find minerals with names like neodymium and dysprosium. These so-called rare earths, used in wind turbines, electric motors and many other electronic devices, are essential raw materials as the world tries to break its addiction to fossil fuels," on which China supplies almost all the world demands.

"Global superpowers are jostling for influence. Billionaire investors are making big bets. Mining companies have staked claims throughout the island in a quest that also includes nickel, cobalt, titanium and, yes, gold."

**But there is significant resistance among Greenlanders, especially among its significant Indigenous population.**

Hannah Grover, "Restoration project proposals sought for rivers impacted by Gold King Mine spill," *New Mexico Political Report*, July 30, 2021, [https://nmpoliticalreport.com/2021/07/30/restoration-project-proposals-sought-for-rivers-impacted-by-gold-king-mine-spill/?mc\\_cid=4f6c5fa551&mc\\_eid=cde7993ced](https://nmpoliticalreport.com/2021/07/30/restoration-project-proposals-sought-for-rivers-impacted-by-gold-king-mine-spill/?mc_cid=4f6c5fa551&mc_eid=cde7993ced), reported, "As the sixth anniversary of the Gold King Mine spill approaches, the New Mexico Office of the Natural Resources Trustee is seeking proposals for restoration projects along the impacted river system in the northwest part of the state."

"The \$1 million of funding for these projects comes from a larger settlement that the state of New Mexico reached with Sunnyside Gold Corporation—the owner of mining claims in the Gold King Mine area—in January."

**The Gold King Mine spill into the Animas River in Colorado negatively impacted Southern Ute, Ute Mountain and Navajo Nation farmers and other river water users.**

Julia Conley, "Billions of People Could Live Years Longer If Policymakers Reduce Air Pollution: Study: In the northern part of India, where nearly 250 million people live, the average person could live eight years longer if air pollution was reduced," *Common Dreams*, September 1, 2021, [https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/09/01/billions-people-could-live-years-longer-if-policymakers-reduce-air-pollution-study?utm\\_term=AO&utm\\_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_content=email&utm\\_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_medium=Email](https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/09/01/billions-people-could-live-years-longer-if-policymakers-reduce-air-pollution-study?utm_term=AO&utm_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_content=email&utm_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_medium=Email), reported, "A new study released Wednesday by researchers at the University of Chicago showed that air pollution is cutting short the average global citizen's life by more than two years, with people in parts of the world dying as many as eight years earlier than they would without exposure to pollution."

**The burning of coal is the biggest driver of deadly air pollution**, according to the Air Quality Life Index (AQLI: <https://aqli.epic.uchicago.edu/pollution-facts/>), and people in countries around the world could live longer lives if policymakers drastically reduced fossil fuel emissions and ensured exposure to pollution was kept below the amount deemed acceptable by the World Health Organization.

**In India, the average person could live six years longer if pollution from some of the smallest particulate matter (PM 2.5) was reduced to acceptable levels. In the northern part of the country—home to 248 million people—life expectancy would increase by eight years.**

**More than 500 million people in places including Nepal, Peru, and Indonesia would live an average of five years longer if their governments were to comply with the guidelines, and more than one billion people would live at least three years longer on average.**

**'There is no greater current risk to human health' than air pollution**, said Prof. Michael Greenstone of the university's Energy Policy Institute, who led the study (<https://aqli.epic.uchicago.edu/pollution-facts/>).

The research revealed 'very worrying data,' Kwame McKenzie of the health policy charity Wellesley Institute said.

PM 2.5 pollution shortens more lives around the globe than smoking, unsafe water and poor sanitation, car accidents, and HIV/AIDS, according to the research.

**The WHO recommends that atmospheric levels of PM 2.5—fine matter which can travel down the respiratory tracts and into the lungs and even the bloodstream if a person is exposed—are limited to 10 micrograms per cubic meter. The researchers found that the average global citizen is exposed to concentrations of 32 micrograms per cubic meter.**

**The researchers noted that relatively little attention has been paid to the public health threat posed by air pollution around the world, particularly in parts of the Global South where policymakers and NGOs are focused on other public health crises:**

The health discourse in Sub-Saharan Africa has centered on infectious diseases such as HIV/AIDS and malaria. About 10% of health expenditures in the region go towards combating HIV/AIDS or malaria. However, a comparison shows that particulate pollution's impact on life expectancy is no less serious. In Nigeria, air pollution is second only to HIV/AIDS in terms of its impact on life expectancy—shaving off more years than malaria and water and sanitation concerns. In the Democratic Republic of Congo, it is second only to malaria. In Ghana, it ranks as the deadliest of these threats, while in Cote d'Ivoire it shortens life by about the same amount as those communicable diseases.

The researchers emphasized that it's within policymakers' control to improve pollution levels and life expectancy, as China has in recent years. The country has reduced pollution levels by nearly 30% since 2013 and has added 1.5 years to the average life expectancy.

**In the U.S., the study says, air pollution was reduced by about 66% since the passage of the Clean Air Act in 1970, and Americans' life expectancy has gone up since then by 1.6 years.**

**'The improvements that China was able to bring about in such a short period of time: six or seven years or so,' Kenneth Lee, director of the AQLI, told The Hill. 'Whereas, it took decades for the U.S. to make those changes.'**

**In the U.S., the researchers noted, a feedback loop has emerged in recent years as wildfires fueled by the climate crisis have grown larger and more common.**

**'In the U.S., millions have been adversely affected by hazardous wildfire smoke during the severe western wildfire seasons of the past few years,'** Axios reported ([https://www.axios.com/air-pollution-global-life-expectancy-report-fb6a821c-95aa-4671-8005-caac8be0e69b.html?utm\\_source=twitter&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_campaign=editorial&utm\\_content=energy-environment-pollution](https://www.axios.com/air-pollution-global-life-expectancy-report-fb6a821c-95aa-4671-8005-caac8be0e69b.html?utm_source=twitter&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=editorial&utm_content=energy-environment-pollution)). 'On Tuesday, as a veil of smoke could be seen on satellite imagery enshrouding areas from Nevada to Nebraska, for example.'

**'The combustion of the same fossil fuels that releases life-threatening air pollution also involves the release of greenhouse gases that increase the odds of disruptive climate change,'** according to the report.

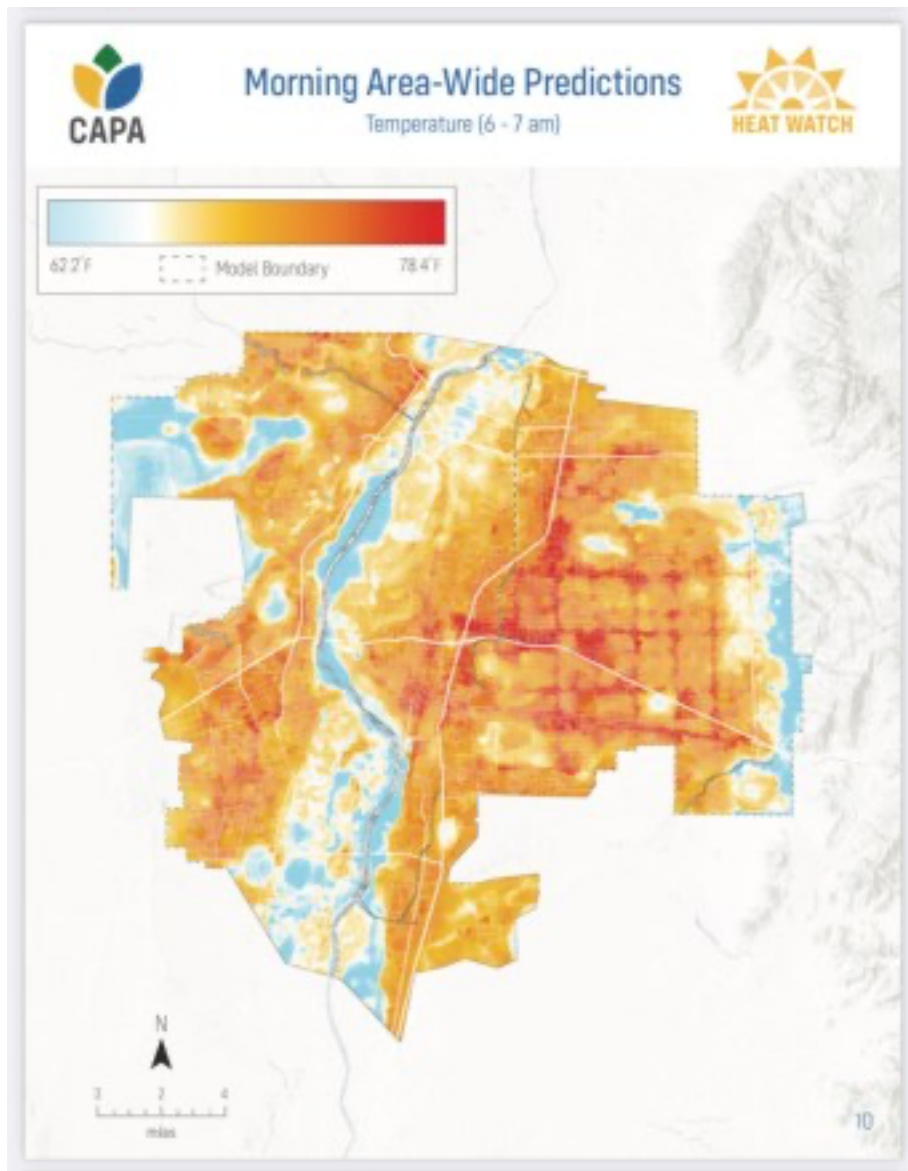
Our work is licensed under Creative Commons (CC BY-NC-ND 3.0)."

**In Utah, and particularly in the Salt Lake City area, the combination of heavy smoke from wildfires, at times making the city one of the world's most air polluted urban**

areas, and toxic dust, from dried up areas of the Salt Lake carrying the residue of industrial and agricultural chemicals which flowed into the lake, but are now exposed by catastrophic drought that has been shrinking the lake considerably, have posed health and comfort problems that have been reducing what had been booming economic activity (Simon Romero, "Booming Utah's Weak Link: Surging Air Pollution: A red-hot economy, wildfire smoke from California and the shriveling of the Great Salt Lake are making Utah's alarming pollution even worse," *The New York Times*, September 7, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/09/07/us/great-salt-lake-utah-air-quality.html>).

"Scientists Will Begin Collecting Water Data In Southwest: Data Will Help Predict Rain and Snowfall During Megadrought," *The Paper*, August 26th, 2021, [https://abq.news/2021/08/scientists-will-begin-collecting-water-data-in-southwest/?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=The+Paper.+Subscriber&utm\\_campaign=8e493284cf-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2021\\_08\\_26\\_07\\_36&utm\\_term=0\\_f8e2121d66-8e493284cf-68116799&mc\\_cid=8e493284cf&mc\\_eid=822e39214e](https://abq.news/2021/08/scientists-will-begin-collecting-water-data-in-southwest/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=The+Paper.+Subscriber&utm_campaign=8e493284cf-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2021_08_26_07_36&utm_term=0_f8e2121d66-8e493284cf-68116799&mc_cid=8e493284cf&mc_eid=822e39214e), reported, **"The U.S. Department of Energy on Tuesday announced a new kind of climate observatory near the headwaters of the Colorado River that will help scientists better predict rain and snowfall in the U.S. West and determine how much of it will flow through the region."**

Justin Schatz, "STUDY: Heat Disparity Apparent In ABQ Between Low-Income and Upper-Income Neighborhoods: Lower-Income Neighborhoods Suffer From Significantly Hotter Summer Temperatures," *The Paper*, November 28, 2021, [https://abq.news/2021/11/study-heat-disparity-apparent-in-abq-between-low-income-and-upper-income-neighborhoods/?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=The+Paper.+Subscriber&utm\\_campaign=b3fb3fded14f7-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2021\\_11\\_26\\_05\\_22&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_f8e2121d66-b3fb3fded14f7-68116799&mc\\_cid=b3fb3fded14f7&mc\\_eid=822e39214e](https://abq.news/2021/11/study-heat-disparity-apparent-in-abq-between-low-income-and-upper-income-neighborhoods/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=The+Paper.+Subscriber&utm_campaign=b3fb3fded14f7-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2021_11_26_05_22&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f8e2121d66-b3fb3fded14f7-68116799&mc_cid=b3fb3fded14f7&mc_eid=822e39214e), reported, **"The City of Albuquerque released results from last summer's Urban Heat Watch Campaign this week, where the city collected the temperatures from 67,662 temperature hotspots around the city. The campaign intended to mitigate urban hot spots and reduce heat disparities in lower-income communities that have been traditionally neglected by previous tree-planting efforts. Areas with a denser canopy, often in more affluent neighborhoods in the bosque, were nearly 15 degrees cooler than those with sparse cover, usually found Downtown or around interstates."**



**A major explosion and following fire at an industrial waste dump in the German city of Leverkusen, in late July 2021, caused a huge health threat as toxic smoke spread over the city** (Christopher F. Schuetze, "City in Western Germany Faces 'Extreme Threat' of Toxic Smoke After Deadly Explosion *The New York Times*, July 28, 2021).

Raphael Minder, "How a Stunning Lagoon in Spain Turned Into 'Green Soup': Tons of dead fish have washed ashore in recent years from the Mar Menor, a once-crystalline lagoon on the Mediterranean coast that has become choked with algae. Farm pollution is mostly blamed," *The New York Times*, October 17, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/10/17/world/europe/spain-lagoon-pollution-mar-menor.html>, reported, **"The Mar Menor, a saltwater lagoon on the coast of southeastern Spain, was long renowned for its natural beauty, drawing tourists and retirees to its pristine warm shallows and the area's gentle Mediterranean climate.**

**But over the past few years, the idyllic lagoon has come under threat. Tons of dead fish have washed ashore as the once-crystalline waters became choked with algae."**

**The growth of the toxic algae is attributed to agricultural runoff from nitrate fertilizer and warming of the water from global warming.**

**The Sea of Marmara in Turkey has been degrading for years from a clear, deep green, sea full of fish because of phosphorus and nitrogen in pollution combining with rising water temperatures from global warming. In 2021, a slimy film covered much of the water, reducing fish catches by 80 percent (Carlotta Gall, "The Sea of Marmara, a 'Sapphire' of Turkey, Is Choking From Pollution: A slimy secretion has coated harbors and beaches and smothered marine life. Warming waters are part of the problem'," *The New York Times*, July 9, 2021).**

**In India, the Yamuna River, which is a main source of water for the capital, and in which, following Hindu tradition, many people pray, is heavily polluted, endangering those in contact with it (Mujib Mashal and Hari Kumar, "Hindus Pray in River Whose Water Is Holy but Polluted *The New York Times*, November 12, 2021).**

Sarah Hume, "Following Predictions of Global Climate Chaos, Indigenous Representatives Discuss Sustainability Initiatives," July 24, 2021, <https://www.culturalsurvival.org/news/following-predictions-global-climate-chaos-indigenous-representatives-discuss-sustainability>, reported, "The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change projects that we have less than 12 years to avoid a definite future of catastrophic consequences. The High Level Political Forum (HLPF) is the core United Nations platform to discuss these repercussions. There, representatives review the global sustainable development goals set for 2030 and follow-up with nations about their commitments to combat climate change.

**On July 6, 2021, Indigenous representatives gathered at a side event in line with the 2021 High Level Political Forum to discuss their initiatives towards fostering biodiversity and sustainability.** The webinar, Live: Solutions from Indigenous Peoples for the Sustainable and Resilient Recovery from the COVID-19 Pandemic (<https://www.facebook.com/IPMGSDG/videos/782362982381172/>), hosted four speakers, each involved with an organization focused on promoting Indigenous and environmental rights. It was co-organized by the The International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB), the International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change (IIPFCC), and the Indigenous Peoples Major Group for Sustainable Development (IPMG), which coordinates the participation of Indigenous Peoples in global conversations about climate action. Each speaker discussed the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which urge for clean energy, no poverty or hunger, responsible consumption, and widespread climate action.

**Speakers noted that COVID-19 is a prime example of the importance of human-nature relationships. The virus is a zoonotic disease— caused by germs spread between animals and humans— demonstrating the interconnectedness of all beings. The health of nature directly influences the health of humans. We, after all, are nature as well. Speaker Joan Carling (Kankanaey) highlighted that Indigenous values prioritize this interconnectedness and harmony. There are 476.6 million Indigenous Peoples across 93 countries, making up 6.2 percent of the global population. Indigenous communities protect 80 percent of the world's biodiversity, manage or hold tenure over 25 percent of the world's land surface, and care**



for at least 24 percent of the total carbon stored above ground in the world's tropical forests, yet only 10 percent of Indigenous land is legally recognized.

Joan Carling, an Indigenous activist from the Cordillera, Philippines, **highlighted that the United Nations' acknowledgment of Indigenous ecological practices is essential for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.** Carling is currently the co-convenor of the Indigenous Peoples' Major Group (IPMG) for Sustainable Development and works directly with Indigenous organizations and networks across the globe. She began the webinar with an introduction to Indigenous Peoples, including worldwide commonalities, challenges, and sustainable solutions that are incorporated into Indigenous values. She also talked about new challenges that are a direct result of the pandemic.

**Two of the biggest challenges that Carling noted were due to COVID-19 and the nature of the Sustainable Development Goals. Because the pandemic has shifted many events to occur virtually — including this event — many people cannot participate if they do not have access to technology.** Indigenous participation is limited because of a lack of facilities and infrastructure in some rural areas. **Carling stressed that the United Nations must find a way to ensure that Indigenous Peoples can still effectively participate in all meetings. Another worry arises from the innate qualities of the Sustainable Development Goals. Participation in these goals is voluntary for nations.** States are not required to implement climate change actions, nor are they held accountable if they do not fulfill the goals as promised.

**Yet, in order to achieve success in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals globally, Indigenous Peoples must be recognized as protagonists in each step of the implementation process across all of the goals. Indigenous Peoples' key contributions to environmental protection and sustainable development include innovations such as non-timber forest products, worldviews of interconnectedness and responsibility, and the use of flora and fauna for good health. Carling stated that governments must recognize these contributions and fight bias in order to respectfully include Indigenous Peoples in their decision making.**

Joji Carino (Ibaloi-Igarot), the webinar's second speaker, agreed. She presented **the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD) vision: 'By 2050, biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored, and wisely used, maintaining ecosystems services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people.'** Indigenous Peoples already have this vision, Carino noted, but **the mainstream economic systems need to be transformed to move towards the 2050 vision.**

Joji Carino is Ibaloi from the Cordilleras Highlands of the Philippines. She is the Senior Policy Adviser of the Forest Peoples Programme, and has helped to organize networks of Indigenous Peoples to create their own Community Based Monitoring and Information Systems. Carino noted that the Convention of Biodiversity has further created milestones to be reached by 2030. Carino discussed a few of the most important milestones regarding the rights of Indigenous Peoples.

**One notable target, known as the '30x30 Initiative' is to protect and conserve, by the year 2030, at least 30 percent of the planet (land and water) with a special focus on areas particularly important for biodiversity. Because Indigenous Peoples protect 80 percent of the world's biodiversity, these regions are most often customary lands of Indigenous communities. This milestone must be accompanied by very strong human rights frameworks and recognition of customary lands to protect Indigenous Peoples from outside land-grabbing,** says Carino.

She also drew attention to a milestone seeking to ensure that quality information, including traditional knowledge, is available to decision makers and the public for the effective management of biodiversity. **'This target is actually giving equal attention to science as well as Indigenous knowledge,'** she said. **'However, it does not make clear the safeguards to use and access traditional knowledge to make this a reciprocal and respectful relationship.'**

When asked how audience members could participate, Carino suggested doing grassroots advocacy to address governmental challenges, which in turn influence UN negotiations. She further noted that it is quite easy for organizations to register as observers for the UN High Level Political Forum and the UN Biodiversity Conference if you would like to participate further.

The third speaker, Graeme Reed, discussed advancing Indigenous-led solutions to address the climate crisis. Reed is from Canada, of mixed Anishinaabe and European descent. He is a Senior Advisor at the Assembly of First Nations, focusing especially on climate action, environmental assessment, and energy. In Indigenous worldviews, **Reed expressed, climate action encompasses a wide variety of topics. Not only does it include food security and sovereignty, but also Indigenous knowledge systems and the revitalization of language and culture. All of these are connected and must be addressed.** Language, for example, is a manifestation of worldview. If a community has a word for an idea that is indescribable in other languages, it demonstrates what is important to that community. It means that this concept will be prioritized and protected. In this way, Indigenous sovereignty and climate action are directly linked. Systems must be transformed to not only accommodate Indigenous worldviews, but to empower and responsibly use Indigenous knowledge and practices.

Basiru Isa, an Indigenous youth activist from Cameroon, expanded on this point by **recognizing how Indigenous Peoples contribute to sustainable development by consciously not over-exploiting landscapes and by mitigating carbon emissions through forest protection.** He further provided recommendations for achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. **Isa suggested that the United Nations implement international human rights frameworks and hold states accountable, recognize and protect Indigenous Peoples' rights to land, and establish effective ways for Indigenous Peoples to fully participate in all stages of UN negotiations.**

Each panelist expressed their solidarity with all Indigenous communities during the hardships of the pandemic. They also expressed the necessity of partnerships between Indigenous communities, conventions, and caucuses. This work is already in action and will continue to strengthen Indigenous involvement in the United Nations and the Sustainable Development Goals."

"Western Resource Advocates (WRA), <https://westernresourceadvocates.org>, wrote in a December 9, 2021 E-mail, **"WRA is aiming to protect 50% of Western land by 2050 — and, as a step to get us to that ambitious target, we have an interim goal of protecting 30% of land by 2030.**

Thanks to advocates like you, we made crucial state-level progress toward this goal in 2021.

In May, the Nevada legislature passed a resolution encouraging the state to achieve **30x30, making it the first state in the nation to take legislative action on this goal.** In August, New Mexico Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham signed an executive order setting a state 30x30 goal.

These wins show how state-level action will be crucial to achieving 30x30, and then 50x50. WRA is committed to working on the ground, at every level where decisions get made, to follow the science and secure new land and water protections. But we can't continue this work without the support of our donors."

Hannah Grover, "Governor signs 30x30 executive order," *New Mexico Political Report*, August 25, 2021, [https://nmpoliticalreport.com/2021/08/25/governor-signs-30x30-executive-order/?mc\\_cid=626b40d000&mc\\_eid=cde7993ced](https://nmpoliticalreport.com/2021/08/25/governor-signs-30x30-executive-order/?mc_cid=626b40d000&mc_eid=cde7993ced), reported, **"Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham signed an executive order Wednesday that aims to set aside 30 percent of the state's lands and waters by 2030 for conservation and another 20 percent for climate stabilization."**

**Despite the pledge of Brazil's President to end Amazon deforestation at COP-26, in 2021, it reached a 15 year high** (Manuela Andreoni, "Deforestation of Amazon Hits 15 Year High," *The New York Times*, November 30, 2021).

**In Nicaragua, growing the major crop of coffee has become more difficult and uncertain because of climate change bringing rising temperatures, new pests, uncertain rainfall, draught mixed with flooding and other problems** (Tatiana Schlossberg, "The Coffee Business Wrestles with Climate Change," *The New York Times*, November 6, 2021).

**Despite government pledges to stop it, deforestation in Indonesia continues for new coffee farms whose growth is driven by high world-wide demand** (Wyatt Williams, "The Case of the Disappearing Jungle," *The New York Times Magazine*, August 15, 2021).

Brett Wilkins, "'A Wake-Up Call': Study Finds Extinction Risk for 30% of Tree Species: 'Strengthened action is urgently required to prevent further species extinctions and restore damaged and degraded ecosystems.'" *Common Dreams*, September 1, 2021, [https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/09/01/wake-call-study-finds-extinction-risk-30-tree-species?utm\\_term=AO&utm\\_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_content=email&utm\\_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_medium=Email](https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/09/01/wake-call-study-finds-extinction-risk-30-tree-species?utm_term=AO&utm_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_content=email&utm_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_medium=Email), reported, **"Nearly a third of the world's tree species are at risk of extinction largely due to agriculture, logging, and, increasingly, the global climate emergency**, according to a report published Wednesday by a U.K.-based conservation group.

**Botanic Gardens Conservation International's (BGCI) landmark *State of the World's Trees* report** (pdf: <https://www.bgci.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/FINAL-GTARReportMedRes-1.pdf>) **found that 17,500 types of trees—or about 30% of the planet's total species—face the prospect of extinction, with 440 species having fewer than 50 individuals left in the wild. At least 142 tree species are recorded as extinct in their natural habitats.**

The study's authors utilized data collected through the Global Tree Assessment and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) to determine that **'the main threats to tree species are forest clearance and other forms of habitat loss, direct exploitation for timber and other products, and the spread of invasive pests and diseases.'**

**'Climate change is also having a clearly measurable impact,'** the report notes, adding that **the effects of the planetary emergency are 'likely to be more widespread, as climate**

**change is also impacting the fire regime of many** habitats as well as impacts of pests and diseases,' while 'severe weather' threatens more than 1,000 tree species.

BGCI secretary general Paul Smith said in a statement that 'this report is a wake-up call to everyone around the world that trees need help.'

'Every tree species matters—to the millions of other species that depend on trees, and to people all over the world,' Smith added. 'For the first time... we can pinpoint exactly which tree species need our help, so policymakers and conservation experts can deploy the resources and expertise needed to prevent future extinctions.'

According to the report, **Madagascar has the world's highest number of threatened tree species (1,842), followed by Brazil (1,788 species) and Indonesia (1,306 species).**

**The study concludes that 'strengthened action is urgently required to prevent further species extinctions and restore damaged and degraded ecosystems. Such action will provide responses to both the biodiversity crisis and climate change emergency.'**

**'Forestry, biodiversity conservation, and climate change policies and mechanisms are already in place but need to be adhered to and implemented with greater resolve and commitment,' the authors stress, urging steps including boosting conservation efforts, combating illegal logging, tree-planting and species recovery efforts, education, and better public policy and legislation.**

'It is crucial that we use the information now available to manage, conserve, and restore threatened tree species and tree diversity,' the report states. 'This will prevent extinction both of trees and the associated plants, animals, and fungi that depend on them, sustain livelihoods, and ensure the ecological health of the planet.'

Our work is licensed under Creative Commons (CC BY-NC-ND 3.0)."

International Crisis Group (ICG), "Broken Canopy: Deforestation and Conflict in Colombia," Report 91 / Latin America & Caribbean 4 November 2021, <https://www.crisisgroup.org/latin-america-caribbean/andes/colombia/091-broken-canopy-deforestation-and-conflict-colombia>, commented, **"Colombia's vast forest is fast receding, partly because guerrillas and criminals are clearing land for farming, ranching and other pursuits. These unregulated activities are causing both dire environmental harm and deadly conflict. Bogotá should take urgent steps to halt the damage.**

#### **Principal Findings**

**What's new? Deforestation has surged in Colombia since the FARC rebels put down their weapons following a 2014 ceasefire and 2016 peace accord. Other insurgents and criminal groups have stepped up economic activities – ranching, logging, mining and coca growing – that accelerate loss of woodland and jungle in areas the guerrillas once controlled.**

**Why does it matter? By enabling economic activities that provide income to insurgents and criminals, deforestation helps them engage in fresh cycles of rural violence, hinders the state in its efforts to control territory, and prevents Colombia from meeting core goals on environment protection.**

**What should be done? Bogotá should refocus its campaign against environmental crime to target economically empowered actors driving deforestation rather than impoverished loggers. It should implement peace accord commitments for rural areas, especially concerning land registration and restitution, and build a stronger natural**

**resource management system, drawing on community involvement and technical assistance.**

### **Executive Summary**

In the five years following its historic 2016 peace accord, Colombia has seen a surge of forest razing and land clearance amid continuing unrest in the countryside. The rate of tree loss, which greatly lowers the country's chances of meeting its zero-deforestation goal by 2030, is tied to conflict and violence. These ties are complex. Deforestation began to rise soon after the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), which had operated mostly from rural areas, declared a ceasefire in December 2014. It then gathered steam after the 2016 accord was signed. The rebels' departure from their strongholds provided an opportunity for other insurgencies and organised crime to assert control. With state authority in the countryside still feeble, those groups pushed back the forest to expand enterprises like coca growing, cattle ranching, illegal gold mining and logging, sometimes working with legal businesses. To arrest the damage, Bogotá should fix its approach to prosecuting environmental crime, implement peace accord commitments relating to the environment and urgently bolster its natural resource management systems.

In many ways, the FARC ran roughshod over the environment during its five-decade insurgency. But there was a clear difference between them and the current crop of violent outfits operating in rural Colombia. In areas where FARC rebels operated, they tended to restrict deforestation. One reason was that thick tree canopies helped prevent the state from spotting their encampments from the air, allowing them to move more freely. But as they implemented a late 2014 ceasefire and prepared to sign the 2016 accord, the guerrillas also for the most part stopped limiting land clearance. Deforestation rose sharply, spearheaded or abetted by new and old armed actors, often in bruising competition with one another. These actors included the National Liberation Army (ELN), Colombia's last remaining insurgents; FARC dissidents (ie, former fighters who have reneged on the peace process and returned to arms); and criminal groups that inherited many of the structures once belonging to right-wing paramilitaries.

**At the front line of [Colombia's] receding forest, ... small-hold farmers are coerced or coopted into doing the armed groups' bidding.**

**Deforestation, however, is not solely the handiwork of illegal bands. Tens of thousands of internally displaced people and other conflict victims, many of them desperately poor, have been swept up in the push to clear Colombia's woodlands for remunerative uses. Often having lost their land to violent groups, these farmers have been forced to find ways of surviving by clearing forest and creating new livelihoods in far-flung places. At the front line of the country's receding forest, some of these small-hold farmers are coerced or co-opted into doing the armed groups' bidding while others are paid small amounts for their labours.**

**Cattle ranching stands out as the single biggest cause of deforestation.** Feeding into legal supply chains, it now causes more tree loss than coca, illicit logging or illegal gold mining. On paper at least, ranching is a normal business, but illegal actors engage in it, and the state has been unable to rein in many corrupt and criminal practices within the sector. Land used for grazing is often obtained illegally or located in environmentally protected territories. Profits frequently enrich criminal groups that terrorise local people and perpetuate conflict.

**While the current level of rampant forest clearance in Colombia is driven by a mix of armed and criminal groups, licit actors and deep structural problems – notably the country's profound socio-economic inequality and the state's chronic weaknesses – Bogotá**

is far from helpless to stop it. The government has at its disposal tools and strategies that can help it check unregulated deforestation and blunt the adverse consequences thereof. One is law enforcement. Colombia's campaign to fight environmental crime, Operation Artemisa, has flagged as a result of high costs, and been the object of some public wrath. It has lost support in part by tending to go after individual farmers rather than tackle the more pressing and difficult work of targeting the big bosses behind deforestation. But a new comprehensive law should enable Bogotá to remedy these mistakes by increasing punishment for the financial backers behind environmental crimes.

Another potential mechanism for bringing about change is the 2016 peace accord. Carrying out its environmentally focused provisions has been difficult, due to financial constraints, the COVID-19 pandemic and lack of high-level political support. But implementation is of critical importance. At the heart of that agreement is a set of measures that would go a long way toward addressing the causes of deforestation. The steps under way toward creation of a new land registry could help clarify property ownership and use throughout the country, while a land fund that builds on the progress made since passage of the 2011 Victims' Law could enable families whose property was seized by armed groups to re-establish farms. In combination, these two reforms have the potential to help staunch the drive to clear more forest by providing more formal deeds to existing farmland.

Also of relevance, the accord looked to strengthen the Campesino Reserve Zones, where unused or inefficiently used land is distributed for ownership to small-hold farmers; contemplated participatory mechanisms for communities to design sustainable development plans; pledged to create a program to encourage coca growers to substitute licit crops; and envisaged a zoning plan to help manage land use, among many environmental features.

Largely unregulated land clearance, which offers a thoroughfare for armed and criminal groups to get richer and reach deeper into remote territory, is a double threat to Colombia. On one hand, it is an impediment to the country's prospects for peace. On the other hand, accelerating tree loss, in Colombia and elsewhere, is a threat to the environment and those who depend on it. Deforestation increases the country's vulnerability to climate change by exacerbating exposure to the effects of extreme weather, which already disproportionately harm the country's poorer and more neglected people. Soil degradation will magnify the effects of flooding and droughts brought on by climate change, as well as knock-on disasters like landslides.

Growing deforestation, which is likely to be a core concern addressed at COP26, the UN climate summit under way in Glasgow, is also at odds with Colombia's ambitious climate commitments under the Paris Agreement. Shortfalls in reaching these goals will not only cause reputational damage but also negatively affect access to donor funding. Better management of the country's natural resources will require collection of more reliable data, establishment of more effective controls, and fluid dialogue between state authorities and rural populations that have been living in environmentally protected areas, sometimes over several generations, as to their future livelihoods and use of woodland.

Standing by while the farthest reaches of Colombia are cleared for illicit profit risks feeding cycles of violence. Averting this outcome will depend in large part on confronting the many interests pushing the agricultural frontier outward."

**Climate change is already seriously impacting agriculture around the world, including in Europe. For example, the wine producing region of Jura in France has been devastated by climate change.** Ceylan Yeginsu, "Climate Change Threatens Wine, and a Way of Life, in Jura: Extreme weather has ruined grape crops throughout this small French region known for natural wine. 'If it continues like this, how will we continue to make Jura wine? I really don't know,'" said one winegrower," *The New York Times*, November 4, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/11/03/travel/jura-wine-climate-change.html>, reported from Jura, "**'We lost 85 percent of our crop compared to last year,'** said Fabrice Dodane, 49, the owner of Domaine de Saint-Pierre, a small wine producer that specializes in organic viticulture. 'It is truly a disaster, and people are angry because there is so much demand but not enough wine to sell.'"

Jack Nicas, "A Slow-Motion Climate Disaster: The Spread of Barren Land: Brazil's northeast, long a victim of droughts, is now effectively turning into a desert. The cause? Climate change and the landowners who are most affected. Climate change is intensifying droughts in Brazil's northeast, leaving the land barren. The phenomenon, called desertification, is happening across the planet," *The New York Times*, December 3, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/12/03/world/americas/brazil-climate-change-barren-land.html>, reported, "**Much of Brazil's vast northeast is, in effect, turning into a desert — a process called desertification that is worsening across the planet.**

**Climate change is one culprit. But local residents, faced with harsh economic realities, have also made short-term decisions to get by — like clearing trees for livestock and extracting clay for the region's tile industry — that have carried long-term consequences."**

Jessica Corbett, "'Victory for Environmental Justice': Review Ordered for Proposed Cancer Alley Plastics Complex: 'I am hopeful that this is the nail in the coffin of Formosa Plastics in St. James Parish,'" said the head of Louisiana Bucket Brigade.'" *Common Dreams*, August 19, 2021, [https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/08/19/victory-environmental-justice-review-ordered-proposed-cancer-alley-plastics-complex?utm\\_term=AO&utm\\_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_content=email&utm\\_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_medium=Email](https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/08/19/victory-environmental-justice-review-ordered-proposed-cancer-alley-plastics-complex?utm_term=AO&utm_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_content=email&utm_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_medium=Email), reported. "**Environmental justice and climate campaigners celebrated after a federal official on Wednesday ordered a detailed review of the impacts of a massive Formosa Plastics complex set to be built on over 2,000 acres in an area of Louisiana long known as 'Cancer Alley.'**"

"The EPA Has Finally Banned the Toxic Pesticide Chlorpyrifos From Food," Earth Justice, August 18, 2021, August 18, 2021, [https://earthjustice.org/brief/2021/chlorpyrifos-ban-pesticide-industry-pressure-epa?ms=email&utm\\_source=crm&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=info&utm\\_campaign=210820\\_Info\\_Chlorpyrifos\\_Victory&utm\\_content=HTMLBodyLink1&emci=96bab1a6-4300-ec11-b563-501ac57b8fa7&emdi=b8f58606-6100-ec11-b563-501ac57b8fa7&ceid=1379097](https://earthjustice.org/brief/2021/chlorpyrifos-ban-pesticide-industry-pressure-epa?ms=email&utm_source=crm&utm_medium=email&utm_term=info&utm_campaign=210820_Info_Chlorpyrifos_Victory&utm_content=HTMLBodyLink1&emci=96bab1a6-4300-ec11-b563-501ac57b8fa7&emdi=b8f58606-6100-ec11-b563-501ac57b8fa7&ceid=1379097). reported, "**The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency just took a huge step toward protecting kids and farmworkers from a toxic pesticide linked to lifelong intellectual disabilities. On August 18, the agency announced that it will ban chlorpyrifos from all food crops.**

Earthjustice represented health, labor, and learning disability organizations in a successful legal battle to win this much-needed protection.

**Why is the ban a major victory for public health?**

Developed by the Nazis for warfare, organophosphate pesticides like chlorpyrifos were repurposed for agriculture.

**Now chlorpyrifos is widely used and, as the EPA's own scientific reviews have found, unsafe. Decades of studies have linked in-utero exposure to chlorpyrifos and other organophosphates to reduced IQ, attention disorders, and autism in kids.**

Chlorpyrifos enters our bodies through the water we drink, the air we breathe, and the food we eat, including fruits and vegetables from cilantro to oranges to raisins. Farmworkers who use the pesticide or simply enter fields where it has been sprayed are particularly at risk.

'I didn't understand just how terrible these toxic chemicals can be until my son, Isaac, was born with a mental disability,' activist and former farmworker Claudia Angulo wrote for Earthjustice in 2018. "I am sure that chlorpyrifos damaged my son's brain for life.'

An Earthjustice lawsuit led to the ban on all food uses of chlorpyrifos.

If the EPA cannot ensure that a pesticide won't harm children, the 1996 Food Quality Protection Act requires the EPA to ban uses of the pesticide on food.

On behalf of health, labor, and learning disability organizations, Earthjustice sued the EPA in 2019 for shirking this duty.

In April 2021, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals sided with Earthjustice and its clients, and ordered the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to either ban all food uses of chlorpyrifos, or figure out how to regulate it in a way that protects people, including those vulnerable populations.

In its decision, the court wrote: 'The EPA's egregious delay exposed a generation of American children to unsafe levels of chlorpyrifos ... But the EPA's time is now up.'

Public support for a chlorpyrifos ban helped move the needle, even as chemical companies pushed hard to keep the pesticide on the market.

As our case worked its way through the courts, more than 350,000 Earthjustice supporters sent messages to their political representatives asking them to ban the toxic chemical.

This public pressure moved states like Hawai'i, California, Oregon, and New York to adopt their own chlorpyrifos bans in the last few years. In addition, the largest U.S. producer of chlorpyrifos stopped making the pesticide.

The show of support for a ban was especially critical as pesticide manufacturers urged the EPA not to ban chlorpyrifos from all foods. Recent reporting by the Intercept documents how wealthy and powerful chemical companies have often been able to sway the EPA to approve hazardous products by using the tobacco playbook and pushing inaccurate studies. This time, that didn't happen.

What comes next?

Chlorpyrifos is one of many organophosphate pesticides that have been linked to neurodevelopmental disorders and even death. The EPA must protect people from the health harms of all these pesticides.

The EPA is currently reviewing the safety of two dozen organophosphate pesticides and must complete its review by October 2022.

To learn more about the health risks of organophosphates and what foods present the highest risk of exposure, read Earthjustice's recent report (<https://earthjustice.org/features/organophosphate-pesticides-united-states>)."



"Coral Davenport, "Biden to Restore Protections for Tongass National Forest in Alaska: Former President Donald J. Trump invited mining and logging to a vast wilderness of bald eagles, black bears and 800-year-old trees. President Biden is reversing course," *The New York Times*, July 14, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/07/14/climate/tongass-roadless-rule-alaska.html>, reported, **"The Biden administration is moving to restore full environmental protections for Tongass National Forest in Alaska, reversing an attempt by former President Donald J. Trump to introduce logging and mining in pristine sections of one of the world's largest intact temperate rain forests."**

Justin Schatz, "Secretary Haaland Returns to NM To Celebrate Largest Private Land Donation In US History: Sabinoso Wilderness Area Nearly Doubles In Size After Expansion," *The Paper* July 19, 2021, [https://abq.news/2021/07/secretary-haaland-celebrates-expansion-of-wilderness-](https://abq.news/2021/07/secretary-haaland-celebrates-expansion-of-wilderness-area/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=The+Paper.+Subscriber&utm_campaign=7f2e6a84d3-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2021_07_19_12_39&utm_term=0_f8e2121d66-7f2e6a84d3-68116799&mc_cid=7f2e6a84d3&mc_eid=822e39214e)

[area/?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=The+Paper.+Subscriber&utm\\_campaign=7f2e6a84d3-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2021\\_07\\_19\\_12\\_39&utm\\_term=0\\_f8e2121d66-7f2e6a84d3-68116799&mc\\_cid=7f2e6a84d3&mc\\_eid=822e39214e](https://abq.news/2021/07/secretary-haaland-celebrates-expansion-of-wilderness-area/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=The+Paper.+Subscriber&utm_campaign=7f2e6a84d3-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2021_07_19_12_39&utm_term=0_f8e2121d66-7f2e6a84d3-68116799&mc_cid=7f2e6a84d3&mc_eid=822e39214e), reported: "Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland returned to New Mexico on Saturday along with US Sen. Martin Heinrich and US Rep. Teresa Ledger Fernandez, to **celebrate the historic expansion of the Sabinoso Wilderness Area, a vast wilderness of mesas, pinons, and juniper forests located in the northeast corner of San Miguel County. The expansion of the rugged wilderness is the end of a 15-year push by Heinrich to protect this landscape and serves as a launch for a greater effort by the Biden administration to restore 30 percent of America's land and water by 2030 through the America The Beautiful initiative."**

**This was made possible by the largest private land donation to the federal government in history, doubling the size of the Sabinoso Wilderness area and increasing access to it.**

Andrea Germanos, "'Incredibly Important' Victory for Nation's Honey Bees by California High Court: 'With this ruling, the bees in California are getting much-needed relief just as we're seeing some of the worst signs of colony collapse.'" *Common Dreams*, December 7, 2021, [https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/12/07/incredibly-important-victory-nations-honey-bees-california-high-](https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/12/07/incredibly-important-victory-nations-honey-bees-california-high-court?utm_term=AO&utm_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_content=email&utm_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_medium=Email)

[court?utm\\_term=AO&utm\\_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_content=email&utm\\_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_medium=Email](https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/12/07/incredibly-important-victory-nations-honey-bees-california-high-court?utm_term=AO&utm_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_content=email&utm_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_medium=Email), reported, **"The bee-killing pesticide sulfoxaflo is no longer approved for use in California after a ruling by a state superior court that environmental advocates say represents a win for pollinators and the nation's food system."**

In a statement Monday noting that 'just about every commercial honey bee colony in this country spends at least part of the year in California,' Steve Ellis, president of the Pollinator Stewardship Council, called the ruling 'incredibly important for pollinators' because 'removing systemic insecticides such as sulfoxaflo will help ensure honey bees have a healthy future.' That's especially crucial, he said, in light of recent 'astounding losses' to honey bee colonies."

International Crisis Group (ICG), "Broken Canopy: Deforestation and Conflict in Colombia," Report 91 / Latin America & Caribbean 4 November 2021, <https://www.crisisgroup.org/latin-america-caribbean/andes/colombia/091-broken-canopy->

deforestation-and-conflict-colombia, commented, "Colombia's vast forest is fast receding, partly because guerrillas and criminals are clearing land for farming, ranching and other pursuits. These unregulated activities are causing both dire environmental harm and deadly conflict. Bogotá should take urgent steps to halt the damage.

#### **Principal Findings**

**What's new?** Deforestation has surged in Colombia since the FARC rebels put down their weapons following a 2014 ceasefire and 2016 peace accord. Other insurgents and criminal groups have stepped up economic activities – ranching, logging, mining and coca growing – that accelerate loss of woodland and jungle in areas the guerrillas once controlled.

**Why does it matter?** By enabling economic activities that provide income to insurgents and criminals, deforestation helps them engage in fresh cycles of rural violence, hinders the state in its efforts to control territory, and prevents Colombia from meeting core goals on environment protection.

**What should be done?** Bogotá should refocus its campaign against environmental crime to target economically empowered actors driving deforestation rather than impoverished loggers. It should implement peace accord commitments for rural areas, especially concerning land registration and restitution, and build a stronger natural resource management system, drawing on community involvement and technical assistance.

#### **Executive Summary**

In the five years following its historic 2016 peace accord, Colombia has seen a surge of forest razing and land clearance amid continuing unrest in the countryside. The rate of tree loss, which greatly lowers the country's chances of meeting its zero-deforestation goal by 2030, is tied to conflict and violence. These ties are complex. Deforestation began to rise soon after the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), which had operated mostly from rural areas, declared a ceasefire in December 2014. It then gathered steam after the 2016 accord was signed. The rebels' departure from their strongholds provided an opportunity for other insurgencies and organised crime to assert control. With state authority in the countryside still feeble, those groups pushed back the forest to expand enterprises like coca growing, cattle ranching, illegal gold mining and logging, sometimes working with legal businesses. To arrest the damage, Bogotá should fix its approach to prosecuting environmental crime, implement peace accord commitments relating to the environment and urgently bolster its natural resource management systems.

In many ways, the FARC ran roughshod over the environment during its five-decade insurgency. But there was a clear difference between them and the current crop of violent outfits operating in rural Colombia. In areas where FARC rebels operated, they tended to restrict deforestation. One reason was that thick tree canopies helped prevent the state from spotting their encampments from the air, allowing them to move more freely. But as they implemented a late 2014 ceasefire and prepared to sign the 2016 accord, the guerrillas also for the most part stopped limiting land clearance. Deforestation rose sharply, spearheaded or abetted by new and old armed actors, often in bruising competition with one another. These actors included the National Liberation Army (ELN), Colombia's last remaining insurgents; FARC dissidents (ie, former fighters who have reneged on the peace process and returned to arms); and criminal groups that inherited many of the structures once belonging to right-wing paramilitaries.

At the front line of [Colombia's] receding forest, ... small-hold farmers are coerced or coopted into doing the armed groups' bidding.

Deforestation, however, is not solely the handiwork of illegal bands. Tens of thousands of internally displaced people and other conflict victims, many of them desperately poor, have been swept up in the push to clear Colombia's woodlands for remunerative uses. Often having lost their land to violent groups, these farmers have been forced to find ways of surviving by clearing forest and creating new livelihoods in far-flung places. At the front line of the country's receding forest, some of these small-hold farmers are coerced or co-opted into doing the armed groups' bidding while others are paid small amounts for their labours.

Cattle ranching stands out as the single biggest cause of deforestation. Feeding into legal supply chains, it now causes more tree loss than coca, illicit logging or illegal gold mining. On paper at least, ranching is a normal business, but illegal actors engage in it, and the state has been unable to rein in many corrupt and criminal practices within the sector. Land used for grazing is often obtained illegally or located in environmentally protected territories. Profits frequently enrich criminal groups that terrorise local people and perpetuate conflict.

While the current level of rampant forest clearance in Colombia is driven by a mix of armed and criminal groups, licit actors and deep structural problems – notably the country's profound socio-economic inequality and the state's chronic weaknesses – Bogotá is far from helpless to stop it. The government has at its disposal tools and strategies that can help it check unregulated deforestation and blunt the adverse consequences thereof. One is law enforcement. Colombia's campaign to fight environmental crime, Operation Artemisa, has flagged as a result of high costs, and been the object of some public wrath. It has lost support in part by tending to go after individual farmers rather than tackle the more pressing and difficult work of targeting the big bosses behind deforestation. But a new comprehensive law should enable Bogotá to remedy these mistakes by increasing punishment for the financial backers behind environmental crimes.

Another potential mechanism for bringing about change is the 2016 peace accord. Carrying out its environmentally focused provisions has been difficult, due to financial constraints, the COVID-19 pandemic and lack of high-level political support. But implementation is of critical importance. At the heart of that agreement is a set of measures that would go a long way toward addressing the causes of deforestation. The steps under way toward creation of a new land registry could help clarify property ownership and use throughout the country, while a land fund that builds on the progress made since passage of the 2011 Victims' Law could enable families whose property was seized by armed groups to re-establish farms. In combination, these two reforms have the potential to help staunch the drive to clear more forest by providing more formal deeds to existing farmland.

Also of relevance, the accord looked to strengthen the Campesino Reserve Zones, where unused or inefficiently used land is distributed for ownership to small-hold farmers; contemplated participatory mechanisms for communities to design sustainable development plans; pledged to create a program to encourage coca growers to substitute licit crops; and envisaged a zoning plan to help manage land use, among many environmental features.

Largely unregulated land clearance, which offers a thoroughfare for armed and criminal groups to get richer and reach deeper into remote territory, is a double threat to Colombia. On one hand, it is an impediment to the country's prospects for peace. On the

other hand, accelerating tree loss, in Colombia and elsewhere, is a threat to the environment and those who depend on it. Deforestation increases the country's vulnerability to climate change by exacerbating exposure to the effects of extreme weather, which already disproportionately harm the country's poorer and more neglected people. Soil degradation will magnify the effects of flooding and droughts brought on by climate change, as well as knock-on disasters like landslides.

Growing deforestation, which is likely to be a core concern addressed at COP26, the UN climate summit under way in Glasgow, is also at odds with Colombia's ambitious climate commitments under the Paris Agreement. Shortfalls in reaching these goals will not only cause reputational damage but also negatively affect access to donor funding. **Better management of the country's natural resources will require collection of more reliable data, establishment of more effective controls, and fluid dialogue between state authorities and rural populations that have been living in environmentally protected areas, sometimes over several generations, as to their future livelihoods and use of woodland.**

**Standing by while the farthest reaches of Colombia are cleared for illicit profit risks feeding cycles of violence. Averting this outcome will depend in large part on confronting the many interests pushing the agricultural frontier outward."**

Kenny Stancil, "Court Ruling on US Border Militarization Called 'Win for Wildlife': 'This is a win for wildlife and communities along the border, where the government has behaved as if the laws don't apply,' said one environmental lawyer," *Common Dreams*, August 24, 2021, [https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/08/24/court-ruling-us-border-militarization-called-win-wildlife?utm\\_term=AO&utm\\_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_content=email&utm\\_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_medium=Email](https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/08/24/court-ruling-us-border-militarization-called-win-wildlife?utm_term=AO&utm_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_content=email&utm_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_medium=Email), reported, "Social and environmental justice advocates welcomed **a federal judge's ruling Monday that two U.S. agencies broke the law by not conducting an analysis of potential ecological harms associated with increased militarization along the U.S.-Mexico border.**

Monday's ruling (pdf: [https://biologicaldiversity.org/campaigns/border\\_wall/pdfs/Border\\_wall\\_supplemental\\_nepa\\_peis\\_esa\\_order\\_082123.pdf](https://biologicaldiversity.org/campaigns/border_wall/pdfs/Border_wall_supplemental_nepa_peis_esa_order_082123.pdf)) **found that officials at both the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) violated the National Environmental Policy Act by failing to prepare an updated and detailed environmental impact statement for the U.S.-Mexico border enforcement program.**

The court's decision stems from a 2017 lawsuit filed by U.S. Rep. Raúl Grijalva (D-Ariz.) and the Center for Biological Diversity."

Jessica Corbett, "'Justice Is With Us!': Climate Groups Cheer French Court Order to Cut Emissions: 'We owe this... to the unprecedented mobilization of the 2.3 million people who supported the Case of the Century,'" *Common Dreams*, October 14, 2021, [https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/10/14/justice-us-climate-groups-cheer-french-court-order-cut-emissions?utm\\_term=AO&utm\\_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_content=email&utm\\_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_medium=Email](https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/10/14/justice-us-climate-groups-cheer-french-court-order-cut-emissions?utm_term=AO&utm_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_content=email&utm_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_medium=Email), reported, "**Climate campaigners across France celebrated Thursday after the administrative court of Paris ordered the French**

government to honor its commitments to cut planet-heating emissions and 'repair the ecological damage for which it is responsible' by the end of next year.

The Case of the Century, or l'Affaire du Siècle, was launched three years ago by four advocacy groups: Oxfam France, Notre Affaire à Tous, Fondation pour la Nature et l'Homme, and Greenpeace France.

'We won,' tweeted Oxfam France executive director Cécile Duflot. **'The state must not only make up for the delay but also repair the damage!'**

Greenpeace, in a tweet, called the court's ruling 'another significant step forward in the growing wave of climate litigation around the world.'

The coalition behind the case also welcomed the development, noting that any future president who doesn't respect the country's climate commitments would not only expose the French people to 'the increasingly devastating and costly impacts of climate change,' but also risk additional court cases.

**'From today forward, any slippage on the greenhouse gas reduction trajectory can be punished by the courts in the event of another delay,'** the coalition said. **'The state now has an obligation to achieve results for the climate.'**

'We owe this necessary break with climate policy such as it is now to the judges who took up the climate issue and to the **unprecedented mobilization of the 2.3 million people who supported the Case of the Century,**' they added, acknowledging signers of a related petition.

Supporters of the case gathered in Paris Thursday morning with large letters that read: 'Climate: justice is with us!'

**France—a signatory to the 2015 Paris climate agreement, which aims to limit global temperature rise to 1.5°C by 2100—has pledged to cut greenhouse gas emissions 40% by 2030, compared to 1990 levels, and reach carbon neutrality by 2050. The court found that from 2015 to 2018, France overshot its national carbon budget by 15 million tons of CO2 equivalent, and ordered the government to make up for it by December 31, 2022.**

**The new ruling follows a February decision that found France was failing to meet its climate commitments.** At the time, Oxfam's Duflot called the ruling a 'historic victory' that 'sets an important legal precedent' and expressed hope that the 'breakthrough' would lead the courts to 'compel the government to take further steps to reduce emissions and ensure that France is living up to its commitments,' a wish that was fulfilled Thursday.

Agence France-Presse noted that the latest decision also comes after a July ruling in which 'France's highest administrative court, the Council of State, ordered the government to take measures by March 31, 2022, to honor its commitments in terms of greenhouse gas reductions.'

As Greenpeace France director Jean-Francois Julliard told journalists on Thursday: 'Now the court system is becoming an ally in our fight against climate change.'

Our work is licensed under Creative Commons (CC BY-NC-ND 3.0)."

Damien Cave, "In Australia, It's 'Long Live King Coal': The country has fallen behind other developed nations in its commitment to slashing carbon emissions. Neither fires nor international pressure has pushed it away from coal and other fossil fuels, *The New York Times*, October 21, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/10/21/world/australia/australia-coal-fossil-fuel-carbon.html>, reported, **"At a time when climate change and those who fight it demand that coal be treated like tobacco, as a danger everywhere it is burned, Australia is**

increasingly seen as the guy at the end of the bar selling cheap cigarettes and promising to bring more tomorrow.

Along with koalas, kangaroos and beaches, the country — **the world's third-largest exporter of fossil fuels — is becoming known for refusing to clean up its act.**"

Jessica Corbett, "In First for Australia, Court Orders Government Agency to Take Climate Action: One nonprofit said the decision in a case brought by bushfire survivors 'should send a chill through the state's most polluting industries, including the electricity and commercial transport sectors.'" *Common Dreams*, August 26, 2021, [https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/08/26/first-australia-court-orders-government-agency-take-climate-action?utm\\_term=AO&utm\\_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_content=email&utm\\_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_medium=Email](https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/08/26/first-australia-court-orders-government-agency-take-climate-action?utm_term=AO&utm_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_content=email&utm_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_medium=Email), reported, **"In a case brought by bushfire survivors against an Australian state's environmental regulator, a court found Thursday that the government agency must take action to address the climate emergency—a first-of-its kind and potentially precedent-setting ruling for the fire-ravaged nation."**

"Preston ordered the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) 'to develop environmental quality objectives, guidelines, and policies to ensure environment protection from climate change' in the Australian state.

Though Preston found that the EPA has not fulfilled its legal duty to ensure such protection, he said the agency 'has a discretion as to the specific content of the instruments it develops' and his order 'does not demand that such instruments contain the level of specificity contended for by BSCA, such as regulating sources of greenhouse gas emissions in a way consistent with limiting global temperature rise to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels."

Catrin Einhorn, "The Most Important Global Meeting You've Probably Never Heard Of Is Now: Countries are gathering in an effort to stop a biodiversity collapse that scientists say could equal climate change as an existential crisis," *The New York Times*, October 14, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/10/14/climate/un-biodiversity-conference-climate-change.html>, reports that **the World Biodiversity Conference was taking place in Kunming, China to try to reach agreement on a world approach to protecting biodiversity which goes hand in hand with limiting climate change, a factor in the future of biodiversity, and vice versa. For the meeting, "The working draft includes 21 targets that act as a blueprint for reducing biodiversity loss. Many are concrete and measurable, others more abstract. None are easy. They include, in summary:**

**Create a plan, across the entire land and waters of each country, to make the best decisions about where to conduct activities like farming and mining while also retaining intact areas.**

**Ensure that wild species are hunted and fished sustainably and safely.**

**Reduce agricultural runoff, pesticides and plastic pollution.**

**Use ecosystems to limit climate change by storing planet-warming carbon in nature.**

**Reduce subsidies and other financial programs that harm biodiversity by at least \$500 billion per year, the estimated amount that governments spend supporting fossil fuels and potentially damaging agricultural practices.**

**Safeguard at least 30 percent of the planet's land and oceans by 2030."**

**Indigenous people and organizations are very concerned about the outcome of the conference, many hoping for an expansion of the agenda in practice, while fearful of failing to reach at least the draft goals, and the possible increased loss of land and living conditions as habitats degrade** (Somini Sengupta, Catrin Einhorn and Manuela Andreoni, "There's a Global Plan to Conserve Nature. Indigenous People Could Lead the Way: Dozens of countries are backing an effort that would protect 30 percent of Earth's land and water. Native people, often among the most effective stewards of nature, have been disregarded, or worse, in the past," *The New York Times*, Published March 11, 2021, Updated October 14, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/03/11/climate/nature-conservation-30-percent.html>).

Kenny Stancil, "Embarrassing: US Absent as World Joins Together to Protect Biodiversity: 'It reinforces the notion that the U.S. is a fair-weather partner when it comes to environmental conservation, including issues of climate change,' said one critic," *Common Dreams*, October 15, 2021, [https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/10/15/embarrassing-us-absent-world-joins-together-protect-biodiversity?utm\\_term=AO&utm\\_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_content=email&utm\\_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_medium=Email](https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/10/15/embarrassing-us-absent-world-joins-together-protect-biodiversity?utm_term=AO&utm_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_content=email&utm_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_medium=Email), reported, **"As the United Nations Biodiversity Conference wrapped up Friday, critics are once again pointing to the glaring absence of the United States from negotiations to strengthen an international treaty to restore and protect the variety of life on Earth that has been ratified by every country except the U.S.**

**'The world cannot afford for China and the U.S. to not find ways to work together to address climate change and nature loss.'**

**The U.S. did send a team to this week's meeting, which was hosted by China and attended in-person and virtually because of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic—a crisis that has highlighted the need to reform humanity's relationship with nature.**

**U.S. delegates, however, had no official say and could only observe,** as diplomats from around the globe debated how best to update the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and hashed out strategies to safeguard the world's flora, fauna, and ecosystems, which are increasingly under threat due to the relentless quest to maximize profits at all costs.

**The resulting "Kunming Declaration"—a pledge that was welcomed by conservation advocates, who also emphasized the urgent need to match words with bold and concrete policies—sets the stage for the development of a post-2020 global biodiversity framework, which governments are scheduled to negotiate further in January 2022 and adopt next May at part two of the U.N. Biodiversity Conference." Some environmentalists said the declaration was a good start, but more was needed, quickly.**

**'Kunming Declaration,'** of the United Nations Biodiversity Conference, October 13, 2021, <https://www.cbd.int/doc/c/99c8/9426/1537e277fa5f846e9245a706/kunmingdeclaration-en.pdf>.

**"Declaration from the High-Level Segment of the UN Biodiversity Conference 2020 (Part 1) under the theme: 'Ecological Civilization: Building a Shared Future for All Life on Earth' (Edited Final Version)**

We, the Ministers and other heads of delegations, having met in Kunming, Yunnan Province, People's Republic of China, in person, and remotely, on 12 and 13 October 2021, on the occasion of the United Nations Biodiversity Conference,<sup>1</sup> at the invitation of the Government of the People's Republic of China,

Recalling the relevance of the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity: 'Living in harmony with nature',

Recalling the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and recognizing that its full achievement across the environmental, social and economic dimensions is necessary to enable the realization of the objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity and the 2050 Vision for Biodiversity;

Emphasizing that biodiversity, and the ecosystem functions and services it provides, support all forms of life on Earth and underpin our human and planetary health and well-being, economic growth and sustainable development,

**Concerned that the ongoing loss of biodiversity jeopardizes achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and other international goals and targets,**

**Recognizing that progress has been made in the last decade, under the 2011-2020 Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, but deeply concerned that such progress has been insufficient to achieve the Aichi Biodiversity Targets,**

**Acknowledging with grave concern that the unprecedented and interrelated crises of biodiversity loss, climate change, land degradation and desertification, ocean degradation, and pollution, and increasing risks to human health and food security, pose an existential threat to our society, our culture, our prosperity and our planet,**

Comprising: the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties, the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety, and the fourth meeting of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization.

Recognizing that these crises share many underlying drivers of change, Recognizing also that the main direct drivers of biodiversity loss are land/sea use change, overexploitation, climate change, pollution and invasive alien species,

**Acknowledging that indigenous peoples and local communities contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity through the application of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices, and through their stewardship of biodiversity on their traditional lands and territories,**

**Recognizing also the important roles played by women and girls, and youth,**

**Stressing, therefore, that urgent and integrated action is needed, for transformative change, across all sectors of the economy and all parts of society, through policy coherence at all levels of government, and the realization of synergies at national level across relevant Conventions and multilateral organizations, to shape a future path for nature and people, where biodiversity is conserved and used sustainably, and the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources are shared fairly and equitably, as an integral part of sustainable development,**

Noting that a combination of measures are needed to halt and reverse the loss of biodiversity, including actions to address land and sea use change, enhance the conservation and restoration of ecosystems, mitigate climate change, reduce pollution, control invasive alien species and prevent overexploitation, as well as actions to transform economic and financial systems and to ensure sustainable production and consumption, and reduce waste, recognizing that none of these measures alone, nor in partial combinations, is sufficient and that the effectiveness of each measure is enhanced by the other,



Noting the call of many countries to protect and conserve 30% of land and sea areas through well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures by 2030,

Reaffirming the Cancun Declaration on Mainstreaming the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Biodiversity for Well-Being and the Sharm el Sheikh Declaration on Investing in Biodiversity for People and Planet,

Recalling the UN Summit on Biodiversity in September 2020, with the theme 'Urgent action on Biodiversity for Sustainable Development',

Taking note of the theme of the UN Biodiversity Conference 2020: “Ecological Civilization: Building a Shared Future for All Life on Earth”,

**We declare that putting biodiversity on a path to recovery is a defining challenge of this decade, in the context of the UN Decade of Action for Sustainable Development, the UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration and the UN Decade for Ocean Science for Sustainable Development, requiring strong political momentum to develop, adopt and implement an ambitious and transformative post-2020 global biodiversity framework that promotes the three objectives of the Convention in a balanced manner,**

**We Commit to:**

**1. Ensure the development, adoption and implementation of an effective post- 2020 global biodiversity framework, that includes provision of the necessary means of implementation, in line with the Convention, and appropriate mechanisms for monitoring, reporting and review, to reverse the current loss of biodiversity and ensure that biodiversity is put on a path to recovery by 2030 at the latest, towards the full realization of the 2050 Vision of “Living in Harmony with Nature”;**

**2. Support, as appropriate, the development, adoption and implementation of an effective post-2020 Implementation Plan, and Capacity Building Action Plan, for the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety;**

**3. Work across our respective governments to continue to promote the integration, or “mainstreaming” of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity into decision-making including through the integration of the multiple values of biodiversity into policies, regulations, planning processes, poverty reduction strategies and economic accounting, and strengthen cross- sectoral coordinating mechanisms on biodiversity;**

**4. Accelerate and strengthen the development and update of the National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans, to ensure the effective implementation of the post 2020 global biodiversity framework at national level;**

**5. Improve the effectiveness, and increase the coverage, globally, of area-based conservation and management through enhancing and establishing effective systems of protected areas and adopting other effective area-based conservation measures, as well as spatial planning tools, to protect species and genetic diversity and reduce or eliminate threats to biodiversity, recognizing the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities and ensuring their full and effective participation;**

**6. Strengthen sustainable use of biodiversity for meeting the needs of people;**

**7. Actively enhance the global environmental legal framework and strengthen environmental law at national level, and its enforcement, to protect biodiversity and to combat its illegal use, and to respect, protect and promote human rights obligations when taking actions to protect biodiversity;**

**8. Step up our efforts to ensure, through the Convention, the Nagoya Protocol and other agreements as appropriate, the fair and equitable benefit-sharing arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, including traditional knowledge associated with genetic resources, taking into account the context of digital sequence information on genetic resources;**

**9. Strengthen measures, and their implementation, for the development, assessment, regulation, management, and transfer, as appropriate, of relevant biotechnologies, with a view to promote the benefits and to reduce the risks, including those associated with the use and release of living modified organisms which are likely to have adverse environmental impacts;**

**10. Increase the application of ecosystem-based approaches to address biodiversity loss, restore degraded ecosystems, boost resilience, mitigate and adapt to climate change, support sustainable food production, promote health, and contribute to addressing other challenges, enhancing One Health and other holistic approaches and ensuring benefits across economic, social, and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, through robust safeguards for environmental and social protection, highlighting that such ecosystem-based approaches do not replace the priority actions needed to urgently reduce greenhouse gas emissions in a way that is consistent with the goals of the Paris Agreement;<sup>2</sup>**

**11. Step up actions to reduce the negative effects of human activities on the ocean to protect marine and coastal biodiversity and strengthen the resilience of marine and coastal ecosystems to climate change;**

**12. Ensure that post-pandemic recovery policies, programmes and plans contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity, promoting sustainable and inclusive development;**

**13. Work with ministries of finance and economy, and other relevant ministries, to reform incentive structures, eliminating, phasing out or reforming subsidies and other incentives that are harmful to biodiversity, while protecting people in vulnerable situations, to mobilize additional financial resources from all**

**12. Ecosystem-based approaches may also be referred to as “Nature based solutions” as per SBSTTA recommendation 23/2, paragraph 4”.**

**sources, and align all financial flows in support of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity;**

**14. Increase the provision of financial, technological and capacity building support to developing countries necessary to implement the post 2020 global biodiversity framework and in line with the provisions of the Convention;**

**15. Enable the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities, women, youth, civil society, local governments and authorities, academia, the business and financial sectors, and other relevant stakeholders, and encourage them to make voluntary commitments in the context of the Sharm el Sheikh to Kunming Action Agenda for Nature and People, and to continue to build the momentum for the implementation of the post 2020 global biodiversity framework;**

**16. Further develop communication, education and public awareness tools on biodiversity to support changes in behaviour towards the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity;**

**17. Further enhance collaboration and coordinate actions with ongoing multilateral environmental agreements, such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, and the biodiversity-related conventions, as well as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other related international and multilateral processes, to promote the protection, conservation, sustainable management and restoration of terrestrial, freshwater and marine biodiversity, while contributing to other sustainable development goals, aligned to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.**

Brett Wilkins, "US Must Tackle Marine Plastics Pollution 'From Source to Sea': Report: The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine study found that the U.S. is responsible for about a quarter of the plastics that enter the world's oceans each year," *Common Dreams*, December 1, 2021, [https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/12/01/us-must-tackle-marine-plastics-pollution-source-sea-report?utm\\_term=AO&utm\\_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_content=email&utm\\_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_medium=Email](https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/12/01/us-must-tackle-marine-plastics-pollution-source-sea-report?utm_term=AO&utm_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_content=email&utm_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_medium=Email), reported, **"The United States is the world's leading marine plastics polluter and should devise a 'national strategy' by the end of next year to address the crisis, according to a new report published Wednesday by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine.**

'We can no longer ignore the United States' role in the plastic pollution crisis, one of the biggest environmental threats facing our oceans and our planet today.'

The congressionally mandated report—entitled *Reckoning With the U.S. Role in Global Ocean Plastic Waste* (<https://www.nap.edu/read/26132/chapter/1>)—revealed **that at least 8.8 million tons of plastics enter the world's oceans each year, with about a quarter of that amount coming from the United States."**

Rachel Nuwer, "A Taste for Pangolin Meat and the Fall of an African Wildlife Cartel: Yunhua Lin and associates had turned Malawi into an ivory, rhino horn and pangolin scale trafficking hub. His prison sentence could aid the fight against poaching," *The New York Times*, October 18, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/10/18/science/malawi-poaching-wildlife.html>, reported, **"Hundreds of poachers are arrested each year for killing elephants, rhinos, pangolins and other animals in Africa. Yet the problem persists, because there is always a ready supply of desperate men to take the place of those put behind bars. Higher-level criminals, on the other hand — those who really drive the international illegal wildlife trade — almost always evade justice."**

**A significant event that may be a beginning of change occurred in Malawi as a new law enforcement approach has led to the arrest and conviction of a high ranking leader in a poaching organization, Yunhua Lin, sentenced to serve up to 14 years in prison, after which he is to be deported to China.**

**In June 2021, residents of Maine were struggling with a vast invasion of invasive poisonous caterpillars, contact with whose hairs can cause painful rashes, and in some cases breathing problems** (Jese Jimenez, :Maine Residents Grapple with Infestation of Poisonous Caterpillars," *The New York Times*, June 14, 2021).

Hannah Grover, "Drought limits the ability for an endangered fish to reach adulthood," *New Mexico Political Report*, August 10, 2021,

[https://nmpoliticalreport.com/2021/08/11/drought-limits-the-ability-for-an-endangered-fish-to-reach-adulthood/?mc\\_cid=7c96d71edc&mc\\_eid=cde7993ced](https://nmpoliticalreport.com/2021/08/11/drought-limits-the-ability-for-an-endangered-fish-to-reach-adulthood/?mc_cid=7c96d71edc&mc_eid=cde7993ced), reported, **"The Rio Grande silvery minnow once swam up and down the Rio Grande, even venturing into the Pecos River. But now its range is limited, in part due to humans, and the drought conditions that have led to reduced spring runoff are limiting the number of wild fish that live long enough to spawn."**

"The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation is installing fish passages to help the silvery minnows cross the dams. Archdeacon said those passages are needed, but are only one part of the solution."

**"And, if there isn't a good snowpack, the spring runoff that is needed for successful spawning won't be sufficient."**

Victoria Petersen, "Record Salmon in One Place. Barely Any in Another. Alarm All Around. Historically low runs on the Yukon River have devastating impacts for Alaskans relying on the fish for sustenance and tradition, but Bristol Bay is seeing more sockeye than ever before. Historically low chinook and chum salmon runs on the Yukon River are alarming people in the nearly 50 nearby villages who rely on the fish to fill their freezers for the winter," *The New York Times*, August 12, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/08/12/dining/wild-alaskan-salmon.html>, reported, **"This summer, fishers in the world's largest wild salmon habitat pulled a record-breaking 65 million sockeye salmon from Alaska's Bristol Bay, beating the 2018 record by more than three million fish."**

**But on the Yukon River, about 500 miles to the north, salmon were alarmingly absent. This summer's chum run was the lowest on record, with only 153,000 fish counted in the river at the Pilot Station sonar — a stark contrast to the 1.7 million chum running in year's past. The king salmon runs were also critically low this summer — the third lowest on record. The Yukon's fall run is also shaping up to be sparse.**

**The reduction in salmon in the river system appears to be a result of climate change. It poses a major economic and cultural threat to numerous Native communities for whom salmon from the rivers is central to their diet and culture. This summer, some salmon processors are donating excess fish to the needed communities. Scientists hypothesize that warming waters have increased the numbers salmon in the bay while reducing their numbers on the rivers."**

"Report: Sharks Headed For Extinction: 37 Percent of Sharks Are Endangered," *The Paper*, September 7th, 2021, [https://abq.news/2021/09/report-sharks-headed-for-extinction/?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=The+Paper.+Subscriber&utm\\_campaign=d7de09a810-](https://abq.news/2021/09/report-sharks-headed-for-extinction/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=The+Paper.+Subscriber&utm_campaign=d7de09a810-)

[EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2021\\_09\\_08\\_12\\_18&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_f8e2121d66-d7de09a810-68116799&mc\\_cid=d7de09a810&mc\\_eid=822e39214e](https://abq.news/2021/09/report-sharks-headed-for-extinction/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=The+Paper.+Subscriber&utm_campaign=d7de09a810-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2021_09_08_12_18&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f8e2121d66-d7de09a810-68116799&mc_cid=d7de09a810&mc_eid=822e39214e), reported that the International Union for the Conservation of Nature announced that, **"The world's sharks and rays have seen declines in their populations since 2014 and more and more are now threatened with extinction, according to a new red list released Saturday at a global conference aimed at protecting dwindling species."**

**The Komodo dragon is now listed as endangered, notably because of rising sea levels and rising temperatures in its Indonesian habitat. Ebonies and rosewoods threatened by logging were among trees put on the list for the first time this year.**

There are signs of hope, too – fishing quotas have allowed several tuna species to be put on the 'path to recovery,' according to the announcement from The International Union for the Conservation of Nature."

About 37% of sharks and rays, world wide, are currently considered in danger an increase of 33% since 2014. The increase is primarily from Overfishing, a loss of habitat and climate change. Since 1970, oceanic shark populations have decreased by 71%.

Progress in reviving tuna populations and a number of other species "is the demonstration that if states and other actors take the right actions ... it is possible to recover," said IUCN director Bruno Oberle.

**Vaquitas, a Gulf of California Porpoise, is declining toward extinction, because they are drowned by illegal nets used by fisherman** (Catrin Einhorn, "A Gulf of California Porpoise Is on the Brink of Extinction," *The New York Times*, November 24, 2021).

Catrin Einhorn, "Climate Change Is Devastating Coral Reefs Worldwide, Major Report Says: The world lost 14 percent of its coral in just a decade, researchers found," *The New York Times*, October 4, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/10/04/climate/coral-reefs-climate-change.html>, reported, **"The world lost about 14 percent of its coral reefs in the decade after 2009, mainly because of climate change, according to a sweeping international report (<https://gcrmn.net/2020-report/>) on the state of the world's corals."**

"Coral reefs are the canary in the coal mine telling us how quickly it can go wrong,' said David Obura, one of the report's editors and chairman of the coral specialist group for the International Union for Conservation of Nature."

**"Especially alarming, the report's editors said, is the trajectory. The first global bleaching event occurred in 1998, but many reefs bounced back. That no longer appears to be the case." But the report indicated that many reefs may yet survive or come back if quick and sufficient action is taken on climate change.**

Brett Wilkins, "Wildlife Defenders Cheer Restoration of Migratory Bird Protections Gutted Under Trump: 'The world is on the brink of a sixth mass extinction,' said the director of one advocacy group. 'Enforcing conservation laws like the Migratory Bird Treaty Act is vital,'" *Common Dreams*, September 29, 2021, [https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/09/29/wildlife-defenders-cheer-restoration-migratory-bird-protections-gutted-under-trump?utm\\_term=AO&utm\\_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_content=email&utm\\_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_medium=Email](https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/09/29/wildlife-defenders-cheer-restoration-migratory-bird-protections-gutted-under-trump?utm_term=AO&utm_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_content=email&utm_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_medium=Email), reported, **"Wildlife conservationists on Wednesday welcomed the U.S. Department of the Interior's imminent reversal of a Trump administration attempt to roll back a key law credited with saving the lives of millions of migratory birds each year.**

'Oil and gas companies must be held accountable when their actions lead to wildlife deaths."

—Jennifer, Rokala, Center for Western Priorities

In a statement, **the Interior Department said the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will take 'a series of actions to ensure that the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) conserves birds today and into the future.'**

As human activity is well into bringing on mass animal and plant extinctions, Catrin Einhorn, "Protected Too Late: U.S. Officials Report More Than 20 Extinctions: The animals and one plant had been listed as endangered species. Their stories hold lessons about a growing global biodiversity crisis," *The New York Times*, September 29, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/09/28/climate/endangered-animals-extinct.html>. reported, **"The ivory-billed woodpecker, which birders have been seeking in the bayous of Arkansas, is gone forever, according to federal officials. So is the Bachman's warbler, a yellow-breasted songbird that once migrated between the Southeastern United States and Cuba. The song of the Kauai O'o, a Hawaiian forest bird, exists only on recordings. And there is no longer any hope for several types of freshwater mussels that once filtered streams and rivers from Georgia to Illinois.**

**In all, 22 animals and one plant should be declared extinct and removed from the endangered species list, federal wildlife officials announced on Wednesday."**

WildEarth Guardians reported in a November 10, 2021 E-mail, "Determined campaign secures big win for Canada lynx: Threatened wild cats keep Endangered Species Act protections, finally get a recovery plan," **"WildEarth Guardians and our allies have just secured a groundbreaking legal settlement that will aid the recovery of Canada lynx—iconic wild cats endangered by climate change and habitat fragmentation.**

As a result of relentless pressure by Guardians, our allies, and supporters like you, **the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has abandoned plans to remove Endangered Species Act protections for the struggling snow cat in the contiguous U.S. The agency will now initiate recovery planning for the species."**

Catrin Einhorn, "Manatees, Facing a Crisis, Will Get a Bit of Help: Extra Feeding: In a first, wildlife officials have decided to provide food for the mammals, which have suffered catastrophic losses in Florida waters over the last year," *The New York Times*, December 7, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/12/07/climate/manatees-florida-feeding.html>, reported, "The starving manatees are easy enough to spot. You can see their ribs through their skin. They surface to breathe more than normal. Those most in need appear off balance, listing to one side.

**As manatee deaths spike and Florida rescue centers fill up with malnourished animals, federal and state wildlife officials are trying something new in an urgent effort to help the species through the winter: They will provide food, as needed, at a key location on the state's east coast where hundreds of manatees cluster when water temperatures drop." Feeding of wildlife by humans is usually harmful so it is only being taken because the manatee situation is so dire.**

Karen Zraick, "11 Million New Oysters in New York Harbor (but None for You to Eat): The oysters, which act as nonstop water filters, were added to the Hudson River as part of an ongoing project to rehabilitate the polluted waterways around the city," *The New York Times*, December 10, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/12/10/us/oysters-new-york-hudson-river.html>. reported, **"The restoration of New York Harbor has reached a new milestone as 2021 draws to a close: 11.2 million juvenile oysters have been added in the past six months to a section of the Hudson River off the coast of Lower Manhattan, where they are helping to filter the water and creating habitats for other marine life.**

The bivalves will not be headed to a serving platter: The waters are still too polluted to eat from freely, after absorbing centuries' worth of trash, sewage and industrial waste. But the water quality in the area is steadily improving, and oysters — which were once so prevalent in the waters that they served as a staple in New Yorkers' diets — are playing a key role in the shift."

**Increasing temperatures in Arizona are stressing and threatening saguaro cacti, which previously were well attuned survivors in the hot dry desert** (Simon Romero, "Saguaros Like It Hot, But Maybe Not Quite This Hot," *The New York Times*, October 12, 2021).

The Washington Environmental Council reported. December 15, 2021, <https://waenvironment.cmail20.com/t/ViewEmail/i/59C955D07B0003942540EF23F30FEDED/4FDCB9C5661E177F6CBD507C784BD83B?alternativeLink=False>, "We're writing to share an update with you — last week, the Department of Ecology reached a decision extend the Clean Water Act Assurances for a third time, giving the Adaptive Management program another year to make changes needed to maintain cool water temperature."

Over the last couple of months, we've sent a series of emails about **Washington State's Adaptive Management Program, which is intended to protect aquatic species and water quality on roughly 8 million acres of forests**. In the case of water quality, as long as the program is adapting to new scientific findings, the state Department of Ecology issues Clean Water Act Assurances to the program. This confirms compliance of forest harvest activities with the state water quality standards. Over the last few years, science has indicated cool stream temperatures are not being maintained across a large portion of the landscape. This finding was coincident with the Assurances expiring in 2019.

**To give the program sufficient time to make adjustments to protect water quality, Ecology extended the Assurances until December 2021. The extension came with clear benchmarks that would lead Ecology to support extending the Assurances. As we wrote to you, the program was unable to meet these benchmarks, and has made no serious progress towards meeting the benchmarks. As a result, we felt that Ecology should not extend the Assurances for a third time, which would signal the program was out of compliance and hopefully lead to faster work on rule development."**

**In Indonesia, on the island of Sumatra, an important effort is in progress in moving to change the inhuman and anti-Indigenous approaches of some major conservation organizations. These have been stuck in a now long disproven Western Nineteenth century notion that people are separate from Nature, and people - almost always Indigenous - should be removed from their homelands in conservation areas, where, in fact, they have been, the best conservationists. The effort on Sumatra centers on collaborating with the Indigenous people of the area who do the conservation work** (Matt Stirn, "Fleeting Glimpses of Indonesia's Endangered Orangutans: On the island of Sumatra, a devoted group of conservationists is grasping for a solution that will benefit both the animals and the people who live around them," *The New York Times*, August 2, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/08/02/travel/sumatra-orangutan-conservation.html>).

"Increasing Native Producer and Community Access to Quality Water Resources," First Nations Development Institute, visited October 16, 2021, [https://www.firstnations.org/projects/increasing-native-producer-and-community-access-to-quality-water-resources/?bbeml=tp-pck9Q6QNPEiuBt3JmyTokQ.jWzASPUWZ30mS2FRuBn5Aww.rEXKMstz9E0a2PHYatuIfwg.l2hRvE4nQ-UqGatWrQ03E\\_g](https://www.firstnations.org/projects/increasing-native-producer-and-community-access-to-quality-water-resources/?bbeml=tp-pck9Q6QNPEiuBt3JmyTokQ.jWzASPUWZ30mS2FRuBn5Aww.rEXKMstz9E0a2PHYatuIfwg.l2hRvE4nQ-UqGatWrQ03E_g), reported, **"A critical component of Stewarding Native Lands is preserving and protecting Native resources such as water. To regain control of water quality and watershed management, the Increasing Native Producer and Community Access to Quality Water Resources project partners First Nations with two Native American, community-based organizations to implement community-focused conservation planning and practices to protect this important resource.**

The project is made possible by the USDA Conservation Innovation Grant to support Native agricultural producers to create, implement and sustain water quality improvement and conservation strategies, along with matching funds from the Hearst Foundation.

Beginning in 2021, the project specifically supports the organizational, programmatic, and technical capacity of one Tribal Lands Operations Department and one Tribal Natural Resource Department to address watershed issues.

Through the project, **two First Nations' community partners – Lands Operations Department, White Mountain Apache Tribe, and Natural Resource Department, Pueblo of Jemez – will be able to:**

**Further engage Native agricultural producers in conservation planning, conservation practices, and water quality improvement.**

**Support the development and sustainable implementation of conservation plans by Native agricultural producers to demonstrate positive environmental, economic, and social effects.**

**Promote community-focused, effective water quality, watershed management and conservation practices by Native American community groups and producers."**

"Conservation Strategies in Action at White Mountain Apache," First Nations Development Institute E-mail, October 29, 2021, reported, **"During a site visit last week, First Nations Program Officer Leiloni Begaye saw first-hand the great work going on at White Mountain Apache, Lands Operation Department. With recent funding through First Nations' Stewarding Native Lands program, this community is doing vegetation sections and ecological site descriptions on the Canyon Day Range Unit -- grassroots efforts that are imperative in their overall work to create, implement, and sustain a conservation strategy and ensure ongoing stewardship of natural resources."**

## **U.S. Developments**

Many of the reports in this issue of U.S. government legislation, agency action, and court decisions are informed by electronic flyers from Hobbs, Straus, Dean and Walker, LLP, 2120 L Street NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20037, <http://www.hobbsstraus.com>. Reports from Indian Country Today Media Network, from the web, are listed as from *ICTMN*.



## U.S. Government Developments

### Presidential Actions

Darlene Superville "Biden Signs Executive Order To Combat Crime and Trafficking On Native Lands: Order Signed At Tribal Nations Summit," *The Paper*, November 15th, 2021, [https://abq.news/2021/11/biden-signs-executive-order-to-combat-crime-and-trafficking-on-native-lands/?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=The+Paper.+Subscriber&utm\\_campaign=ca614c9ef4-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2021\\_11\\_15\\_10\\_41&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_f8e2121d66-ca614c9ef4-68116799&mc\\_cid=ca614c9ef4&mc\\_eid=822e39214e](https://abq.news/2021/11/biden-signs-executive-order-to-combat-crime-and-trafficking-on-native-lands/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=The+Paper.+Subscriber&utm_campaign=ca614c9ef4-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2021_11_15_10_41&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f8e2121d66-ca614c9ef4-68116799&mc_cid=ca614c9ef4&mc_eid=822e39214e), reported, **"President Joe Biden on Monday ordered several Cabinet departments to work together to combat human trafficking and crime on Native lands, where violent crime rates are more than double the national average."**

Speaking at a White House summit on tribal nations, **Biden signed an executive order tasking the Justice, Homeland Security and Interior departments with pursuing strategies to reduce crime. Biden also asked the departments to work to strengthen participation in Amber Alert programs and national training programs for federal agents and appoint a liaison who can speak with family members and advocates."**

Melina Delkic, "Indigenous Peoples' Day, Explained: Many cities and states are observing the day. Here's some of the history behind it," *The New York Times*, October 11, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/10/11/us/indigenous-peoples-day.html>, reported, **"President Biden has proclaimed Monday, Oct. 11, as Indigenous Peoples' Day, becoming the first U.S. president to formally recognize the day."**

"Over the past several years, states including Alaska and New Mexico have adopted the holiday, choosing to forgo Columbus Day celebrations and heeding calls from Indigenous groups and other residents not to celebrate Christopher Columbus, the Italian navigator the holiday is named for, who they say brought genocide and colonization to communities that had been in the United States for thousands of years. Many around the country, however, still celebrate Columbus Day or Italian Heritage Day as a point of pride in Italian culture." **Indigenous Peoples' Day is not yet a federal holiday, but there is a bill in Congress to make it one.**

**"A Proclamation on Indigenous Peoples' Day, 2021," President Biden, October 8, 2021,** <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/10/08/a-proclamation-indigenous-peoples-day-2021>, proclaimed, **"Since time immemorial, American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians have built vibrant and diverse cultures — safeguarding land, language, spirit, knowledge, and tradition across the generations. On Indigenous Peoples' Day, our Nation celebrates the invaluable contributions and resilience of Indigenous peoples, recognizes their inherent sovereignty, and commits to honoring the Federal Government's trust and treaty obligations to Tribal Nations."**

Our country was conceived on a promise of equality and opportunity for all people — a promise that, despite **the extraordinary progress we have made through the years, we have never fully lived up to.** That is especially true when it comes to upholding the rights and dignity of the Indigenous people who were here long before colonization of the Americas began. For generations, Federal policies systematically sought to assimilate and displace Native people

and eradicate Native cultures. Today, we recognize Indigenous peoples' resilience and strength as well as the immeasurable positive impact that they have made on every aspect of American society.

**We also recommit to supporting a new, brighter future of promise and equity for Tribal Nations — a future grounded in Tribal sovereignty and respect for the human rights of Indigenous people in the Americas and around the world.**

In the first week of my Administration, I issued a memorandum reaffirming our Nation's solemn trust and treaty obligations to American Indian and Alaska Native Tribal Nations and directed the heads of executive departments and agencies to engage in regular, meaningful, and robust consultation with Tribal officials. It is a priority of my Administration to make respect for Tribal sovereignty and self-governance the cornerstone of Federal Indian policy. History demonstrates that Native American people — and our Nation as a whole — are best served when Tribal governments are empowered to lead their communities and when Federal officials listen to and work together with Tribal leaders when formulating Federal policy that affects Tribal Nations.

**The contributions that Indigenous peoples have made throughout history** — in public service, entrepreneurship, scholarship, the arts, and countless other fields — are integral to our Nation, our culture, and our society. Indigenous peoples have served, and continue to serve, in the United States Armed Forces with distinction and honor — at one of the highest rates of any group — defending our security every day. And Native Americans have been on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic, working essential jobs and carrying us through our gravest moments. Further, in recognition that the pandemic has harmed Indigenous peoples at an alarming and disproportionate rate, Native communities have led the way in connecting people with vaccination, boasting some of the highest rates of any racial or ethnic group.

**The Federal Government has a solemn obligation to lift up and invest in the future of Indigenous people and empower Tribal Nations to govern their own communities and make their own decisions.** We must never forget the centuries-long campaign of violence, displacement, assimilation, and terror wrought upon Native communities and Tribal Nations throughout our country. Today, we acknowledge the significant sacrifices made by Native peoples to this country — and recognize their many ongoing contributions to our Nation. On Indigenous Peoples' Day, we honor America's first inhabitants and the Tribal Nations that continue to thrive today. I encourage everyone to celebrate and recognize the many Indigenous communities and cultures that make up our great country.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOSEPH R. BIDEN JR., President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim October 11, 2021, as Indigenous Peoples' Day.** I call upon the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities. I also direct that the flag of the United States be displayed on all public buildings on the appointed day in honor of our diverse history and the Indigenous peoples who contribute to shaping this Nation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this eighth day of October, in the year of our Lord two thousand twenty-one, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-sixth."

Kalle Benallie, "White House announces new tribal nations summit date: For two days tribal nations will gather to discuss Indian Country's issues, policy initiatives and goals," *ICT*, October 27, 2021, <https://indiancountrytoday.com/news/white-house-announces-new-tribal-nation-summit-date>, reported, "The dates are finally set. All 574 federally recognized tribal nations will have the chance to take part in the White House Tribal Nations Summit in

November." The meeting was set for November 15-16, 2021, with virtual participation included. "Six panels and a listening session, with high-level administration officials, will center on issues prevalent to Indian Country:

Combating COVID-19 in Indian Country

Native American education and Native languages

Public safety and justice

Climate change impacts and solutions in Indian Country

Tribal treaty rights and sacred lands

Economic development and workforce development/infrastructure, housing and energy."

Kalle Benallie, "Day 1 takeaways from tribal nations summit: The first White House summit on tribal nations since the Obama administration is taking place this year virtually with hopes of next year's being in person," *ICT*, November 15, 2021, <https://indiancountrytoday.com/news/day-1-takeaways-from-tribal-nations-summit>, reported, "President Joe Biden came out and expressed his hope that the next summit will be in person and presented five new initiatives.

Tribal Treaty Rights Memorandum of Understanding

Sacred Sites Memorandum of Understanding

Indigenous Knowledge Statement and Establishment of Interagency Working Group on Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge

Greater Chaco Landscape Mineral Withdrawal."

"Improving Public Safety and Criminal Justice for Native Americans and Addressing the Crisis of Missing or Murdered Indigenous People."

**"Interior Department, Federal Partners Commit to Protect Tribal Treaty Rights,"** U.S. Department of the Interior, November 15-16, 2021, <https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/interior-department-federal-partners-commit-protect-tribal-treaty-rights>. stated, "During today's White House Tribal Nations Summit, President Biden announced that **the Department of the Interior and 16 other federal agencies have formally committed to protecting Tribal treaty rights in agency policymaking and regulatory processes.**

**The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) affirms the federal government's commitment to enhancing interagency coordination and collaboration to protect treaty rights and to fully implement federal government treaty obligations. In addition to the Interior Department, the MOU was signed by the Departments of Agriculture, Justice, Defense, Commerce, Education, Energy, Homeland Security, Housing and Urban Development, Labor, State, Transportation, Veterans Affairs and the Environmental Protection Agency, Council on Environmental Quality, Office of Personnel Management, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.**

"Tribal Nations entered into treaties, in part, to protect their way of life and inherent rights to natural resources of cultural, economic, and subsistence importance," said Secretary Deb Haaland. "It is our obligation to honor these treaty rights and incorporate Tribal interests into our decision-making, so that Tribal rights regarding everything from hunting and fishing to health care and education are protected."

**The MOU commits the agencies to working together to consult and coordinate with federally recognized Tribes on:**

**Supporting the creation, integration, and use of a searchable and indexed database of all treaties between the United States government and Tribal nations, to facilitate understanding and compliance with our treaty obligations;**

**Enhancing the ongoing efforts to integrate consideration of Tribal treaty and reserved rights early into the federal decision-making and regulatory processes to ensure that agency actions are consistent with constitutional, treaty, reserved, and statutory rights;**

**Developing, improving, and sharing tools and resources to identify, understand, and analyze Tribal treaty and reserved rights that may be adversely impacted or otherwise affected by agency decision-making, regulatory processes or other actions or inaction.**

Treaty-protected rights to use and access to natural and cultural resources are a vital part of Tribal life and are of deep cultural, economic, and subsistence importance to Tribes. Many treaties protect not only the right to access natural resources, such as fisheries, but also protect the resource itself from significant degradation."

"White House Commits to Elevating Indigenous Knowledge in Federal Policy Decisions," The White House, November 15, 2021, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/ceq/news-updates/2021/11/15/white-house-commits-to-elevating-indigenous-knowledge-in-federal-policy-decisions/>, stated, "White House Office of Science & Technology Policy and Council on Environmental Quality release first-of-its kind memorandum (<https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/111521-OSTP-CEQ-ITEK-Memo.pdf>) to initiate new federal guidance on Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge

Today, the **White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) and the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) jointly released a new memorandum that commits to elevating Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge (ITEK) in federal scientific and policy processes.** ITEK is a body of observations, oral and written knowledge, practices, and beliefs that promotes environmental sustainability and the responsible stewardship of natural resources through relationships between humans and environmental systems. It is applied to phenomena across biological, physical, cultural and spiritual systems. This announcement coincides with the Biden-Harris Administration's inaugural Tribal Nations Summit and comes as the Administration continues to expand its efforts to highlight Native voices across the Federal Government.

This new memorandum formally recognizes ITEK as one of the many important bodies of knowledge that contributes to the scientific, technical, social, and economic advancements of the United States and our collective understanding of the natural world.

'Indigenous Knowledge should inform Federal decision making,' said the President's Science Advisor and OSTP Director Dr. Eric Lander. "This effort will give Federal agencies the tools they need to ensure Indigenous knowledge is appropriately considered and elevated.'

**'Tribal and Native communities have stewarded these lands since time immemorial,' said CEQ Chair Brenda Mallory. 'Their voices and their expertise are critical to finding solutions to address the climate crisis,** an issue that disproportionately affects Tribal and Native communities. Today's commitment will help ensure that Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge is a part of decision making across the Federal Government for the betterment of people and the planet.'

'The Federal Government has never embraced Indigenous knowledge in such a broad, comprehensive way before," said Libby Washburn, Special Assistant to the President for Native American Affairs and citizen of the Chickasaw Nation of Oklahoma. "This new guidance is a

reflection of President Biden's commitment to a strong Nation-to-Nation relationship that is built on respect and cooperation.'

**Specifically, the OSTP-CEQ memorandum:**

**Recognizes ITEK as a form of knowledge that can and should inform Federal Government decision making where appropriate and commits to improving Federal engagement with Tribal Nations and Native communities around ITEK.**

**Creates an Interagency Working Group on Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge, which will initiate a process to develop government-wide guidance for Federal agencies on elevating ITEK, with Tribal consultation, Native community engagement, as well as agency, expert, and public input.**

**Highlights ongoing examples of ITEK collaboration between Tribal Nations, Native communities, and the Federal Government.**

**More on the Biden-Harris Administration's commitments to Indigenous Peoples:**

Earlier this year, the Biden-Harris Administration committed to strengthening the relationship between the Federal Government and Tribal Nations and to advancing equity for Indigenous people, including Native Americans, Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians, and Indigenous people of the U.S. territories. An executive order on Tribal consultation directed federal agencies to develop robust plans for ensuring meaningful Tribal consultation on agency work that may affect Tribal Nations and the people they represent.

**Guidance on Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge for Federal agencies is expected to be released in 2022."**

Kalle Benallie, "Day 2 takeaways from tribal nations summit: The last day of the summit concludes until next year," *ICT*, Nov. 16, 2021, <https://indiancountrytoday.com/news/day-2-takeaways-from-tribal-nations-summit>, reported, "At the listening session, **Interior Secretary Deb Haaland, Laguna Pueblo, announced the first Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee at the Department of Interior. It will allow tribal leaders to have a forum directly with Haaland and future secretaries.**"

"Biden-Harris Administration Brings Arctic Policy to the Forefront with Reactivated Steering Committee & New Slate of Research Commissioners," The White House, September 24, 2021, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/ostp/news-updates/2021/09/24/biden-harris-administration-brings-arctic-policy-to-the-forefront-with-reactivated-steering-committee-new-slate-of-research-commissioners/>, stated, "Today, the **Biden-Harris Administration took major actions toward protecting and advancing United States' interests in the Arctic region by reactivating a critical steering committee and adding a slate of dedicated Arctic experts to its team.** These actions will strengthen the Administration's science-based approach to tackling climate change, enhancing the United States' national and economic security, and fostering coordination – particularly with Indigenous Peoples – in the Arctic region.

Specifically, the Administration is:

**Reactivating the Arctic Executive Steering Committee (AESC)**, a mechanism to advance U.S. Arctic interests and coordinate Federal actions in the Arctic. The AESC will also facilitate the implementation of the Northern Bering Sea Climate Resilience Area, including by standing up the Northern Bering Sea Task Force and Tribal Advisory Council. These structures reinforce collaborative partnerships—particularly with Alaska Native communities—and harness science and Indigenous Knowledge to inform management and policy.

Hiring Ambassador David Balton as AESC Executive Director and Raychelle Aluaq Daniel as AESC Deputy Director, to ensure that trusted experts are at the helm to lead effective outreach and inclusion in the work of the AESC. As the former Ambassador for Oceans and Fisheries, Balton brings decades of experience in managing U.S. foreign policy issues relating to the Arctic. A Yup'ik who grew up in Tuntutuliak, Alaska, Daniel previously served the Department of the Interior by advancing Tribal climate resilience policy and agency coordination. She brings a wealth of expertise in bridging Indigenous Knowledge and science.

Appointing six highly qualified, diverse Commissioners to the U.S. Arctic Research Commission (USARC), underscoring the Biden-Harris Administration's commitment to ensuring that USARC's focus on scientific research goals and objectives for the Arctic are derived from a broad range of expertise and perspectives. **One-third of the appointed Commissioners are Indigenous Peoples, one-half are women, and two-thirds are residents of Alaska.** The United States depends upon the USARC Commissioners to provide insightful guidance and rational, unbiased assessments of actions to maintain our position as an Arctic nation guided by science.

The legislation that established the USARC specifies there shall be four Commissioners with academic or research experience, two who bring industry perspectives, and one Indigenous representative. The six Presidentially appointed Commissioners are:

Ms. Elizabeth 'Liz' Qaulluq Cravalho, from Kotzebue, Alaska, currently serves as vice president of lands for NANA, a for-profit Alaska Native corporation located in northwest Alaska. She has served as a member of the Alaska Arctic Policy Commission that advises the Alaska Legislature, and brings an industry perspective.

Mr. David Kennedy, the previous USARC Chair and a national expert in the field of emergency pollution response and development of innovative technology, brings over 50 years of experience and leadership in science, government, environmental management, and development of legislation and national initiatives.

Dr. Mark Myers brings additional industry expertise through his considerable experience as a North Slope sedimentary and petroleum geologist for the oil and gas industry, the U.S. government, the State of Alaska, and the University of Alaska. He previously served as the 14th director of the U.S. Geological Survey.

Dr. Jacqueline ("Jackie") Richter-Menge, is a former senior research civil engineer from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Cold Region Research and Engineering Laboratory, an expert in ocean and sea-ice science and innovative uses of technology in the Arctic Observing Network and the Submarine Arctic Science Program.

Dr. Mike Sfraga is a researcher focused on the social, economic, environmental, and security impacts of a changing Arctic geography, the inaugural co-lead of the State Department's Fulbright Arctic Initiative, and Director of the Polar Institute at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. He will serve as the new Chair of the Commission.

Ms. Deborah Vo, from St. Mary's on the Lower Yukon River, brings experience as a city manager, tribal administrator, executive director of the Alaska Inter-Tribal Council, manager of rural energy planning for the state, and a program officer for the Rasmuson Foundation. She brings Indigenous perspectives to the Commission as well as expertise on tribal governance, health care, and community development.

I'm pleased to welcome the new AESC and USARC leadership because they understand the critical role the Arctic region plays in our nation's future security and prosperity," said OSTP Deputy Director for Climate & Environment Dr. Jane Lubchenco. "Whether working to address

the climate crisis, implementing policy to keep the region secure, consulting with Indigenous communities, or growing U.S. partnerships in the Arctic, there is no better team to lead this effort.'

These announcements follow the recent release of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Working Group I Sixth Assessment Report, which makes clear the climate drivers underway, justifying urgent need for greater global action on climate change and the upcoming United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change's 26th Conference of the Parties (COP26) in November. No region in the world has undergone more dramatic climate change than the Arctic, particularly impacting Indigenous Peoples, rural communities, and Alaska residents.

In addition to tackling the climate crisis, the Administration's new leaders will advance U.S. national security and economic security interests in the Arctic to keep the region secure and stable, and to address emerging issues relating to Arctic shipping, communications, and other economic drivers in the Arctic. USARC Commissioners will also oversee a bold research strategy, based on sound science and Indigenous knowledge, that strives to preserve Arctic cultures, foster wise stewardship and use of natural resources, and understand and adapt to climate change.

Fundamental to every aspect of the Biden-Harris Administration's Arctic policy is sound science and strong collaboration and cooperation with Indigenous Peoples to ensure that those who are impacted most – and whose ways of life are most threatened by rapidly changing living conditions – have a seat at the table.

'The United States has a wide variety of critical interests in the Arctic, a region that is undergoing profound change on many levels,' said AESC Executive Director Ambassador David Balton. 'Our new team will work tirelessly to ensure our nation can pursue those interests in a coordinated and far-sighted manner.'

'The Biden-Harris Administration understands that sound Arctic policy must be shaped by input from Indigenous Peoples and the communities facing the impacts of climate change,' said AESC Deputy Director Raychelle Aluaq Daniel. 'I'm proud to join a team that takes seriously its commitment to inclusive, equitable leadership and will do all I can to help advance policy that preserves the Arctic for generations to come.'

'Changes in the Arctic, while they appear distant, impact our national security, climate security, and availability of resources essential to our wellbeing,' said National Academy of Sciences President Dr. Marcia McNutt. "I am very pleased that the White House and OSTP are taking these important steps to develop the best science-based policy for the Arctic incorporating Indigenous Knowledge and international cooperation."

### Congressional Developments

"Senate Set to Take Up Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill with Tribal Provisions," Hobbs-Straus, General Memorandum 21-005, August 2, 2021, [https://www.hobbsstraus.com/general\\_memo/general-memorandum-21-005/](https://www.hobbsstraus.com/general_memo/general-memorandum-21-005/), reported, "After substantial negotiations with the Biden Administration, **a bipartisan group of Senators has produced a nearly \$1 trillion infrastructure bill titled the 'Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.'** The Senate is set to vote on the bill and amendments later this week but it is unclear when the House may consider the measure. The House is currently expected to be in recess until September 20, 2021, but may reconvene to address this legislation. The **bill includes a five-year**

surface transportation reauthorization and would make investments in transportation, drinking water and wastewater, broadband, climate resiliency, environmental remediation, and electrical transmission. It includes tribal provisions. We attach President Biden's statement on the bill as well as the White House fact sheet.

**Some tribal-specific provisions include:**

**A five year reauthorization of the Tribal Transportation Program with stepped increases in funding from the Highway Trust Fund starting at \$578.4 million per fiscal year in FY 2022 and reaching \$627.9 million per fiscal year in FY 2026;**

**A five year reauthorization of the Environmental Protection Agency's Indian Reservation Drinking Water Program at \$50 million per fiscal year;**

**A five year reauthorization of grants to Alaska to improve sanitation in rural and Native villages with stepped increases in funding from \$40 million per fiscal year in FY 2022 to \$60 million per fiscal year in FY 2026;**

**An additional \$2 billion, to remain available until expended, for grants for the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program;**

**The establishment of a \$2.5 billion 'Indian Water Rights Settlement Completion Fund' to remain available until expended and to be used by the Secretary of the Interior for approved Indian water settlements;**

**\$216 million for 'tribal climate resilience, adaptation, and community relocation planning, design, and implementation of projects which address the varying climate challenges facing tribal communities across the country'; and**

**\$3.5 billion appropriated for Indian Health Facilities to remain available until expended for the provision of domestic and community sanitation facilities for Indians."**

"July 28, 2021

#### **Statement by President Joe Biden on the Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal**

I am pleased to join a bipartisan group of United States Senators and announce our deal to make the most significant long-term investment in our infrastructure and competitiveness in nearly a century.

I want to thank the bipartisan group for working together and the committee chairs for raising their ideas and concerns with me, Vice President Harris, and members of the Cabinet.

This deal signals to the world that our democracy can function, deliver, and do big things. As we did with the transcontinental railroad and the interstate highway, we will once again transform America and propel us into the future.

This deal makes key investments to put people to work all across the country—in cities, small towns, rural communities, and across our coastlines and plains.

It will put Americans to work in good-paying, union jobs repairing our roads and bridges. It will put plumbers and pipefitters to work replacing all of the nation's lead water pipes so every child and every American can turn on the faucet at home or school and drink clean water—including in low-income communities and communities of color that have been disproportionately affected by dangerous lead pipes.

Americans will build transmission lines and upgrade our power grid to be more resilient and cleaner. Americans will strengthen our infrastructure, like our levees, in the face of extreme weather like superstorms, wildfires, droughts, hurricanes, and heat waves.

American workers will make a historic investment to install the first-ever national network electric vehicle charging stations and undertake critical environmental clean-ups.



This bipartisan deal is the most important investment in public transit in American history and the most important investment in rail since the creation of Amtrak 50 years ago. It will deliver high speed internet to every American.

And, we're going to do it without raising taxes by one cent on people making less than \$400,000 a year—no gas tax increase and no fee on electric vehicles.

This agreement will help ensure that America can compete in the global economy just when we are in a race with China and the rest of the world for the 21st Century.

And, it comes at a critical time. We are emerging from this pandemic with an economy that is back from the brink. We are seeing the fastest job growth on record. We are experiencing the fastest economic growth in nearly four decades.

Everyone from unions to business leaders and economists left, right, and center believe the public investments in this deal will mean more jobs, higher productivity, and higher growth for our economy over the long term. Experts believe that the majority of the deal's benefits will flow to working families.

Of course, neither side got everything they wanted in this deal. But that's what it means to compromise and forge consensus—the heart of democracy. As the deal goes to the entire Senate, there is still plenty of work ahead to bring this home. There will be disagreements to resolve and more compromise to forge along the way.

But the bottom line is—the Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal is a blue-collar blueprint to rebuild America that will help make our historic economic recovery a historic long-term boom.

July 28, 2021

#### **FACT SHEET:**

#### **Historic Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal**

Today, the President and the bipartisan group announced agreement on the details of a once-in-a-generation investment in our infrastructure, which will be taken up in the Senate for consideration. In total, the deal includes \$550 billion in new federal investment in America's infrastructure. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal will grow the economy, enhance our competitiveness, create good jobs, and make our economy more sustainable, resilient, and just.

The deal will create good-paying, union jobs. With the President's Build Back Better Agenda, these investments will add, on average, around 2 million jobs per year over the course of the decade, while accelerating America's path to full employment and increasing labor force participation.

President Biden believes that we must invest in our country and in our people by creating good-paying union jobs, tackling the climate crisis, and growing the economy sustainably and equitably for decades to come. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal will deliver progress towards those objectives for working families across the country. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal:

- Makes the largest federal investment in public transit ever
- Makes the largest federal investment in passenger rail since the creation of Amtrak
- Makes the single largest dedicated bridge investment since the construction of the interstate highway system
- Makes the largest investment in clean drinking water and waste water infrastructure in American history, delivering clean water to millions of families
- Ensures every American has access to reliable high-speed internet
- Helps us tackle the climate crisis by making the largest investment in

clean energy transmission and EV infrastructure in history; electrifying thousands of school and transit buses across the country; and creating a new Grid Development Authority to build a clean, 21st century electric grid

The President promised to work across the aisle to deliver results for working families. He believes demonstrating that democracies can deliver is a critical challenge for his presidency. Today's agreement shows that we can come together to position American workers, farmers, and businesses to compete and win in the 21st century.

### **Roads, Bridges, and Major Projects**

One in five miles, or 173,000 total miles, of our highways and major roads and 45,000 bridges are in poor condition. Bridges in poor condition pose heightened challenges in rural communities, which often may rely on a single bridge for the passage of emergency service vehicles. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal will invest \$110 billion of new funds for roads, bridges, and major projects, and reauthorize the surface transportation program for the next five years building on bipartisan surface transportation reauthorization bills passed out of committee earlier this year. This investment will repair and rebuild our roads and bridges with a focus on climate change mitigation, resilience, equity, and safety for all users, including cyclists and pedestrians. The bill includes a total of \$40 billion of new funding for bridge repair, replacement, and rehabilitation, which is the single largest dedicated bridge investment since the construction of the interstate highway system. The bill also includes a total of \$17.5 billion for major projects that are too large or complex for traditional funding programs but will deliver significant economic benefits to communities.

### **Safety**

America has one of the highest road fatality rates in the industrialized world. The deal invests \$11 billion in transportation safety programs, including a new Safe Streets for All program to help states and localities reduce crashes and fatalities in their communities, especially for cyclists and pedestrians. It will more than double funding directed to programs that improve the safety of people and vehicles in our transportation system, including highway safety, truck safety, and pipeline and hazardous materials safety.

### **Public Transit**

America's transit infrastructure is inadequate – with a multibillion-dollar repair backlog, representing more than 24,000 buses, 5,000 rail cars, 200 stations, and thousands of miles of track, signals, and power systems in need of replacement. The deal invests \$39 billion of new investment to modernize transit, and improve accessibility for the elderly and people with disabilities, in addition to continuing the existing transit programs for five years as part of surface transportation reauthorization. This is the largest Federal investment in public transit in history, and devotes a larger share of funds from surface transportation reauthorization to transit in the history of the programs. It will repair and upgrade aging infrastructure, modernize bus and rail fleets, make stations accessible to all users, and bring transit service to new communities. It will replace thousands of transit vehicles, including buses, with clean, zero emission vehicles. And, it will benefit communities of color since these households are twice as likely to take public transportation and many of these communities lack sufficient public transit options.

### **Passenger and Freight Rail**

Unlike highways and transit, rail lacks a multi-year funding stream to address deferred maintenance, enhance existing corridors, and build new lines in high-potential locations. The deal positions Amtrak and rail to play a central role in our transportation and economic future. This is the largest investment in passenger rail since the creation of Amtrak 50 years ago. The

deal invests \$66 billion in rail to eliminate the Amtrak maintenance backlog, modernize the Northeast Corridor, and bring world-class rail service to areas outside the northeast and mid-Atlantic. Within these totals, \$22 billion would be provided as grants to Amtrak, \$24 billion as federal-state partnership grants for Northeast Corridor modernization, \$12 billion for partnership grants for intercity rail service, including high-speed rail, \$5 billion for rail improvement and safety grants, and \$3 billion for grade crossing safety improvements.

### **EV Infrastructure**

U.S. market share of plug-in electric vehicle (EV) sales is only one-third the size of the Chinese EV market. The President believes that must change. The bill invests \$7.5 billion to build out a national network of EV chargers. This is the first-ever national investment in EV charging infrastructure in the United States and is a critical element in the Biden-Harris Administration's plan to accelerate the adoption of EVs to address the climate crisis and support domestic manufacturing jobs. The bill will provide funding for deployment of EV chargers along highway corridors to facilitate long-distance travel and within communities to provide convenient charging where people live, work, and shop. Federal funding will have a particular focus on rural, disadvantaged, and hard-to-reach communities.

### **Electric Buses**

American school buses play a critical role in expanding access to education, but they are also a significant source of pollution. The deal will deliver thousands of electric school buses nationwide, including in rural communities, helping school districts across the country buy clean, American-made, zero emission buses, and replace the yellow school bus fleet for America's children. The deal invests \$2.5 billion in zero emission buses, \$2.5 billion in low emission buses, and \$2.5 billion for ferries. These investments will drive demand for American-made batteries and vehicles, creating jobs and supporting domestic manufacturing, while also removing diesel buses from some of our most vulnerable communities. In addition, they will help the more than 25 million children and thousands of bus drivers who breathe polluted air on their rides to and from school. Diesel air pollution is linked to asthma and other health problems that hurt our communities and cause students to miss school, particularly in communities of color and Tribal communities.

### **Reconnecting Communities**

Too often, past transportation investments divided communities – like the Claiborne Expressway in New Orleans or I-81 in Syracuse – or it left out the people most in need of affordable transportation options. In particular, significant portions of the interstate highway system were built through Black neighborhoods. The deal creates a first-ever program to reconnect communities divided by transportation infrastructure. The program will fund planning, design, demolition, and reconstruction of street grids, parks, or other infrastructure through \$1 billion of dedicated funding.

### **Airports, Ports, and Waterways**

The United States built modern aviation, but our airports lag far behind our competitors. According to some rankings, no U.S. airports rank in the top 25 of airports worldwide. Our ports and waterways need repair and reimagination too. The bill invests \$17 billion in port infrastructure and \$25 billion in airports to address repair and maintenance backlogs, reduce congestion and emissions near ports and airports, and drive electrification and other low-carbon technologies. Modern, resilient, and sustainable port, airport, and freight infrastructure will support U.S. competitiveness by removing bottlenecks and expediting commerce and reduce the environmental impact on neighboring communities.

### **Resilience and Western Water Infrastructure**

Millions of Americans feel the effects of climate change each year when their roads wash out, airport power goes down, or schools get flooded. Last year alone, the United States faced 22 extreme weather and climate-related disaster events with losses exceeding \$1 billion each – a cumulative price tag of nearly \$100 billion. People of color are more likely to live in areas most vulnerable to flooding and other climate change-related weather events. The deal makes our communities safer and our infrastructure more resilient to the impacts of climate change and cyber attacks, with an investment of over \$50 billion. This includes funds to protect against droughts and floods, in addition to a major investment in weatherization. The bill is the largest investment in the resilience of physical and natural systems in American history.

### **Clean Drinking Water**

Currently, up to 10 million American households and 400,000 schools and child care centers lack safe drinking water. The deal's \$55 billion investment represents the largest investment in clean drinking water in American history, including dedicated funding to replace lead service lines and the dangerous chemical PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl). It will replace all of the nation's lead pipes and service lines. From rural towns to struggling cities, the deal invests in water infrastructure across America, including in Tribal Nations and disadvantaged communities that need it most.

### **High-Speed Internet**

Broadband internet is necessary for Americans to do their jobs, to participate equally in school learning, health care, and to stay connected. Yet, by one definition, more than 30 million Americans live in areas where there is no broadband infrastructure that provides minimally acceptable speeds – a particular problem in rural communities throughout the country. The deal's \$65 billion investment ensures every American has access to reliable high-speed internet with an historic investment in broadband infrastructure deployment, just as the federal government made a historic effort to provide electricity to every American nearly one hundred years ago.

The bill will also help lower prices for internet service by requiring funding recipients to offer a low-cost affordable plan, by creating price transparency and helping families comparison shop, and by boosting competition in areas where existing providers aren't providing adequate service. It will also help close the digital divide by passing the Digital Equity Act, ending digital redlining, creating a permanent program to help more low-income households access the internet, and establishing a new program to help low-income households obtain the devices required to access the internet.

### **Environmental Remediation**

In thousands of rural and urban communities around the country, hundreds of thousands of former industrial and energy sites are now idle – sources of blight and pollution. 26% of Black Americans and 29% of Hispanic Americans live within 3 miles of a Superfund site, a higher percentage than for Americans overall. Proximity to a Superfund site can lead to elevated levels of lead in children's blood. The deal invests \$21 billion in environmental remediation, making the largest investment in addressing the legacy pollution that harms the public health of communities and neighborhoods in American history, creating good-paying union jobs in hard-hit energy communities and advancing economic and environmental justice. The bill includes funds to clean up superfund and brownfield sites, reclaim abandoned mine land and cap orphaned gas wells.

Power Infrastructure

As the recent Texas power outages demonstrated, our aging electric grid needs urgent modernization. A Department of Energy study found that power outages cost the U.S. economy up to \$70 billion annually. The deal's \$73 billion investment is the single largest investment in clean energy transmission in American history. It upgrades our power infrastructure, including by building thousands of miles of new, resilient transmission lines to facilitate the expansion of renewable energy. It creates a new Grid Deployment Authority, invests in research and development for advanced transmission and electricity distribution technologies, and promotes smart grid technologies that deliver flexibility and resilience. It invests in demonstration projects and research hubs for next generation technologies like advanced nuclear reactors, carbon capture, and clean hydrogen.

#### Offsets

In the years ahead, the deal, which will generate significant economic benefits, and it is financed through a combination of redirecting unspent emergency relief funds, targeted corporate user fees, strengthening tax enforcement when it comes to crypto currencies, and other bipartisan measures, in addition to the revenue generated from higher economic growth as a result of the investments."

The Sierra Club reported in a November 19, 2021 E-mail, **"This week President Biden signed the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act into law. The new law includes an unprecedented \$11.3 billion in abandoned mine land (AML) funding for communities in coal mining regions like Appalachia that for decades have dealt with dangerous hazards and water polluted by acid mine drainage.**

In the 40-year history of the AML program, only \$6 billion has been distributed to states and tribes for mine cleanup. The new \$11.3 billion boost expands what's possible for restoring the environment at mine sites abandoned decades ago, creating thousands of jobs in the process." **[Hopefully this will include a good deal of funding to finish cleaning up uranium contamination on Navajo and other Native land].**

Morissa Zuckerman, "Build Back Better Act: Out of the House, On to the Senate," Sierra Club, November 19, 2021, <https://www.sierraclub.org/articles/2021/11/build-back-better-act-out-house-senate>, reported, **"After months of negotiations, the House of Representatives (finally!) passed the Build Back Better Act despite opposition from every single Republican member. Next up: on to the Senate and President Biden's desk -- more on that below.**

It's hard to overstate the significance of this bill. **If passed and implemented, it will be transformative. It represents the United States' biggest investment in climate action in history, and our biggest investment in social programs since the New Deal.**

With over 130 different investments in climate and environmental justice on a scale never before seen in Congress and a slew of social policies, **Build Back Better will make life better for people who are struggling to make ends meet by investing in childcare, education, healthcare, elder care and more.** This bill is a testament to the intersectional social movements that joined together to put forward this vision and fought to make it possible.

Share our graphics to help spread the word about what's in this transformative bill, and the real-world benefits it will bring to our lives:

**And -- in this time of unprecedented crises of income inequality, racial injustice, climate emergency, and a faltering democracy, the investments that were cut are real**

**losses.** How do we celebrate the victories we've fought so hard for, while holding the enormity of what is still needed?

### **The Current Reality**

As more and more Americans feel the growing impacts of climate change and scientists continue to ring the alarm bell about the need for urgent action, the policies in this bill put the United States on a path to cutting climate pollution in half by 2030, meet our international climate goals, and advance racial, economic, and environmental justice. It will transform the way we power our homes, buildings, and vehicles, reduce electricity costs, protect our communities from flooding, replace lead pipes poisoning our water, and create millions of good-paying jobs. As more and more Americans face economic insecurity without a basic social safety net while wealthy special interests who rig the rules get richer, the Build Back Better Act will invest in childcare, pre-K and higher education, support home care for older Americans and people with disabilities, expand Medicare and Medicaid, and more.

Here are **just a few of the real-world benefits of Build Back Better:**

**5 million families will gain access to clean water by replacing toxic lead pipes**

**800,000 people who live in public housing will benefit from upgraded living conditions, including lower energy costs and protections from extreme weather**

**The Gwich'in people will win protection of the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from oil and gas drilling** -- a big victory in their fight to protect their way of life

**More than 60,000 buses' worth of children will breathe cleaner air as we replace diesel school buses with clean electric vehicles**

**The average homeowner will find it \$7,000 cheaper to install solar on their roof as wind and solar power expand into our communities at more than twice the current speed**

**150,000 workers will get family-sustaining manufacturing jobs to produce wind, solar, and other clean energy goods, and**

**300,000 workers will get good jobs through a Civilian Climate Corps that helps communities clean up pollution and adapt to climate change**

**... and so much more.** Check out our full fact sheet on tangible benefits [below and at: <https://www.sierraclub.org/sites/www.sierraclub.org/files/Build-Back-Better-Act-factsheet.pdf>].

### **People Power Made All the Difference**

As we celebrate these victories and confront the reality of the long fight ahead, let's remember that people power made this possible and people power will be the way we continue to move towards justice.

Broad, intersectional movements put forward the initial vision for this bill before many thought these kinds of policies were possible. Movements joined together across differences to help elect President Biden and progressive champions who advocated for this legislation in Congress and fought to keep it as ambitious as possible. Movements will continue organizing through a final vote to get this bill over the finish line. And movements will continue building power to fight for the crucial policies that were cut.

In the last few months, Sierra Club organizers and volunteers hosted 177 events across the country ranging from press conferences, rallies, lobby meetings, to at-home and virtual action parties. We drove over 30,000 phone calls and 100,000 emails to the White House and our Members of Congress, thousands of social media posts, and called more than 5,000 people in key districts. We have been proud to work alongside a broad coalition of partners who have courageously held hunger strikes and sit-ins, risked arrest, traveled thousands of miles to try to

meet with their Senators, and protested on kayaks to highlight the urgency of this moment and the need for transformative action.

Together, we must continue organizing to ensure that this bill is passed, and then fully implemented at the state level so these investments reach the communities they have been promised to. We must reform our democracy and protect the fundamental right to vote, and ensure that our elected officials are accountable to their constituents. Then, we will continue organizing everyday in our communities and at the ballot box to build a world where all of us, whether white, Black or brown, can thrive.

**Congress Needs to Catch Up, The American People are Ready to Build Back Better**

This bill will shape our economy and society for decades to come, changing the lives of millions of people and generations after us. Passing the Build Back Better Act will move us towards the vision of a more just and livable future, and will open up the door to more transformative policies in the next few years.

And yet -- I want to honor and acknowledge that many of us may be feeling the sting of losing key provisions during these last months of negotiations.

**Despite overwhelming support from the public (across party lines) and 96% of the Democratic party, special interests and the politicians that listened to them managed to strip vital programs out of the bill with no regard for the will of the people. Some of our elected officials received huge amounts of campaign money from the fossil fuel industry during these negotiations -- deeply unethical and undemocratic conflicts of interest that must not be allowed to continue.**

Against us are corporations and polluters and the politicians in their pockets -- the greedy few who want nothing more than to squeeze as much profit out of our planet and our communities as possible, for as long as they can. That includes every Congressional Republican, who refused to even engage with their colleagues on the possibility of transformational legislation.

But on our side are the majority of the people in our country who, no matter our differences, want a lot of the same things. On our side is a movement of movements -- filled with racial justice, union, climate, health equity, and immigrants' rights allies. On our side are the powerful progressive champions we elected into Congress who held the line again and again to make sure Build Back Better made it through.

On our side is hope, and solidarity, and determination.

**The fight is not over.**

**Now, all eyes are on the Senate** to bring this transformative bill across the finish line. We're counting on President Biden to help deliver the majority in the Senate to enact his historic agenda that he has assured the public will be there. We will soon launch the last leg of this fight to notch a victory worthy of the history books.

We have always known the fight for a Green New Deal would not be an easy one. We knew it would be more than one bill, and we knew it would require action at every level of government. Today we can feel proud at how far we've come and allow these victories to fuel us for the fight ahead.

As we fight to secure the wins of this landmark legislation, the challenges we face only highlight the urgent need to reform our democracy so that our elected officials are accountable to us, and so our government reflects the will of the people.

**What's Next**

From here, the bill will head through a series of Congressional procedures in the Senate. This includes the Byrd Bath (a rule requiring that provisions included in budget reconciliation, the process through which Build Back Better will be passed, must relate to the federal budget), an amendment process, followed by a floor debate and a final vote. Once the Build Back Better Act has passed the Senate, it will be sent back to the House for a final vote to pass the updated version of the bill with the Senate's changes. Finally, it will head to President Biden's desk for his signature.

The timeline on all this is -- clearly -- subject to change. But Congressional leadership has said they're hoping to have it signed and sealed in the next few weeks. Bookmark this page, follow us on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter, and keep an eye out for our press releases to stay in the loop as things evolve.

Here's what you can do to help get the Build Back Better Act over the finish line: Call your Senators and ask them to pass Build Back Better. Text 'SENATORS' to the number 69866 to be connected.

Share our graphics on social media

Email your Member of Congress

Share this blog with two friends!

Read on to learn **more about what's in this historic bill, and the impact it will have on our climate and our communities:**

**SWEEPING PACKAGE OF CLEAN ENERGY AND CLEAN TRANSPORTATION TAX INCENTIVES** that are a game changer for the clean economy in the United States, and a game changer for climate action at home and abroad. The investment in the 10-year, \$300 billion tax incentive package will dramatically expand access to clean electricity like solar, electric vehicles, efficiency and electrification improvements for homes and workplaces, and clean manufacturing, forming the backbone of the Build Back Better Act's climate action and accounting for a major reduction in carbon emissions nearing our national goals. Turbocharging investments in clean electricity and energy efficiency are key to saving the average household \$500 annually in lower energy costs.

**BOLD INVESTMENTS IN CLEAN ENERGY MANUFACTURING** that would slash industrial pollution, create good manufacturing jobs, and bolster the supply chains we need for a swift transition to 100% clean energy.

**ADDITIONAL MAJOR CLIMATE ACTION INVESTMENTS INCLUDE:** transportation investments that would expand access to union-built electric vehicles, clean public transit and passenger rail; retrofits of homes and schools to cut pollution and energy costs; a methane emissions reduction program; natural climate solutions that provide protection for communities from heat waves and storms while growing carbon sinks; new investments to slash industrial pollution and boost manufacturing of clean energy goods; and a Civilian Climate Corps that would help communities clean up pollution and adapt to the climate crisis.

**ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE INVESTMENTS** including environmental and climate justice grants, nationwide lead service line replacement, electrification of diesel school buses, funding for cleaning up dirty ports and heavy-duty trucks, community investments to close the nature equity gap, funding for pollution monitoring and cleanup, robust support for equitable and sustainable community development, and increased investments for community engagement under the National Environmental Policy Act.



**PROTECTS THE COASTAL PLAIN OF THE ARCTIC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE** from oil and gas drilling and safeguards the way of life of the Gwich'in people by repealing the 2017 drilling language included in the 2017 Tax Act.

**FOSSIL FUEL SUBSIDIES ABROAD AND AT HOME:** Based on estimates from the President's budget, the Act's repeal of international fossil fuel subsidies included in the package would represent a potential \$86.2 billion in revenue over the next decade. Still, the failure to repeal domestic fossil fuel subsidies is a shortcoming that can and must be addressed by Congress.

**INVESTMENT IN CHILDREN AND CAREGIVING** that would reduce racial inequities in access to opportunity in early childhood within participating states. It guarantees access to voluntary, free preschool programs for all 3- and 4-year-olds in these states, and expands the Child Tax Credit for 2022, which is expected to lift 4 million children above the poverty line. It will help eliminate long standing waitlists for services critical to aging adults, veterans and people with disabilities.

**EXPANDING AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE** (and more at: <https://www.healthcareforamericanow.org/build-back-better-framework-expands-health-care-access-and-affordability-while-requiring-wealthiest-to-pay-more-fair-taxes/>) to reduce premiums for more than 9 million Americans by extending the expanded Premium Tax Credit, deliver health care coverage to up to 4 million uninsured people in states that have locked them out of Medicaid, and help older Americans access affordable hearing care by expanding Medicare.

**STRENGTHENING THE MIDDLE CLASS** by making the "most significant single investment in quality, stable, affordable homes for the country's lowest-income people in history," taking another step in addressing college affordability and investing in HBCUs and Minority-Serving Institutions, cutting taxes for 17 million low-wage workers by extending the expanded Earned Income Tax Credit, and advancing equity through investments in maternal health, community violence interventions, and nutrition, in addition to better preparing the nation for future pandemics and supply chain disruptions.

...and more."

**"Real-World Benefits of the Build Back Better Act's Historic Climate Investments**

**The Build Back Better Act includes more than 130 programs that would invest nearly \$600 billion in climate action, clean energy jobs, and environmental justice. Collectively, these unprecedented investments would put us firmly on the path to achieve President Biden's goal of cutting climate pollution in half by 2030 while creating hundreds of thousands of family-sustaining jobs and advancing racial, economic, and environmental justice.**

What tangible benefits would families and communities see from these investments? **To name just a few examples, the Build Back Better Act would:**

**Clean Transportation**

- Make public buses and metro lines cleaner, more frequent, and more accessible for affordable housing residents<sup>1</sup>

Convert more than 60,000 diesel school buses to clean electric buses so schoolchildren can breathe clean air<sup>2</sup>

Cut the price of an electric vehicle by \$12,500 for working and middle class families while supporting electric vehicle manufacturing at unionized U.S. factories<sup>3</sup>

Help build a half million electric vehicle charging stations in communities nationwide<sup>4</sup>

Convert 70% of U.S. Postal Service mail trucks to clean electric vehicles to reduce air and climate pollution in your neighborhood<sup>5</sup>

Build new high-speed rail lines like the one that will allow people to go from Houston to Dallas in 90 minutes by train instead of driving in traffic for four hours<sup>6</sup>

Cut the price of an electric bike by up to \$900 for working and middle class families while boosting the benefits that employers offer for biking to work<sup>7</sup>

Help cut toxic air pollution at ports from trucks, ships, and machinery<sup>8</sup>

Help reconnect neighborhoods — primarily in Black and Latinx communities — that have been divided for decades by highways that reinforce systemic racism and spur pollution<sup>9</sup>

#### **Clean Water**

- Help replace over 5 million lead service lines — about half of the national total — to deliver clean water to communities nationwide<sup>10</sup>

- Reduce toxic runoff from old stormwater systems during heavy downpours<sup>11</sup>

#### **Clean Electricity**

- Help the average family save about \$500 each year in utility bills<sup>12</sup>

More than double the speed of wind and solar power expansion, bringing renewable energy to millions of additional homes each year<sup>13</sup>

Make it \$7,000 cheaper on average to install solar panels on your rooftop<sup>14</sup>

Boost access to renewable energy in low-income and Indigenous communities by covering 40-50% of the cost of solar and wind projects<sup>15</sup>

Offer churches, hospitals, schools, local governments, and other nonprofits the opportunity to install wind and solar power for 30% less than the normal cost<sup>16</sup>

Make the electric grid more reliable so that communities don't experience disastrous grid failures like the one that killed over 100 people in Texas last February when a cold snap knocked out power for over 4 million homes<sup>17</sup>

#### **Community Resilience**

- Support community-led efforts to clean up toxic pollution, adapt to climate change, and achieve healthier living standards in neighborhoods that have endured environmental injustice<sup>18</sup>

Create new jobs, support workers, and clean up pollution in communities that have been dependent on fossil fuels and communities where factories have closed<sup>19</sup>

Boost water supplies for communities experiencing increasing droughts<sup>20</sup>

Create more than 300,000 good jobs in a new Civilian Climate Corps that helps communities clean up pollution and adapt to climate change<sup>21</sup>

#### **Lands Protection**

- **Protect the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from oil and gas drilling, in support of the Gwich'in people's fight to protect their way of life<sup>22</sup>**

Protect forests for people to enjoy, for ecosystems to thrive, and for a more livable climate<sup>23</sup>

Cultivate urban green spaces to protect children and communities from extreme temperatures<sup>24</sup>

Protect wetlands that shield coastal communities from hurricanes and storms<sup>25</sup>

Protect coastal communities from oil spills and toxic pollution by banning new offshore oil and gas drilling in the Atlantic Ocean, the Pacific Ocean, and the Eastern Gulf of Mexico<sup>26</sup>

#### **Healthy Buildings**

- Enable working and middle class families to save up to \$8,000 while weatherizing their homes to reduce utility bills and pollution<sup>27</sup>

Make it up to \$10,000 cheaper to convert your home from fossil fuel-based to electricity-based heating and cooling to slash air and climate pollution<sup>28</sup>

Upgrade living conditions for more than 800,000 people who live in public housing, including cutting energy costs and offering protections from storms, flooding, and other extreme weather<sup>29</sup>

Remove lead-based paint and other health and environmental hazards from about a half million low-income homes<sup>30</sup>

### **Clean Manufacturing**

- Create more than 150,000 family-sustaining jobs by helping to establish and retool factories to manufacture electric vehicles, wind turbines, solar panels, and other clean energy goods<sup>31</sup>

- Reduce air and climate pollution from factories that produce steel, cement, and other energy-intensive construction materials<sup>32</sup>

### **Regenerative Agriculture**

- Enable more than 60,000 farmers to switch to renewable energy and machinery that uses less energy<sup>33</sup>

- Support the efforts of more than 200,000 farmers to protect healthy soil so as to increase harvests, reduce the impacts of droughts, and trap more climate pollution<sup>34</sup>

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### **Endnotes**

1 Section 110001 of the Build Back Better Act

2 Jobs to Move America estimates that it would cost \$29.7 billion to fully electrify 250,000 school buses, or about \$119,000 per bus. The Build Back Better Act includes \$5 billion for electrification of school buses and other heavy-duty vehicles (Section 30101) while the bipartisan infrastructure bill includes an additional \$2.5 billion (another \$2.5 billion in the bipartisan bill is not counted, as it is also available for fossil fuel buses). The combined \$7.5 billion will support the electrification of over 63,000 buses, using the Jobs to Move America cost estimate. That is about 13% of the nation's estimated 500,000 school buses.

3 Section 136401 of the Build Back Better Act

4 The White House estimates that a \$15 billion investment could build about 500,000 electric vehicle charging stations. The Build Back Better Act includes \$7.283 billion for electric vehicle charging stations (Sections 30431 and 136405) and the bipartisan infrastructure bill includes an additional \$7.5 billion. The combined \$14.783 billion nearly meets the White House's estimate of the investment needed for a half million charging stations.

5 The Build Back Better Act includes \$6 billion to electrify U.S. Postal Service (USPS) vehicles (Section 80003). USPS estimates this investment will be sufficient to electrify 70% of its mail delivery vehicles.

6 Section 110006 of the Build Back Better Act. See here for more information on the Houston to Dallas high-speed rail line.

7 Sections 136406 and 136407 of the Build Back Better Act

8 Section 30102 of the Build Back Better Act

9 Section 110003 of the Build Back Better Act

10 The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates it costs \$4,700 on average to replace a lead service line. The Build Back Better Act includes \$9.97 billion for lead service line replacement (Sections 30301 and 12002) and the bipartisan infrastructure deal includes an additional \$15 billion. The combined \$24.97 billion would replace more than 5.3 million lead service lines, using EPA's average cost estimate. EPA estimates there are 6-10 million lead service lines nationwide, while the Natural Resources Defense Council estimates there are 10-13 million. Using 10 million as a mid-range estimate, the two bills would replace about half of all lead service lines nationwide.

11 Section 110015 of the Build Back Better Act

12 The Rhodium Group estimates that the clean energy tax credits, energy efficiency investments, and other initiatives in the Build Back Better Act, combined with additional new policies, would save the average household about \$500 in annual energy costs by 2030.

13 The Rhodium Group estimates that the wind and solar tax credits in the Build Back Better Act could support an average of 65 gigawatts of wind and solar power deployment per year for 10 years, which is more than double the record of 30 gigawatts deployed in 2020.

14 The Build Back Better Act offers a 30% refundable tax credit to homeowners for the installation of rooftop solar and other clean electricity equipment (Section 136302). The median cost of a residential solar photovoltaic system is currently nearly \$25,000. This tax credit would reduce that cost by more than \$7,400.

15 Section 136803 of the Build Back Better Act

16 Section 136104 of the Build Back Better Act

17 Sections 30451, 30452, 30454, and 136105 of the Build Back Better Act. See [here](#) and [here](#) for more information on the Texas power failure.

18 Section 30202 of the Build Back Better Act

19 Sections 30444 and 110009 of the Build Back Better Act

20 Sections 70801, 70802, 70803, and 70804 of the Build Back Better Act

21 The White House estimates that the Build Back Better Act's \$30 billion for the Civilian Climate Corps (Sections 26001, 26002, and 70703, among others) will create about 300,000 good jobs.

22 Section 71201 of the Build Back Better Act

23 Section 11003 (among others) of the Build Back Better Act 24 Section 70706 of the Build Back Better Act

25 Section 70201 of the Build Back Better Act

26 Section 71301 of the Build Back Better Act

27 Section 30411 of the Build Back Better Act

28 Section 30412 of the Build Back Better Act

29 The Build Back Better Act includes \$65 billion for public housing improvements (Section 40001), including upgrades to boost energy and water efficiency and climate resilience. A report by the McHarg Center and Data for Progress estimates that upgrading the nation's entire public housing stock would cost between \$119 billion and \$172 billion. Using the mid-range estimate of \$146 billion, the Build Back Better Act will upgrade about 45% of the nation's public housing units. With 1.8 million people living in public housing nationwide, that investment suggests benefits for more than 800,000 public housing residents.

30 The Build Back Better Act includes \$5 billion to remove lead paint and other health and safety hazards in low-income homes (Section 40102). Based on EPA figures, the average cost for

removing lead paint from a home is estimated at \$10,000. Using this estimate, the Build Back Better Act could remove lead paint in about 500,000 low-income homes.

31 The Build Back Better Act includes more than \$16 billion in tax credits, grants, and loans for firms to manufacture electric vehicles, solar and wind components, battery storage, and other clean energy goods (Sections 136504, 136501, 30442, and 30443). Recent economic modeling from the University of Massachusetts Amherst finds that every \$1 million in public spending on electric vehicle manufacturing creates 8.7 jobs while every \$1 million in public spending on wind and solar manufacturing creates 10 jobs. Using these ratios, the Build Back Better Act's more than \$16 billion in clean manufacturing investments are expected to create more than 150,000 job-years.

32 Sections 136502, 30471, and 80008 (among others) of the Build Back Better Act

33 The Build Back Better Act includes \$2.02545 billion for the Rural Energy for America Program (REAP), which offers grants and loans to farmers and rural small businesses for renewable energy and energy efficiency projects (Section 12005). In fiscal year 2020, 1,586 farmers and rural small businesses received over \$51 million in grants under REAP, yielding an average grant size of over \$32,000. Using the same average, the Build Back Better Act's more than \$2 billion for REAP would yield more than 62,000 grants and loans.

34 The Build Back Better Act includes \$22.3 billion for agricultural conservation investments, including funding for four programs to back farmers' efforts to support healthy, carbon-trapping soil (Section 15002). The White House estimates that such investments in the bill "could reach roughly 130 million cropland acres per year, representing as many as 240,000 farms."

Portia K. Skenandore-Wheelock, Congressional Advocate  
Native American Advocacy Program, "Native American Legislative Update," Friends  
Committee on National Legislation (FCNL), October 2021,  
<https://fcnl.actionkit.com/mailings/view/19837?t=1&akid=19837%2E30420%2E2zbuYX>,  
reported,

Welcome to FCNL's Native American Legislative Update! NALU is a monthly newsletter about FCNL's Native American policy advocacy and ways for you to engage members of Congress.

#### **Bill Advances to Protect Native American Cultural Heritage**

On Oct. 13, the House Committee on Natural Resources advanced the Safeguard Tribal Objects of Patrimony (STOP) Act of 2021 (H.R. 2930) by unanimous consent. This bipartisan bill would prohibit the export of Native American cultural items that were illegally obtained, provide for the return of items, and double criminal penalties for individuals convicted of selling or purchasing human remains or illegally obtained cultural items.

'Throughout history, Native American cultural items such as human remains, sacred objects, and objects of cultural patrimony have been looted and sold to collectors in our country and abroad,' said Rep. Leger Fernández (NM-3) during an earlier hearing on the bill. 'The STOP Act gives Tribes, Pueblos, and Nations a tool to close the door on the illegal exportation of cultural objects.'

Brian D. Vallo, governor of the Pueblo of Acoma, also testified on how the STOP Act can close gaps in current federal law that traffickers take advantage of to sell and export cultural items. 'Whatever intrinsic beauty these items possess and whatever monetary value they may generate for traffickers, that is not their intended purpose,' he said. 'These items are essential to

our way of life. We have prioritized protecting our tangible cultural heritage because we believe that, without their presence, we cannot continue our way of life.'

**Similar legislation (S. 1471) has been approved by the Senate Indian Affairs Committee and is awaiting action by the full Senate.**

**Senate Confirms Muscogee Nation Citizen as Federal District Judge**

On Oct. 5, the Senate voted 55-44 to confirm Lauren J. King to a lifetime seat on the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Washington, a state with 29 federally recognized tribes. King is a citizen of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation based in Oklahoma.

She taught federal Indian law at the Seattle University School of Law, served as a pro tem appellate judge for the Northwest Intertribal Court System, and was partner at a Seattle law firm. King is the first Native American to serve as a federal district judge in the state of Washington, and the fourth Native American judge actively serving on the entire federal bench.

**Bill Tracker**

**Remove the Stain Act (H.R. 2226):**

On Sept. 23, the House passed the National Defense Authorization Act (H.R. 4350) which included the Remove the Stain Act as an amendment. This bill would rescind each Medal of Honor awarded to U.S. Cavalry members who participated in the 1890 massacre of hundreds of Lakota people at Wounded Knee on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. The Senate is expected to pass its version of the NDAA next month (S. 2792).

**Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2021:**

On Oct. 5, the Senate Judiciary Committee held a hearing on the renewal and strengthening of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and heard testimony from Deputy Attorney General Lisa O. Monaco. The House passed their VAWA reauthorization bill (H.R. 1620) in March; the Senate has yet to introduce a bill."

Portia K. Skenandore-Wheelock, Congressional Advocate  
Native American Advocacy Program, "Native American Legislative Update," Friends  
Committee on National Legislation (FCNL), August 2021,  
<https://fcnl.actionkit.com/mailings/view/18911?t=1&akid=18911%2E30420%2EBWme8V>,  
reported, "Joint Commission to Address Violent Crime Takes Shape

**The Interior and Justice Departments are consulting with tribal leaders and soliciting nominations for a joint commission to address violent crime.** As required by the Not Invisible Act, the commission should at least 28 federal and non-federal members. Attorney General Merrick B. Garland said, "The membership of the Commission must represent a diverse range of expertise, experience and perspectives, and we will consult with Tribal leaders who know best what their communities need to make them safer."

The Commission will hold hearings, take testimony, and receive evidence to develop recommendations for the federal government to combat violent crime against tribal citizens and within tribal lands.

Lawmakers Call for Trauma-Informed Resources as Interior's Initiative Starts

**Senator Elizabeth Warren (MA), Rep. Sharice Davids (KS-03), and 19 other members of Congress signed a** letter ([https://www.warren.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/2021.08.12%20Letter%20to%20IHS%20re%20protections%20for%20boarding%20school%20survivors%20and%20communities%20\(1\).pdf](https://www.warren.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/2021.08.12%20Letter%20to%20IHS%20re%20protections%20for%20boarding%20school%20survivors%20and%20communities%20(1).pdf)) **to the Indian Health Service (IHS) as the government begins to investigate Indian boarding schools** (<https://apnews.com/article/lifestyle-health-education->

e4f2ebe6a635e02c904362fc75914e89?utm\_campaign=lam&utm\_medium=email&utm\_source=ak&utm\_term=18911.30420.BWme8V). The letter, supported by the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition and the National Indian Health Board, reads:

**'We urge IHS to consider potential protections for those experiencing trauma from the Indian Boarding School Policies and the revelations that will continue to emerge during the course of the Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative. This revisiting and exploration of the boarding school era could be traumatic for survivors, their families, and their communities.'**

Trauma-informed care that is culturally appropriate may include a hotline for survivors and other mental and spiritual programs.

#### **Bill Tracker**

##### **S. 989 Native American Language Resource Center Act:**

On Aug. 4, this bill **to establish, operate, and staff a Native American language resource and training center** was approved by the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs and moves to the full Senate for further consideration.

##### **S. 1402 Durbin Feeling Native American Languages Act:**

On Aug. 4, this bill **to direct the president to review whether federal agencies are complying with requirements to promote the use of Native American languages** was also approved by the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs and moves to the full Senate for further consideration.

##### **H.R. 5008 Frank Harrison, Elizabeth Peratrovich, and Miguel Trujillo Native American Voting Rights Act of 2021 (NAVRA):**

On Aug. 13, this bipartisan **bill to protect the right to vote and ensure equal access to the electoral process for Native Americans, Alaska Natives, and voters living on tribal lands** was introduced by Reps. Davids (KS-03) and Tom Cole (OK-04) in the House and referred to committee. The Senate companion bill, S. 2702, introduced by Sen. Lujan (NM), was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary."

**"S. 2541, a bill 'To authorize the reclassification of the tactical enforcement officers (commonly known as the 'Shadow Wolves') in the Homeland Security Investigations tactical patrol unit operating on the lands of the Tohono O'odham Nation as special agents' would reclassify this unit of Tohono O'odham Nation members acting as a border patrol as special agents and expand the unit: (3) expanding comparable units referred to in section 2(3) to appropriate areas near the international border between the United States and Canada or the international border between the United States and Mexico, with the approval and consent of the appropriate Indian tribe; and (4) determining the best process for expanding the reach of the Shadow Wolves Program to include historically and culturally significant areas for Tribal communities that are not located on Tribal lands."**

**"Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably. (All Actions: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/2541/all-actions?overview=closed#tabs>) (congress.gov, visited December 9, 2021, <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/2541/text>).**

**"Warren, Davids, Cole Reintroduce Bipartisan Bill to Seek Healing for Stolen Native Children and Their Communities," Elizabeth Warren, September 30, 2021,**

<https://www.warren.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/warren-davids-cole-reintroduce-bipartisan-bill-to-seek-healing-for-stolen-native-children-and-their-communities>, stated, "Today, on the National Day of Remembrance for U.S. Indian Boarding Schools, United States Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.), and the Co-Chairs of the Congressional Native American Caucus, Congresswoman Sharice Davids (D-Kan.) and Congressman Tom Cole (R-Okla.), **reintroduced The Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies in the United States Act, legislation that seeks healing for stolen Native children and their communities.** Originally introduced last year with then-Congresswoman Deb Haaland (D-N.M.), this **bill would establish a formal commission to investigate, document, and acknowledge past injustices of the federal government's Indian Boarding School Policies. This includes attempts to terminate Native cultures, religions, and languages; assimilation practices; and human rights violations. The commission would also develop recommendations for Congress to aid in healing of the historical and intergenerational trauma passed down in Native families and communities and provide a forum for victims to speak about personal experiences tied to these human rights violations.**" The bill text is at: [https://www.warren.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Truth%20and%20Healing%20Commission\\_9.30.21\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.warren.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Truth%20and%20Healing%20Commission_9.30.21_FINAL.pdf).

**H.R.5008 - Frank Harrison, Elizabeth Peratrovich, and Miguel Trujillo Native American Voting Rights Act** of 2021117th Congress (2021-2022) was **introduced in the House**, August 13, 2021, by Representatives Sharice Davids and Tom Cole and referred to the House Administration and Judiciary Committees (<https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/5008/text?r=1&s=1>).

Nancy Marie Spears, "Oklahoma looks at new Native voting rights bill: The right to vote is 'a constitutional right for everybody,'" *ICT*, September 15, 2021, <https://indiancountrytoday.com/news/oklahoma-looks-at-new-native-voting-rights-bill>, said of the bill (a summary of which was not yet posted on the Congressional website as of December 15, though the whole bill is), the "**bill addresses voting problems on reservations and tribal service areas. Another obstacle to Indigenous voters is that some states**, such as Montana, require a physical address to register to vote. Many tribal citizens who live on tribal land have a PO box.

Other states prohibit hand-delivering other people's ballots. Indigenous residents of reservations often share cars, sometimes needing family members or friends to deliver the ballots for them or their families.

This would allow states like Oklahoma to have funds necessary to implement polling places near tribal land or service areas, and tribes would now have a say in where to put them. Tribes will also be notified directly of the number of voting locations in their communities, Bailey said."

Brooke Newman, "Tribal leaders bring litany of needs to hearing: 'Investment in education, healthcare, and the wellbeing of those in Indian country are long overdue,'" *ICT*, June 22, 2021, <https://indiancountrytoday.com/news/tribal-leaders-bring-litany-of-needs-to-hearing>, reported that a **the House Natural Resources subcommittee hearing** on June 17, 2021 (<https://naturalresources.house.gov/imo/media/doc/SCIP%20Hrg%2006.17.21%20->



%20Testimony%20-%20Mr.%20Grinnel%20(IHS).pdf), **leaders of numerous tribes and federal agency officials spoke of the tremendous needs of most Indian nations.**

For example, Hopi Chairman Timothy Nuvangyaoma stated **on the federal governments promises to fix the tribe's only detention center. "Nearly four years later, there is no broken ground, only broken promises."**

"Jason Freihage, a deputy assistant Interior secretary, testified that **tribal schools alone face a \$823.3 million maintenance backlog. But Freihage said that of [86 schools in poor status, 73 do not currently have funding for major replacement or repair projects.]**"

He went on to outline hundreds of millions in road, water, public safety, broadband and economic development projects that are needed to 'improve infrastructure in Indian Country.'

Randy Grinnell, deputy director for management operations for the Indian Health Service, quoted a 2016 report **finding that tribes required a total of \$14.5 billion in health facility projects – an update of that report this year could show the need is now at an estimated \$22 billion.**

**Tohono O'odham** Nation Chairman Ned Norris Jr. conveyed that his nation's **hospital in Sells is more than 50 years old, has limited bed space and is only able to provide basic services, while it needs \$225 million in repairs and has been on an IHS "funding priority list for over 20 years."** He reported that IHS has begun funding the project, but it cannot be completed until at least 2024. He noted that the Bureau of Indian has been slow in meeting the nation's Santa Rosa Day school long-standing problems, saying "The BIE reports planning for the Santa Rosa Project is now complete and will begin this year with estimated completion in June 2023. While we appreciate that there has been progress made, the fact that our children attended school for years in an unsafe and unhealthy facility is unacceptable."

Similar testimony was made by other Indian leaders, including representatives of the Muscogee, Winnebago and Couer d'Alene tribes – who shared similar stories.

"Chair Grijalva, 10 Other Members Send Letter to President Biden, DOJ Requesting Clemency for Indigenous Activist Leonard Peltier," Natural Resources Committee, October 8, 2021, <https://naturalresources.house.gov/media/press-releases/chair-grijalva-10-other-members-send-letter-to-president-biden-doj-requesting-clemency-for-indigenous-activist-leonard-peltier>, stated, **"Chair Raúl M. Grijalva (D-Ariz.) today sent a letter with 10 other House lawmakers to President Biden and Attorney General Merrick Garland requesting the expedited release of and clemency for renowned American Indian Movement activist Leonard Peltier.** The letter is available at <https://bit.ly/3DsQ5KD>.

Mr. Peltier, a member of the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians, was arrested in connection with the murders of two Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) agents in 1977 on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. Following a trial that was riddled with evidentiary and procedural concerns, Mr. Peltier was sentenced to two life sentences.

As the authors of today's letter note, Mr. Peltier's trial included issues such as 'a critical alleged eyewitness later retracting her testimony and admitting that the FBI had threatened her' and revelations following a Freedom of Information Act ruling in 1980 that "the prosecution had withheld documented evidence that might have assisted Mr. Peltier's case.'

Despite these civil rights violations, Mr. Peltier was never granted a fair retrial. Currently housed at Coleman Federal Correctional Complex in Florida, he has served more than 43 years in federal prison. Today, at 77 years old, he suffers from severe health conditions such as diabetes and an abdominal aortic aneurysm.

As an Indigenous rights activist, Mr. Peltier worked to draw attention to systemic issues facing American Indian and Alaska Native communities during the 1970s, including federal treaty rights violations, discrimination, and police brutality.

Individuals and groups who have called for Mr. Peltier's release include Amnesty International, the National Congress of American Indians, the late Nelson Mandela, the Dalai Lama, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Mikhail Gorbachev, Mary Robinson, former President of Ireland and United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the European Parliament, the Belgian Parliament, the Italian Parliament, the Kennedy Memorial Center for Human Rights, Rev. Jesse Jackson, Rigoberta Menchú, seven other Nobel Peace Prize Laureates, Rage Against the Machine, Pete Seeger, Carlos Santana, Harry Belafonte, Gloria Steinem, and Robert Redford.

A recent petition calling for his release gathered more than 275,000 signatures. Even former U.S. Attorney James H. Reynolds, who oversaw Mr. Peltier's original conviction, has written to President Biden requesting clemency for Mr. Peltier. Last year, Chair Grijalva co-led a similar clemency request letter with then-Representative Deb Haaland, now Secretary of the Interior.

The full list of signatories includes:

Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA)

Rep. Jesús G. "Chuy" García (D-IL)

Rep. Cori Bush (D-MO)

Rep. Emanuel Cleaver, II (D-MO)

Rep. Jared Huffman (D-CA)

Rep. Teresa Leger Fernández (D-NM)

Rep. Rashida Tlaib (D-MI)

Rep. Pramila Jayapal (D-WA)

Rep. Betty McCollum (D-MN)

Rep. Melanie Stansbury (D-NM)

Press Contact

David Shen

(202) 225-6065 or (202) 860-6494 mobile"

"WWF accused of deceit, cover-ups and dishonesty in US Congressional Committee hearing," Survival International, October 27, 2021,

<https://www.survivalinternational.org/news/12683>, reported, "- **Committee chair 'frustrated, exasperated, incredulous at WWF's failure to take responsibility' for human rights abuses**

- **Independent expert underlines 'continued impacts of colonialism in conservation'**

- **He accuses WWF of 'shocking deception' and warns 'WWF won't change their behavior unless forced to do so'**

**An unprecedented hearing by the US House Natural Resources Committee has seen WWF's reputation shredded by Representatives from both parties, and independent experts, and a denunciation of the "fortress conservation" model that leads to human rights atrocities.**

**The organization was subjected to unprecedented attack for its involvement in human rights abuses, and refusal to take responsibility for them.**

Survival International's Fiore Longo called it 'the conservation industry's equivalent of the Abu Ghraib scandal – a moment from which it will never recover.'

The hearing was prompted by exposés by Buzzfeed News and many other investigations, including testimonies from Indigenous people collected by Survival International over many years, that laid bare WWF's involvement in human rights abuses, particularly in Africa and Asia.

**Dozens of Indigenous and local people have been raped, murdered and tortured by rangers funded by WWF, which has known about the abuses for decades but done little to address them. The abuse stems directly from a conservation model that sees the removal of Indigenous and local communities when their land is seized to create conservation areas. Other organizations have also been implicated in similar abuses, including the Wildlife Conservation Society and African Parks.**

Professor John Knox, who led a WWF-commissioned review into human rights violations in WWF projects, told the hearing: 'I've been very disappointed by the failure of WWF to make a break with their past... WWF's leadership is still in a state of denial about its own role in fortress conservation and human rights abuses.'

He called on the organization to apologize [for its involvement in past human rights abuses] and take responsibility [for its failures], and castigated WWF for misleading the committee: "WWF's statement to this sub-committee takes quotations from the panel's report out of context, and thereby gives a false impression of the panel's findings. It is frankly shocking..."

'These allegations have also highlighted the continued impacts of colonialism in conservation: The old way of doing conservation, Westerners coming into a country, setting up a national park with strict borders and ridding the area of its inhabitants, is still causing conflict today.'

Rep. Alan Lowenthal (D) said: 'I'm absolutely shocked by the human rights violations and treatment of local and Indigenous communities that have been reported today... It's devastating to hear' that US funds have contributed to 'truly heinous atrocities.'

Committee Chair Rep. Jared Huffman (D) condemned Ginette Hemley, WWF's Senior Vice-President of Wildlife Conservation, who represented the organization at the hearing after its President and CEO in the US, Carter Roberts, declined to testify. Huffman also criticized WWF's failure to take responsibility for the abuses they funded: '**... International conservation funding is potentially being put at risk because so many people are frustrated and exasperated and incredulous about WWF's failure to take responsibility. You wouldn't answer a simple Yes/ No question about whether you bear any responsibility, much less provide [an] apology...**'

He said: 'From the beginning, WWF has focused on elaborate excuses to distance themselves from the allegations'... and behaved 'as if the problem is just bad PR for WWF.'

Rep. Cliff Bentz (R) also lambasted the organization: 'WWF has been irresponsible – their testimony is embarrassing. They need to step up and admit that they are at fault... The word colonialism comes to mind.'

The head of Survival's Decolonize Conservation campaign, Fiore Longo, said today: 'This was the conservation industry's equivalent of the Abu Ghraib scandal, a total demolition of what little remained of WWF's reputation. Again and again their hard-wired instinct to cover up, avoid blame, and pretend they're changing while carrying on with business as usual, was exposed for all to see.'

Survival's Director Caroline Pearce said today: 'As John Knox said, **WWF is not unique in how it behaves: this kind of abuse is deeply embedded in the traditional conservation**

model, which is directly in conflict with human rights and particularly Indigenous rights. For decades it has been not just ignored but supported by huge, establishment conservation organizations, who pull in massive governmental and corporate funding while turning a blind eye to atrocities against Indigenous and other local communities. Their theft of vast areas of Indigenous lands in the name of nature conservation is, as Rep Bentz said, a modern colonialism that is finally and ruthlessly being exposed.

'This must be a wake-up call, not just to WWF's celebrity supporters like Leonardo DiCaprio and Prince William, but also to philanthropic and corporate backers throwing money at fortress conservation supposedly to "protect" 30% of the earth: these organizations and their conservation model are toxic. With COP26 about to start, a true path to securing environmental sustainability and biodiversity requires a rights-based approach – and, in particular, Indigenous land rights being recognized – and does not go through conservation NGOs for whom abuse is a feature, not a bug.'

### Federal Agency Developments

"Office of Management and Budget to Hold Tribal Consultation on the FY 2022 Budget Request," Hobbs-Straus General Memorandum 21-004, July 2, 2021, [https://www.hobbsstraus.com/general\\_memo/general-memorandum-21-004/](https://www.hobbsstraus.com/general_memo/general-memorandum-21-004/), reported, **"The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) is inviting Tribal leaders to a consultation on July 15, 2021, from 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. ET on the President's Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Budget.** The registration link is here. OMB is also accepting written comments submitted to [tribalconsultation@omb.eop.gov](mailto:tribalconsultation@omb.eop.gov) by no later than July 23, 2021.

The attached invitation explains that while feedback on the FY 2022 Budget will help to guide the formulation of the President's FY 2023 Budget, **OMB also 'intends to hold a separate Tribal consultation later this year specifically to inform the FY 2023 Budget formulation process.'** OMB states that Tribal leaders and their designees are invited to provide comments and recommendations on the following:

The FY 2022 President's Budget proposals to reclassify Contract Supports Costs, Indian Self Determination and Education Assistance Act Section 105(l) Leases costs, and enacted Indian Water Rights Settlements payments as mandatory beginning in FY 2023.

Other feedback on the FY 2022 President's Budget for programs and activities serving and benefitting Tribal governments, organizations, and communities.

Ensuring adequate and stable funding by considering options for a potential mandatory funding proposal for the Department of Health and Human Services' Indian Health Service in future President's Budgets. OMB will conduct another consultation on the President's FY 2023 Budget, which will include this topic, in 2021, but this July session can start the process of seeking Tribal Leaders' views on some of the major questions around developing such a proposal.

How OMB can improve Tribal funding transparency, such as through changes to OMB's annual Native American Funding Crosscut.

Please let us know if we may provide additional information about OMB's Tribal consultation on the President's FY 2022 Budget Request or if we may provide assistance preparing talking points or written comments."

"Office of Management and Budget to Hold Tribal Consultation on the FY 2023 Budget Request," Hobbs-Straus General Memorandum 21-006, September 9, 2021, [https://www.hobbsstraus.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/GM\\_21-006\\_OMB\\_to\\_Hold\\_Tribal\\_Consultation\\_on\\_the\\_FY\\_2023\\_Budget\\_Request.pdf](https://www.hobbsstraus.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/GM_21-006_OMB_to_Hold_Tribal_Consultation_on_the_FY_2023_Budget_Request.pdf), reported, **"The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) is inviting Tribal leaders to a consultation on Thursday, September 23, 2021, from 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. ET on the President's Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Budget.** The registration link is here. OMB is also accepting written comments submitted to [tribalconsultation@omb.eop.gov](mailto:tribalconsultation@omb.eop.gov) by no later than October 4, 2021.

**OMB states that Tribal leaders and their designees are invited to provide comments and recommendations on the following:**

**Specific feedback on the highest priority programs and activities recommended for investment** in the FY 2023 budget, including associated funding levels. OMB says that Tribal leaders' **feedback on the treatment of these programs and activities in the FY 2023 President's Budget in the context of those included in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act** (the Senate's bipartisan infrastructure bill, see our GM 21-005 of August 2, 2021) and the Budget Reconciliation process will be particularly helpful.

**Specific technical assistance needs to support the effective use of existing resources,** such as through the American Rescue Plan Act (COVID-19 relief), **as well as future resources,** such as those included in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the Budget Reconciliation process.

**Options for a potential mandatory funding proposal for the Department of Health and Human Services' Indian Health Service (IHS), including input on the analytical considerations in setting the level for mandatory funding and how this funding should grow in subsequent years.**

**Barriers to improvement of water infrastructure for IHS and other tribal and Federal facilities."**

"Interior Department to hold tribal consultations on the Federal Boarding School Initiative: Tribal governments, Alaska Native Corporations, and Native Hawaiian organizations invited to provide feedback on key issues for inclusion in Department report," News Release, U.S. Department of the Interior, September 30 2021, <https://indiancountrytoday.com/the-press-pool/interior-department-to-hold-tribal-consultations-on-the-federal-boarding-school-initiative>, stated, **"The Department of the Interior today announced it would begin Tribal consultations as the next step of the Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative, a comprehensive review of the troubled legacy of federal boarding school policies.**

In June, Secretary Deb Haaland announced (<https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/secretary-haaland-announces-federal-indian-boarding-school-initiative>) the Federal Boarding School Initiative directing the Department, under the supervision of Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Bryan Newland, to prepare a report detailing available historical records, with an emphasis on cemeteries or potential burial sites, relating to the federal boarding school program in preparation for future action.

In letters to Tribal leaders today, Interior invited Tribal governments, Alaska Native Corporations, and Native Hawaiian organizations to provide feedback on key issues for inclusion in the Department's report and help lay the foundation for future site work to protect potential burial sites and other sensitive information.

'I launched the Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative to begin the long healing process that our country must address in order to build a future we can all be proud to embrace. As we move forward, working with Tribal Nations is critical to addressing this legacy with transparency and accountability,' said Secretary Deb Haaland. 'Tribal consultations are at the core of this long and painful process to address the inter-generational trauma of Indian boarding schools and to shed light on the truth in a way that honors those we have lost and those that continue to suffer trauma.'

'Engaging Tribes is a necessary step as we work to shed light on what happened at federal boarding schools and chart our path forward,' said Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Bryan Newland. 'These conversations will not be easy, but they are critical as we truly investigate the legacy that these institutions left behind.'

To facilitate discussion during the consultations, participants are requested to address the following topics:

Appropriate protocols on handling sensitive information in existing records;

Ways to address cultural concerns and handling of information generated from existing records or from potential sitework activities;

Potential repatriation of human remains, including cultural concerns and compliance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act;

Future policy and procedure implementation to protect burial sites, locations, confidential information, and culturally sensitive information;

Management of sites of former boarding schools;

Privacy issues or cultural concerns to be identified as part of the Initiative; and

Other issues the Department should address in its review.

Formal consultations mark a new phase in the ongoing work of this initiative. Agency staff are currently compiling decades of files and records to facilitate a proper review to organize documents, identify available and missing information, and ensure that records systems are standardized. The Department is also building a framework for how it will partner with outside organizations to guide the next steps of review. In addition, leaders are working with the Indian Health Service to develop culturally appropriate support resources for those who might experience trauma resulting from the initiative. This work will build towards the submission of a final written report on the investigation to the Secretary by April 1, 2022."

Beth Warden, "Federal Report shows inadequate investigation harming search for Missing, Murdered Indigenous Women," Dakota News Now, November 2, 2021, <https://www.dakotanewsnw.com/2021/11/03/federal-report-shows-inadequate-investigation-harming-search-missing-murdered-indigenous-women/>, reported, "A report released by the Government Accountability Office is putting a spotlight on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, and the agencies tasked to find them.

**The report from the GAO states that the Department of Justice and the Department of the Interior have fallen behind in forming a joint commission to organize a better way to track reports and investigate missing or murdered Indigenous women."**

**Finding the procedures in implementing the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) inefficient in returning remains and items to Indian nations, the Department of the Interior was reviewing them, in August 2021, with an eye to**

**amending the regulations to speed returns** (Zachary Small, "Native American Remains Await a Return," *The New York Times*, August 7, 2021).

Susan Montoya Bryan, "Deb Haaland Seeks To Rid US of Derogatory Place Names," *The Paper*, November 28, 2021, [https://abq.news/2021/11/deb-haaland-seeks-to-rid-us-of-derogatory-place-names/?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=The+Paper.+Subscriber&utm\\_campaign=b3fded14f7-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2021\\_11\\_26\\_05\\_22&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_f8e2121d66-b3fded14f7-68116799&mc\\_cid=b3fded14f7&mc\\_eid=822e39214e](https://abq.news/2021/11/deb-haaland-seeks-to-rid-us-of-derogatory-place-names/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=The+Paper.+Subscriber&utm_campaign=b3fded14f7-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2021_11_26_05_22&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f8e2121d66-b3fded14f7-68116799&mc_cid=b3fded14f7&mc_eid=822e39214e), reported, **"U.S. Interior Secretary Deb Haaland on Friday formally declared 'squaw' a derogatory term and said she is taking steps to remove it from federal government use and to replace other derogatory place names.**

**Haaland is ordering a federal panel tasked with naming geographic places to implement procedures to remove what she called racist terms from federal use."**

"Deb Haaland Signs Montana Tribes Water Rights Compact," *ICT*, September 23, 2021, [https://mcusercontent.com/ee83519a17075b9d5a2c44042/files/742c1637-e434-fbef-9325-3b6201bd5934/9.23.21\\_The\\_Weekly.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/ee83519a17075b9d5a2c44042/files/742c1637-e434-fbef-9325-3b6201bd5934/9.23.21_The_Weekly.pdf), reported that implementing a 2015 congressional act, **"Interior Secretary Deb Haaland signed the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes water rights compact** on Friday, settling a decades-long battle over thousands of individual water rights in Montana and on the Flathead Indian Reservation. The deal also created a \$1.9 billion trust to settle claims and refurbish the Flathead Indian Irrigation Project in Montana.

The tribes have claims to more than 10,000 water rights beyond their reservation land. The compact offered a deal where the tribes relinquished their claims to most of the water outside of the reservation.

In exchange, the tribes will receive 211 water rights on their reservation, 10 water rights outside of the reservation and co-ownership of 58 other water rights, along with the funding."

Mark Walker and Chris Cameron, "After Denying Care to Black Natives, Indian Health Service Reverses Policy: The shift comes as the Biden administration pressures Native tribes in Oklahoma to desegregate their constitutions to comply with treaty obligations," *The New York Times*, October 8, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/10/08/us/politics/indian-health-service-freedmen.html>, reported, **"The Indian Health Service announced this week that Black Native Americans in the Seminole Nation, known as the Freedmen, will now be eligible for health care through the federal agency,** which previously denied them coronavirus vaccinations and other care.

**The shift in policy comes as the Biden administration and members of Congress are pressuring the Seminole and other Native tribes in Oklahoma to desegregate their constitutions and include the Freedmen, many of whom are descendants of Black people who had been held as slaves by the tribes, as full and equal citizens of their tribes under post-Civil War treaty obligations."** Some Oklahoma Tribes with separate Black rolls already have included those related to them as tribal member.

Mark Walker, "Indian Health Service 'Willfully Ignored' Sexual Abuse by Doctor, Report Finds: The independent inquiry, kept private until now, says agency leaders feared that addressing accusations of misconduct by a pediatrician would be 'awkward,'" *The New York*

*Times*, October 5, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/10/05/us/politics/indian-health-service-willfully-ignored-sexual-abuse-by-doctor-report-finds.html>, reported, **"An independent report commissioned by the Indian Health Service found that officials at the federal agency silenced and punished whistle-blowers in an effort to protect a doctor who sexually abused boys on several Native American reservations for decades.**

At the same time, the report, written early last year but kept private until now, **found that members of I.H.S. management 'willfully ignored or actively suppressed any efforts to address the dangers themselves.'**"

"Much-Needed Indian Medical Center May Be Constructed Near Gallup," *The Paper*, November 10th, 2021, [https://abq.news/2021/11/much-needed-indian-medical-center-may-be-constructed-near-gallup/?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=The+Paper.+Subscriber&utm\\_campaign=7cf12838aa-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2021\\_11\\_10\\_10\\_22&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_f8e2121d66-7cf12838aa-68116799&mc\\_cid=7cf12838aa&mc\\_eid=822e39214e](https://abq.news/2021/11/much-needed-indian-medical-center-may-be-constructed-near-gallup/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=The+Paper.+Subscriber&utm_campaign=7cf12838aa-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2021_11_10_10_22&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f8e2121d66-7cf12838aa-68116799&mc_cid=7cf12838aa&mc_eid=822e39214e), reported that, with the Indian Health Service facility, built in the 1950s subject to many complaints for its lack of infrastructure and equipment, **the Indian Health Service (IHS) "has entered into an agreement with the Navajo Nation to assess whether a location on the eastern outskirts of Gallup is the most suitable site for construction of a new medical center.**

Indian Health Service spokesperson Jenny Notah said \$17 million has been appropriated for planning and evaluation work for the project.

The balance of the projected cost of \$615 million awaits congressional appropriation, Notah told the Gallup Independent."

"Economic Development Administration Final Rule Expands the Definition of Tribal Entities Eligible to Receive Certain Grants to Include For-Profit Tribal Corporations," Hobbs-Straus General Memorandum 21-007, September 24, 2021, [https://hobbsstraus.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/GM\\_21-007\\_EDA\\_Final\\_Rule\\_Expands\\_the\\_Definition\\_of\\_Tribal\\_Entities\\_Eligible\\_to\\_Receive\\_Certain\\_Grants.pdf](https://hobbsstraus.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/GM_21-007_EDA_Final_Rule_Expands_the_Definition_of_Tribal_Entities_Eligible_to_Receive_Certain_Grants.pdf), reported, "On September 24, 2021, **the Economic Development Administration (EDA) of the U.S. Department of Commerce published a final rule** (<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2021/09/24/2021-20633/permitting-additional-eligible-tribal-entities>) **in the FEDERAL REGISTER to expand the definition of Tribal entities eligible to receive grants under the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (PWEDA) to include for-profit Tribal corporations so long as they are wholly owned by, and established exclusively for the benefit of, a Tribe. Previously, EDA's regulations limited the types of eligible tribal entities to non-profits. The final rule is effective today.**

Background. The PWEDA was enacted to provide grants for public works and development facilities, other financial assistance and the planning and coordination needed to alleviate conditions of substantial and persistent unemployment and underemployment in economically distressed areas and regions. **PWEDA defines 'Indian Tribe' as any Indian tribe, band, nation, pueblo, or other organized group or community, including any Alaska Native village or Regional Corporation (as defined in or established under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.)), that is recognized as eligible for the special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of their**



**status as Indians. 42 U.S.C. 3122(7). Further, 'Indian Tribes', as defined by PWEDA, are eligible for a 100% grant rate, across all of EDA's PWEDA programs.**

Reasoning. The notice explains that, 'In deference to the special government-to-government relationship that exists between the U.S. Government and [Indian tribes] and recognizing their sovereign interest in determining their own organizational arrangements, EDA has historically interpreted the term 'Indian Tribe' broadly to include a range of Tribally controlled entities in addition to an Indian tribe's primary governing body ... [including] a non-profit Indian corporation (restricted to Indians), Indian authority, or other non-profit Indian tribal organization or entity; provided that the Indian tribal organization or entity is wholly owned by, and established for the benefit of, the Indian Tribe or Alaska Native Village.' However, in the notice EDA states they were not able to find supporting language or documentation that explains the previous 'non-profit' limitation in the older regulations.

In the notice EDA acknowledges that, 'Under Federal policies of self-determination, Tribes play a similar role as state and local governments and are generally responsible for providing basic services within the Tribe (e.g., roads, water, electricity, and telecommunications). To generate revenue to provide these services, Tribes can create corporations to participate in the private marketplace through tourism, manufacturing, and services sectors.'

Change Made by the Final Rule. EDA explains in the notice that, 'Under the new definition of 'Indian Tribe,' a for-profit entity may be eligible for EDA assistance provided that it is wholly owned by a Tribe and organized for the benefit of the Tribe. Eligibility is not limited to any particular type of entity. Indian corporations, Section 17 corporations, state-chartered corporations, and Limited Liability Corporations (among others) are all potentially eligible.'

**"Truth And Healing Commission On Indian Boarding School Policies In The U.S.,**  
"The National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition, visited November 20, 2021, [https://boardingschoolhealing.org/truthcommission/?bbeml=tp-pck9Q6QNPEiuBt3JmyTokQ.j7n9nqw-kqkKmyrca3TtTog.rzt2ZI6Ejr06hiI2ygqVJkA.lBAI\\_yLrMuU2WGLQqbigXWg](https://boardingschoolhealing.org/truthcommission/?bbeml=tp-pck9Q6QNPEiuBt3JmyTokQ.j7n9nqw-kqkKmyrca3TtTog.rzt2ZI6Ejr06hiI2ygqVJkA.lBAI_yLrMuU2WGLQqbigXWg), reported.

#### **"Why a Truth and Healing Commission**

We have a right to know the truth of what happened in Indian boarding schools in the United States.

Over the course of a century, hundreds of thousands of our children were taken or coerced away from our families and Tribes and forced to attend government-sanctioned Indian boarding schools. These schools were tools of assimilation and cultural genocide, resulting in the loss of language and culture and the permanent separation of children from their families. To date, there has never been an accounting of:

the number of children forced to attend these schools;

the number of children who were abused, died, or went missing while at these schools;

and

the long-term impacts on the children and the families of children forced to attend Indian boarding schools.

We have a limited amount of time to hear directly from survivors and record their stories. A Congressional Commission is needed to locate and analyze the records from the 367+ known Indian boarding schools that operated in the U.S. A Commission would also bring together boarding school survivors with a broad cross-section of tribal representatives and experts in

education, health, and children and families to fully express and understand the impacts of this federal policy of Indian child removal.

'We are in a moment in history where the wound of unresolved grief from Indian boarding schools is being ripped wide open. The truth is being unearthed and yet so much more is still unknown. It is time for a federal Truth Commission to provide answers to the thousands of relatives of those children who were taken, went missing, or died at these schools. The Truth and Healing Commission on U.S. Indian Boarding School Policies will be the beginning of profound healing for the Indigenous Peoples of this country.'

- Christine Diindiisi McCleave, CEO of the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition

NABS was formed in 2012, in part to advocate for the establishment of a federal commission on U.S. Indian Boarding Schools, similar to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission on Canada's Residential Schools. For years, NABS has been part of a grassroots movement of Native academics, researchers, tribal leaders, and boarding school survivors and descendants who are seeking truth, justice, and healing. The work to introduce a congressional commission has been underway for almost a decade.

# Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies



## BACKGROUND FROM THE NATIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN BOARDING SCHOOL HEALING COALITION (NABS)

**We have a right to know the truth about what happened in Indian boarding schools in the United States.** Over the course of a century, hundreds of thousands of our children were taken or coerced away from our families and Tribes and forced to attend government-sanctioned Indian boarding schools. These schools were tools of assimilation and cultural genocide, resulting in the loss of language and culture and the permanent separation of children from their families. Survivors of Indian boarding schools have described physical, sexual, psychological, and spiritual abuse and neglect, while many other children died while in the custody of these schools, unable to share their stories.

To date, there has never been an accounting of:

- (1) the number of children forced to attend these schools;
- (2) the number of children who were abused, died, or went missing while at these schools; and
- (3) the long-term impacts on the children and the families of children forced to attend Indian boarding schools.

Developing a complete picture of the ongoing impact Indian boarding schools have had on generations of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian people, is critical to providing a path toward healing for individuals, families and Tribal communities that have endured the devastating consequences of Indian boarding school policies.

**NABS has conducted independent research for nearly 10 years and has identified at least 367 schools that operated in the U.S. We only know the location of records for 38% of the 367 schools and only a fraction of those have been analyzed.**

## WHY A TRUTH AND HEALING COMMISSION ON INDIAN BOARDING SCHOOLS IS NEEDED

A Congressional Commission is needed to locate and analyze the records from the 367+ known Indian boarding schools that operated in the U.S. These records are scattered across federal, state, hospital and church archives, private collections, and other unknown repositories, and may take years to fully document. In addition to the search for records, a Commission would also bring together boarding school survivors with a broad cross-section of tribal representatives and experts in education, health, and children and families to fully express and understand the impacts of this federal policy of Indian child removal.

As we have seen in Canada, the truth will eventually emerge about what is buried on Indian boarding school grounds. We have a limited amount of time to hear directly from survivors and record their stories. A Congressional Commission will help ensure that accounts of Indian boarding schools—told by survivors, families, and presently undisclosed records—are preserved, that our children who were forced to attend these schools are not forgotten, and that this destructive era of U.S. Indian policy is acknowledged so that future generations may understand this dark history and strive to do better.

## KEY PROVISIONS

**A Full Inquiry into the Assimilative Policies of U.S. Indian Boarding Schools**

- **Examines the location of children:** The investigation must locate and document all children still buried at or near boarding school facilities.
- **Documents ongoing impacts from boarding schools:** The Commission will compile evidence of the ongoing effects of intergenerational trauma in American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian communities. It will also examine how assimilative policies attempted to destroy Native languages and cultures.
- **Locates church and government records:** The Commission will locate and analyze all records on Indian boarding schools. The targeted records include those related to attendance, infirmary, deaths, land, and other correspondences. The Commission will have the power to issue subpoenas to produce all records.

**Collection of Testimony from Survivors, Tribes, and Subject Matter Experts:**

- **Culturally-appropriate public hearings:** Provides a public forum for survivors, victims, families, communities, Native organizations, and tribal leaders to provide testimony on the impacts of Indian boarding schools.

- **Institutional knowledge gathering:** Testimony will be taken from those who have documents and institutional knowledge relating to Indian Boarding School Policies, including but not limited to testimony from churches, the federal government, state and local governments, individuals, and organizations.

**Creation and Dissemination of Commission Findings and Recommendations:**

- **Shares findings publicly:** Requires a final report on findings and recommendations to be shared with the public and the U.S. government within 5 years.
- **Provides recommendations:** Requires a list of recommendations for legislation and administrative actions to address the impacts of Federal Indian Boarding School Policies, expanding upon pre-established goals such as: investing in restoration of culture and language, and establishing trauma-informed resources.

**Builds upon the Department of the Interior Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative:** Compiles all previous research and brings together partners for a comprehensive review of Federal Indian Boarding School Policies and their impacts, expanding upon the work of the DOI Initiative in order to know the magnitude of loss of human life.

Learn more at: [boardingschoolhealing.org/truthcommission](http://boardingschoolhealing.org/truthcommission)

Download Fact Sheet

The announcement by U.S. Interior Secretary Debra Haaland of the Department of the Interior’s Federal Indian Boarding School Truth Initiative in June this year is an important first step in the federal government taking accountability for revealing the truth, but we believe a Congressional Commission is the most comprehensive approach to developing a complete picture of the ongoing impact Indian boarding schools have had on generations of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian people. This is critical to providing a path toward healing for individuals, families and Tribal communities that have endured the devastating consequences of Indian boarding school policies.

NABS has conducted independent research for nearly 10 years and has identified at least 367 schools that operated in the U.S. We only know the location of records for 38% of the 367 schools and only a fraction of those records have been analyzed.

Read our publication *Healing Voices Volume 1: A Primer on American Indian and Alaska Native Boarding Schools in the U.S.*

Key Provisions of the Bill

Examines the location of children

Documents ongoing impacts from boarding schools

Locates church and government records

Holds culturally-appropriate public hearings to collect testimony from survivors and descendants.

Institutional knowledge gathering from subject matter experts

Shares findings publicly

Provides a final report with a list of recommendations for justice and healing

How to Support

Resolutions: Work on having your Tribal Nation, organization, city, or other legislative bodies pass a resolution in support of a Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding Schools. If you are interested in templates for a resolution, please see the "resolutions" section below.

Political engagement: We encourage you to reach out to your Tribal Council, Senators, Representatives, national, state, and local politicians and speak with them about the history of Indian Boarding Schools, how they have impacted your family, and what you would like to see done on the topic. You can set a meeting with legislators, send emails, or start a letter or phone campaign.

Spread the word: Share posts from @nabshc on Instagram and Twitter. Help build the grassroots movement for #TruthJusticeHealing from Indian boarding schools."

"Departments of the Interior, Education, and Health & Human Services Launch Multi-Agency Initiative to Protect and Preserve Native Languages: Interagency efforts will align federal language preservation programs to ensure the viability of Native languages," *IndianZ.Com*, <https://www.indianz.com/News/2021/11/15/biden-administration-announces-native-language-initiative/>, November 15, 2021, <https://www.indianz.com/News/2021/11/15/biden-administration-announces-native-language-initiative/>, reported,

*The following is the text of a November 15, 2021, news release from the Department of the Interior.*

**"The U.S. Departments of the Interior, Education and Health and Human Services launched a new interagency initiative today to preserve, protect, and promote the rights and freedom of Native Americans to use, practice, and develop Native languages.**

The announcement was made as part of the 2021 White House Tribal Nations Summit, which brings government officials and leaders from federally recognized Tribes together to discuss ways the federal government can invest in and continue to strengthen the nation-to-nation relationship and ensure that progress in Indian Country endures for years to come.

**The three agencies joined five others in signing a memorandum of agreement (MOA) to further the Native American Languages Act of 1990 by establishing new goals and programs that support the protection and preservation of Native languages spoken by federally recognized American Indian and Alaska Native Tribes, Native Hawaiians, and other Native American groups in the United States. The MOA reaffirms the establishment**

of an annual national summit on Native languages, which will take place this year on November 18-19, 2021."

"Reclamation awards \$9.9M to tribes for drought response: The Bureau of Reclamation awarded funds to 31 tribes in 12 states, for drought response water projects, through the Native American Affairs Technical Assistance to Tribes Program," *Water World*, November 29, 2021, <https://www.waterworld.com/drinking-water/infrastructure-funding/press-release/14214649/reclamation-awards-99m-to-tribes-for-drought-response>, reported, "Last week, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation announced that 31 tribes in 12 states will receive \$9.9 million for drought response water projects through the Native American Affairs Technical Assistance to Tribes Program."

The funding will be provided to Tribes as grants or cooperative agreements. The projects selected are:

Big Valley Treatment Plant Improvements, \$350,000 (California)  
Chemehuevi Wastewater Extension, \$400,000 (California)  
Cherokee Mankiller-Soap Water Study, \$400,000 (Oklahoma)  
Choctaw Arbuckle-Simpson Aquifer Study, \$199,844 (Oklahoma)  
Choctaw Blue River Water Supply Analysis, \$56,020 (Oklahoma)  
Cow Creek Water Resource Assessment, \$399,748 (Oregon)  
Fallon Paiute-Liner Appraisal Study, \$379,000 (Nevada)  
Fort Belknap Spring & Well Improvements, \$300,000 (Montana)  
Havasupai Bar Four Treatment System Improvements, \$406,000 (Arizona)  
Hopi Power Extension, \$368,733 (Arizona)  
Isleta Pueblo Mound Rio Erosion Control, \$150,000 (New Mexico)  
Jemez Pueblo Pecos Diversion Dam Improvements, \$250,000 (New Mexico)  
Klamath Stock Watering Wells, \$375,000 (Oregon)  
Lower Brule Sioux Water Meters Installation, \$398,265 (South Dakota)  
Navajo Nation Many Farms Feeder Improvements, \$300,000 (Arizona/Utah)  
Nez Perce Bedrock Creek Restoration, \$95,613 (Idaho)  
Nez Perce Little Salmon R. Restoration, \$87,589 (Idaho)  
Nez Perce LOP Exchange Well Design, \$140,000 (Idaho)  
NW Shoshone OGOI Laterals, \$142,340 (Utah)  
NW Shoshone OGOI Pipe Improvements, \$135,945 (Utah)  
NW Shoshone SCADA System, \$40,000 (Utah)  
Oglala Sioux Kyle Pumphouse Electrical Improvements, \$162,508 (South Dakota)  
Oglala Sioux No.9 Pumphouse Improvements, \$15,109 (South Dakota)  
Oglala Sioux Brotherhood Booster Pump Improvements, \$33,005 (South Dakota)  
Oglala Sioux Slim Buttes Booster RTU Upgrades, \$62,884 (South Dakota)  
Quechan Indian Flow Measurement Improvements, \$100,995 (Arizona)  
San Filipe Pueblo Phase II, \$399,998 (New Mexico)  
Santa Clara Pueblo Phase II-Main Ditch Liner, \$400,000 (New Mexico)  
Shoalwater Bay Water System Improvements, \$175,000 (Washington)  
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes Drought Plan Update, \$249,300 (Idaho)  
Shoshone-Bannock Tribes Tank Rehabilitation, \$250,000 (Idaho)  
Skokomish Meter Replacement, \$225,055 (Washington)  
Standing Rock Sioux WTP Control Extension, \$370,015 (North/South Dakota)

**Table Mountain Treatment Plant Solar, \$408,400 (California)**  
**Taos Nose Pipeline Phase II Improvements, \$400,000 (New Mexico)**  
**Tule River Water Transmission Improvements, \$397,560 (California)**  
**Twenty-Nine Palms Contingency Plan, \$220,000 (California)**  
**Umatilla Drought Planning, \$372,008 (Oregon)**  
**Ute Tribe Water Monitoring Improvements, \$10,000 (Utah)**  
**Zuni Supply Options Assessment, \$266,000 (New Mexico)."**

"USDA Indigenous Food Sovereignty Initiative," U.S. Department of Agriculture, November 16, 2021, <https://www.usda.gov/tribalrelations/usda-programs-and-services/usda-indigenous-food-sovereignty-initiative>, stated, **"The USDA Indigenous Food Sovereignty Initiative (PDF, 86.4 KB) promotes traditional food ways, Indian Country food and agriculture markets, and indigenous health through foods tailored to American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) dietary needs. USDA is partnering with tribal-serving organizations on seven projects to reimagine federal food and agriculture programs from an indigenous perspective and inform future USDA programs and policies.**

#### **Cooperative Agreements**

##### **Native American Food Sovereignty Alliance**

##### **Tribal seed saving through programs and policy**

The Native American Food Sovereignty Alliance's Indigenous Seed Keepers Network (ISKN) provides educational resources, mentorship training, outreach, and advocacy support on seed policy issues, and organizes national and regional events and convenings to connect many communities who are engaging in seed saving. The USDA's Office of Tribal Relations (OTR) will partner with ISKN to provide seed cleaning mills to create two regional Indigenous seed processing hubs, create a seed bank policy for local tribal communities, and develop feasibility blueprints for emerging seed hubs. The goal of the project is to promote Indigenous cultural diversity for future generations by collecting, growing, and sharing heirloom seeds and plants. The seed saving policy template, technical training, and other developed resources will be publicly available on the ISKN and OTR websites.

Linda Black Elk & Lisa Iron Cloud

##### **Resources on sustainable, Indigenous food foraging practices**

The USDA's Office of Tribal Relations will partner with Linda Black Elk and Lisa Iron Cloud to create two regional lists and corresponding videos of ten common Indigenous, wild foraged plants that may be used for both food and medicine. Lisa Iron Cloud, a member of the Oglala Lakota Nation, is one of the most well-known experts in traditional food butchering and foraging and her cooking techniques have been featured in numerous videos. Linda Black Elk is an ethnobotanist who serves as the Food Sovereignty Coordinator at United Tribes Technical College in Bismarck, North Dakota. She specializes in teaching about Indigenous plants and their uses as food and medicine. Their videos, once available, will be published as a reference on OTR's website.

##### **North American Traditional Indigenous Food Systems (NATIFS)**

Healthy cooking videos with renowned Chef Sean Sherman (founder of the company The Sioux Chef)

North American Traditional Indigenous Food Systems (NATIFS) is dedicated to addressing the economic and health crises affecting Native communities by re-establishing Native foodways. NATIFS was co-founded by Chef Sean Sherman, Oglala Lakota, born in Pine

Ridge, S.D., who has received international acclaim for his work in the Indigenous culinary movement and is also founder of the company The Sioux Chef. The USDA's Office of Tribal Relations (OTR) will partner with NATIFS to provide healthy cooking videos that demonstrate how to incorporate Indigenous foods with Food Distribution on Indian Reservations (FDPIR) food package items. The goal of the healthy cooking video project is to improve healthy food choices by incorporating culturally relevant Indigenous foods. The healthy cooking videos will be publicly available on the FDPIR and OTR websites.

#### **Intertribal Agriculture Council**

##### **Marketing Indigenous and Native-produced foods**

The USDA's Office of Tribal Relations will partner with the Intertribal Agriculture Council's American Indian Foods Program to increase consumer and agency awareness of the abundance of products grown, produced, harvested, and made by American Indians and Alaskan Natives. Indigenous, shelf stable foods will be publicly available for display in OTR's Hall of Nations and distributed to individual consumers and agency partners. By showcasing Indigenous and Native grown foods in OTR's Hall of Nations, it will provide educational opportunities for federal agencies, other tribes, and the public about available tribally produced foods. IAC will also hire staff to expand domestic marketing opportunities for Native producers.

#### **Intertribal Buffalo Council**

##### **Promoting bison production**

The Intertribal Buffalo Council (ITBC), facilitates education and training programs, marketing strategies, and technical assistance to enable successful and self-sufficient tribal herd operations. The USDA's Office of Tribal Relations (OTR) will partner with ITBC to develop a handbook that informs cattle producers about the process to transition from cattle to bison production. The goal of the project is to help Tribal communities restore bison in Indian Country to preserve their historical, cultural, traditional, and spiritual relationship for future generations. The informational handbook will be publicly available on the ITBC and OTR websites.

#### **University of Arkansas - Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative (IFAI)**

##### **Reviewing regulations to empowering self-governance**

The University of Arkansas Indigenous Food and Agriculture Initiative (IFAI) focuses on promoting tribally driven solutions to revitalize and advance traditional food systems and diversified economic development throughout Indian Country. IFAI provides tribal governments, producers, and food businesses with educational resources, policy research, and strategic legal analysis as a foundation for building robust food economies. Through this partnership with USDA's Office of Tribal Relations, IFAI will produce a report on legislative and regulatory proposals needed to empower tribal self-governance within USDA food programs."

"U.S. park service, tourism group partner to highlight tribes," *Lakota Times*, November 4, 2021, <https://www.lakotatimes.com/articles/u-s-park-service-tourism-group-partner-to-highlight-tribes/>, reported, "The **National Park Service has partnered with a tourism association to ensure the contributions, cultures and traditions of Native Americans are incorporated into exhibits and programming at sites across the country.**

**The park service says it highlights the history of Native Americans, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians throughout the year. The five-year agreement with the American Indian Alaska Native Tourism Association will expand opportunities, officials said."**

The U.S. Department of Labor, in October 2021, posted a proposed rule under ERISA that would make it easier for people to choose environmental and social investments in retirement plans, including as defaults (Tara Siegel Bernard, "Biden Plan Would Encourage Socially Conscious Investing," *The New York Times*, October 14, 2021).

Vincent Schilling, "Wilma Mankiller's Greatness Minted Onto 2022 Quarter," *ICT*, June 17, 2021, [https://mcusercontent.com/ee83519a17075b9d5a2c44042/files/e0ecb8c6-e91e-41ae-c10c-224d5bda1087/6.17.21\\_The\\_Weekly.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/ee83519a17075b9d5a2c44042/files/e0ecb8c6-e91e-41ae-c10c-224d5bda1087/6.17.21_The_Weekly.pdf), reported, **"The first female principal chief of the Cherokee Nation will be stamped onto the 2022 quarters, the U.S. Mint announced."**

Wilma Mankiller is one of the five women appearing on the quarters as part of the American Women Quarters Program, which 'is a four-year program that celebrates the accomplishments and contributions made by women to the development and history of our country,' according to the U.S. Mint (<https://www.usmint.gov/learn/coin-and-medal-programs/american-women-quarters>). The four-year program begins in 2022 and continues until 2025."

"NCAI President Fawn Sharp Receives Diplomatic Recognition from United States at COP26," National Congress of American Indians, November 4, 2021, <https://www.ncai.org/news/articles/2021/11/04/ncai-president-fawn-sharp-receives-diplomatic-recognition-from-united-states-at-cop26>, reported, **"Today, the U.S. Department of State announced National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) President Fawn Sharp has been credentialed as a delegate during the 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26), becoming the first tribal leader elected exclusively by tribal citizens to receive diplomatic recognition from the United States."**

First Nations Development Institute reported in a December E-mail, "Colorado Peak Renamed Mestaa'ehehe Mountain," "During a December 9, 2021, meeting in Washington, D.C., the U.S. Board on Geographic Names approved the petition to rename the Clear Creek County peak in Colorado, Squaw Mountain, as Mestaa'ehehe Mountain, reports Colorado Community Media. The new name honors Owl Woman, a notable Cheyenne figure who helped maintain peaceful relations between local tribes and new settlers, and who was inducted into the Colorado Women's Hall of Fame in 1985. Read more here: [https://www.clearcreekcourant.com/stories/mtn-1215-mestaaehehe-mountain,386104?bbeml=tp-pck9Q6QNPEiuBt3JmyTokQ.jAYeqA8JWck2L\\_OFM1\\_G0BA.rG9RAYASebEeM7bVI\\_zKuMg.lsGoqbJRO0U2d7cpUzZhZCg](https://www.clearcreekcourant.com/stories/mtn-1215-mestaaehehe-mountain,386104?bbeml=tp-pck9Q6QNPEiuBt3JmyTokQ.jAYeqA8JWck2L_OFM1_G0BA.rG9RAYASebEeM7bVI_zKuMg.lsGoqbJRO0U2d7cpUzZhZCg)

### **Federal Indian Budgets**

Hannah Grover "‘This is the time.’ Stansbury seeks funding for Pueblo irrigation infrastructure," *New Mexico Political Report*, September 20, 2021, [https://nmpoliticalreport.com/2021/09/20/this-is-the-time-stansbury-seeks-funding-for-pueblo-irrigation-infrastructure/?utm\\_source=Environment+Wrap-Up&utm\\_campaign=165eb0d8f8-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2017\\_07\\_12\\_COPY\\_01&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_be5ca4cdac-165eb0d8f8-142253585&mc\\_cid=165eb0d8f8&mc\\_eid=cde7993ced](https://nmpoliticalreport.com/2021/09/20/this-is-the-time-stansbury-seeks-funding-for-pueblo-irrigation-infrastructure/?utm_source=Environment+Wrap-Up&utm_campaign=165eb0d8f8-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2017_07_12_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_be5ca4cdac-165eb0d8f8-142253585&mc_cid=165eb0d8f8&mc_eid=cde7993ced), **"The Pueblo people have been farming along the Rio Grande since time immemorial, but funding is needed for**



**the infrastructure to keep this practice going**, according to U.S. Rep. Melanie Stansbury, who worked to get **\$200 million included in the reconciliation package for that purpose.**"

"There are **\$280 million of identified needs for irrigation infrastructure for 18 Pueblos in the Rio Grande Basin**. There are 19 Pueblos in New Mexico, but **Zuni Pueblo, which is located in the Colorado River watershed, is not included**. After meeting with Pueblo leaders, Stansbury said she worked with House Committee on Natural Resources Chairman Raúl Grijalva, an Arizona Democrat, to get some funding included in the reconciliation package."

## **In the Courts**

### **The U.S. Supreme Court**

Jessica Douglas, "Supreme Court ruling fails to protect Indigenous voters: In *Brnovich v. DNC*, the court has made it harder for people of color — especially Indigenous populations — to vote," *ICT*, <https://indiancountrytoday.com/news/supreme-court-ruling-fails-to-protect-indigenous-voters>, reported that, increasingly, the current supreme court majority has allowed the states and localities very wide discretion in regulating voting, undermining many voting rights protections, "On July 1, 2021, **the Supreme Court released its decision in a prominent voting rights case that Indigenous activists and attorneys say will make it harder for people of color — especially Indigenous populations — to vote.**

In the case, *Arizona Attorney General Mark Brnovich v. Democratic National Committee*, the court looked at whether a pair of voting policies in Arizona violated Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act, a provision that prohibits voting laws or practices that discriminate on the basis of race, color or language. In a 6-3 vote split between its conservative and liberal judges, the court upheld Arizona's policy disqualifying any ballot cast in the wrong precinct as well as a 2016 law that made it a felony for anyone but a family member, household member or caregiver to return another person's mail ballot — a method known as ballot harvesting or collecting, often used by get-out-the-vote groups to increase turnout.

**The majority was not moved by the fact that for many Native people the ballot box might be 45 minutes to two hours away, and that since many people do not have cars, to date, some with a working vehicle would collect ballots and take them to the polling place.**

"NCAI on U.S. Supreme Court Decision in *Yellen v. Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation, et al.*," National Congress of American Indian (NCAI), June 25, 2021, [https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/20pdf/20-543\\_3e04.pdf](https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/20pdf/20-543_3e04.pdf), reported and commented, "Today, **the U.S. Supreme Court issued a 6-3 decision in *Yellen v. Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation, et al.***, ([https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/20pdf/20-543\\_3e04.pdf](https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/20pdf/20-543_3e04.pdf)) **holding that Alaska Native Corporations (ANCs) are included in the definition of “Indian tribes” under the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (ISDA) and thus eligible for funding under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.** The Court stated that the ruling 'does not 'vest ANCs with new and untold tribal powers,'" but rather "confirms the powers Congress expressly afforded ANCs and that the Executive Branch has long understood ANCs to possess."

"The relationship between Tribal Nations and the federal government was born out of conflict and it has fallen upon every generation to carry forward our inherent tribal sovereignty to serve our tribal citizens. We must continue to all work together with the United States to

actively support strong Nation-to-Nation relationships,' said NCAI President Fawn Sharp. 'NCAI looks forward to continuing our work representing tribal governments and working with Alaska Native Corporations, tribal partners, and other allies to ensure that the United States meets its treaty obligations and its trust responsibilities to moving forward.'"

### Lower Federal Courts

Mary Annette Pember, "Federal court affirms health care as treaty right: Court declares 1868 Treaty of Fort Laramie guarantees competent health care," *ICT*, September 1, 2021, <https://indiancountrytoday.com/news/federal-court-affirms-health-care-as-treaty-right>, reported, **"Native people may now claim a higher legal authority in calling for health services. The 8th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled 2-1 on Aug. 25 that healthcare is a treaty right guaranteed to the Rosebud Sioux Tribe by the 1868 Treaty of Fort Laramie."**

"Church, a citizen of the Cheyenne River Sioux tribe, noted that per capita spending by the Indian Health Service is considerably less than other federal health care services. For instance, IHS spends \$3,779 per user versus Medicaid which spends \$8,093 per user." It is up to Congress to fulfil U.S. treaty obligations, but the hope is that the decision will increase pressure for the federal government to do much more to equalize health care.

The present case arose from the 2016 case of *Rosebud Sioux tribe v. United States of America et al* protesting the closure of the IHS' emergency room on the reservation.

David Shaw, "Court rejects plea to reconsider Cayuga Nation ruling: 'The Cayuga Nation is committed to protecting the businesses that support programs and benefits for Nation citizens ...'" *ICT*, September 1, 2021, D <https://indiancountrytoday.com/news/court-rejects-plea-to-reconsider-cayuga-nation-ruling>, reportedm "On Aug. 20, **the Second Circuit Court of Appeals**[, upholding a District Court decision by Judge David Hurd,] **rejected the village [of Union Springs, NY]'s petition that it reconsider its July 27 decision prohibiting the village [Cayuga County] from enforcing anti-gaming and building code laws aimed at shutting down a Class II gaming operation in a renovated former Napa Auto Parts Store on Route 90 [operated by the Cayuga Nation]."**

"Hurd ruled in favor of Cayuga Nation, saying the Federal Indian Gaming Regulatory Act exempts the village's local ordinances and sovereign immunity prevents the village from enforcing its criminal and civil laws against the nation and its leaders and prohibited local interference with nation gaming operations anywhere within the tribe's original 64,015-acre reservation in Cayuga and Seneca counties, established in 1795 and not disestablished since then."

"Cherokee Nation's \$75 Million Settlement in Opioid Lawsuit is Largest in Tribe's History," *Native News Online*, September 28, 2021, <https://www.nativenewsonline.net/health/cherokee-nation-s-75-million-in-opioid-lawsuit-is-largest-settlement-tribe-s-history>, reported that in the largest settlement in Cherokee Nation history, **"The Cherokee Nation on Tuesday announced three of the nation's largest drug distributors will pay it \$75 million to settle legal claims that the companies created an opioid crisis on Cherokee tribal lands. The deal is the first of its kind with a tribal government."**

The Cherokee Nation filed the lawsuit in 2017, after it was determined that pharmaceutical distributors flooded Cherokee Nation communities with nearly 200 million opioid painkillers in a two year span. The over abundance equated to 153 opioid pills per individual living in Cherokee Nation communities."

Nancy Marie Spears, "Quapaw addresses new criminal justice center, *McGirt* application: 'The Lawhorn decision rightfully affirms what we have always known – The Quapaw Nation is Indian Country'," *ICT*, October 27, 2021, <https://indiancountrytoday.com/news/quapaw-addresses-new-criminal-justice-center-mcgart-application>, reported, "Members of the Quapaw Nation Business Committee and representatives from the U.S. Attorney's Office **Northern District of Oklahoma** held a news conference Thursday to **commemorate an Oklahoma's district court ruling affirming the tribe's reservation**, according to a statement from the tribe.

"Tribal leaders also addressed in the news conference **strides the tribe has made in preparation for the jurisdiction transfer that has ensued after the McGirt application, including opening a \$4 million courts and criminal justice center** less than two years ago."

**The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) filed suit in Federal District Court challenging two new Montana voting restriction bills that make it more difficult for American Indians to vote: H.B. 176, which eliminates voter registration on election day, and H.B. 350, which limits ballot collection on rural reservations** ("The New Battle for Voting Rights," *ACLU Magazine*, fall 2021; and Maggie Astor, "Montana Puts Miles Between Its Tribes and the Ballot Box," *The New York Times*, July 6, 2021).

Anita Snow, "**Apaches ask court to back bid to save Oak Flat**: The mountainous area in Arizona has ancient oak groves and traditional plants that tribal citizens say are essential to their religion and culture," *ICT*, October 22, 2021, <https://indiancountrytoday.com/news/apaches-ask-court-to-back-bid-to-save-oak-flat>, reported, "**An attorney for citizens of the San Carlos Apache tribe on Friday asked the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco to back their efforts to halt the transfer of central Arizona land that they consider sacred to a copper mining company.**

'We are talking about the survival of the Apache people,' attorney Luke Goodrich told the panel, arguing that an end to religious activities on the **land known as Oak Flat** would help spell an end to the tribe."

"Wisconsin Tribes Sue the State for Treaty Violations Over Wolf Hunt: Six Ojibwe tribes challenge the planned November hunt," Earth Justice, September 21, 2021, <https://earthjustice.org/news/press/2021/wisconsin-tribes-sue-the-state-for-treaty-violations-over-wolf-hunt?bbeml=tp-pck9Q6QNPEiuBt3JmyTokQ.jtHSuJ4tyCkCKaxiTm6K0Fw.rLCIq705lFEmd59Kt87Bm0Q.lxH z84eCiakOoSumj6HTy7A>, stated, Contacts: Maggie Caldwell, Earthjustice, (347) 527-6397, [mcaldwell@earthjustice.org](mailto:mcaldwell@earthjustice.org), John Johnson, Sr., President, Lac du Flambeau Tribe, (715) 439-3321, [JJohnsonsr@ldftribe.com](mailto:JJohnsonsr@ldftribe.com), Marvin Defoe, Red Cliff Tribe, (715) 779-3761, [marvin.defoe@redcliff-nsn.gov](mailto:marvin.defoe@redcliff-nsn.gov), Charles Rasmussen, Great Lakes Indian Fish & Wildlife Commission, (715) 209-1607, [coras@glifwc.org](mailto:coras@glifwc.org)

**"Six tribes filed a lawsuit today in the Western District of Wisconsin against the state for its planned November wolf hunt claiming the proposed hunt violates the tribes'**

**treaty rights. Wisconsin's Natural Resource Board approved a quota of 300 wolves for the upcoming November hunt, more than double the quota of 130 proposed by the Department of Natural Resources — a recommendation that is also considered by experts to be too high and not supported by scientific data and analysis.**

This November proposal follows a disastrous February hunt. The Ojibwe tribes asserted a treaty-protected right to half of the wolves in ceded territory in Wisconsin in order to protect those wolves from Wisconsin's rushed and ill-advised hunt. Nevertheless, in just three days, hunters using packs of dogs, snares, and leg-hold traps killed 218 wolves, exceeding both the state and tribal quotas, and killing up to a third of the state's population.

Earthjustice represents the tribal nations Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, the Sokaogon Chippewa Community, and St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin.

The Ojibwe word for 'wolf' is Ma'iingan, and the word to describe the people of the Great Lakes region connected to this culture is Anishinaabe.

The Following Are Statements From Representatives of The Tribal Nations And Earthjustice:

'In our treaty rights, we're supposed to share with the state 50-50 in our resources and we're feeling that we're not getting our due diligence because of the slaughter of wolves in February,' said John Johnson, Sr., president of Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians. 'The out of state hunters are petitioning the courts just so they can hunt, not to protect the resources. The Ojibwe are accountable for everything when we hunt, fish, and gather any resources. The state goes off estimates. Last year they shot 480 more black bears than they should have, and they said it will work itself out in a five year time period. This is a pattern they established. We're looking out for the next seven generations of our children. When we know it's wrong to hunt, we don't harvest. We step back and assess the damage. We take care of our community in a good way as others should. Miigwech (thank you).'"

'Ma'iingan is telling us to put into practice the art of listening. We believe there's a reason why things happen,' said Marvin Defoe, Red Cliff Tribe's representative on the Voigt Inter-Tribal Task Force. 'That listening is part of what's going on with the world. To the Anishinaabe, the Ma'iingan are our brothers. The legends and stories tell us as brothers we walk hand in hand together. What happens to the Ma'iingan happens to humanity.'

'The Ojibwe understand that a healthy wolf population is critical to a healthy ecosystem. The bands have asserted their treaty-protected rights to their share of the wolves to ensure that a healthy wolf population is protected in Wisconsin.' said Gussie Lord, Earthjustice Managing Attorney of Tribal Partnerships. 'The state trampled the tribes' rights, and we are in court today to try to make sure it doesn't happen again.'

This new lawsuit accompanies an existing challenge by Earthjustice to the Trump administration's decision to remove wolves from the Endangered Species Act. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service made its decision against the advice of scientists who say wolves are still functionally extinct in the vast majority of the places they once inhabited and need continued federal protections in order to survive and recover.

On Sept. 14, 2021, groups representing nearly 200 tribes signed a letter to Department of Interior Secretary Deb Haaland demanding the restoration of Endangered Species protections to wolves nationwide.

Traditional ecological knowledge and western science both show us that wolves have a legitimate and important ecological role on the landscape. Scientists and the general public have

joined the tribes in moving beyond the historical myths that have driven wolf persecution in Wisconsin. The tribes assert that some members of the Wisconsin Natural Resource Board cling to a false narrative that not only weakens the health of ecosystems, but ignores the tribe's treaty reserved rights."

Richard Walker, "Battle Over Skagit River Dam Heads To Court," *ICT*, August 5, 2021, [https://mcusercontent.com/ee83519a17075b9d5a2c44042/files/e83aceed-97c9-6836-5c1b-c6cf86c5a6bc/8.5.21\\_The\\_Weekly.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/ee83519a17075b9d5a2c44042/files/e83aceed-97c9-6836-5c1b-c6cf86c5a6bc/8.5.21_The_Weekly.pdf), reported, **"The City of Seattle gets 20 percent of its electricity from three dams** built more than 100 miles north of the city limits, on a river that is important to fish, wildlife and Coast Salish cultures.

**Three tribal governments say the dams block salmon and steelhead — on which Coast Salish people have depended since time immemorial — from reaching upriver spawning and rearing habitat.** The City of Seattle has agreed to study fish passage as part of the relicensing process for the dams, but opposes consideration of dam removal.

**The matter is now headed to federal court."**

### State and Local Courts

Amy Beth Hanson, "Montana tribes sue over Indian Education for All compliance: 'We want the children in our public schools to grow together with as much effort put towards understanding one another as possible,'" *ITC*, July 25, 2021, <https://indiancountrytoday.com/news/montana-tribes-sue-over-indian-education-for-all-compliance>," **Finding that some schools and districts are applying the mandate in Montana's Constitution and the 1999 state law putting it into effect that all school children receive education about Native American culture and heritage with materials that further stereotypes and present false histories and views of Natives, "Montana tribes and the parents of 18 students filed a lawsuit Thursday alleging state education leaders are violating a constitutional requirement to teach about the unique cultures and histories of Native Americans.**

**The lawsuit, filed in District Court in Great Falls, seeks an order to require the Board of Public Education to create specific educational standards for the Indian Education for All program and to require the superintendent of public instruction to ensure schools meet those standards and accurately report how they are spending money allocated for the program."**

### Tribal Courts

Mary Annette Pember, "Manoomin Will Have Its Day In Court," *ICT*, September 9, 2021, [https://mcusercontent.com/ee83519a17075b9d5a2c44042/files/2f234232-f7c8-30dc-6ac5-c100516714be/9.9.21\\_The\\_Weekly.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/ee83519a17075b9d5a2c44042/files/2f234232-f7c8-30dc-6ac5-c100516714be/9.9.21_The_Weekly.pdf), reported, **"On Sept. 3, a federal judge dismissed the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources motion for an injunction against the White Earth Band of Ojibwe tribal court and judge in its lawsuit, Manoomin versus Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.**

**"The federal court rightly noted that it has no authority whatsoever to enjoin a tribal court judge from hearing a tribal court law case," said Angelique EagleWoman, professor and co-director, Native American Law and Sovereignty Institute at Mitchell Hamline School of Law. "**

**"In a first of its kind legal action, opponents of Enbridge's Line 3 pipeline construction project filed a complaint in August on behalf of wild rice, or manoomin in the Ojibwe language, in White Earth tribal court claiming the Department of Natural Resources violated the rights of manoomin as well as multiple treaty rights for tribal citizens to hunt, fish and gather outside the reservation. Plaintiffs in the case say that the agency failed to protect the state's fresh water by allowing Enbridge to pump up to 5 billion gallons of groundwater from construction trenches during a drought and thus endangering the health of wild rice."**

#### **Tribal Government and State and Local Government Developments,**

"Native vote champions challenge state electoral district maps: 'COVID created a perfect storm as it pertains to the census'," *ICT*, October 27, 2021, <https://indiancountrytoday.com/news/native-vote-champions-challenge-state-electoral-district-maps>, reported, **"American Indians, who make up that demographic in South Dakota, North Dakota, and Montana, summoned 20 years of voter rights organizing to defend historic gains during the 2021 legislative district remapping exercise. Native elected leaders and community advocates locked step to crash barriers obstructing tribal representation in state and federal contests."**

'By working together, we hope to achieve fair representation for Native Americans,' Oglala Sioux President Kevin Killer testified to the committee. The head of the largest tribe in South Dakota, he encouraged consultation between state and tribal lawmakers. He called for field hearings on all nine reservations in South Dakota. 'These hearings would allow tribal members and other residents of the reservations to explain the unique challenges our communities face and how they might best be represented not just in the redistricting process, but in other areas as well,' Killer said."

Shaun Griswold, "New Mexico Aiming To Consolidate MMIWR Investigation," *ICT*, December 2, 2021, [https://mcusercontent.com/ee83519a17075b9d5a2c44042/files/3833293d-d772-492f-224f-942e446f4035/12.02.21\\_The\\_Weekly.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/ee83519a17075b9d5a2c44042/files/3833293d-d772-492f-224f-942e446f4035/12.02.21_The_Weekly.pdf), reported that **to overcome the problems of multiple policy agencies being involved on the investigation of missing and murdered indigenous women, the New Mexico Attorney General's Office is allying with the New Mexico' Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Relatives Task Force in pushing a bill that would not only establish the task force permanently but also forge a relationship with local communities to make it easier for all parties involved in a criminal investigation to consolidate efforts under the attorney general.**

**The State of Oklahoma Expanded Medicaid coverage to an additional 300,000 low income people, including many American Indians,** in September 2021. This provides assurance of coverage for many tribal members who need to seek medical care outside of the Indian Health Service, which does not always pay for such treatment (Mark Walker, "Expansion of Medicaid in Oklahoma a Lifeline to Tribal Members," *The New York Times*, September 5, 2021).

**A joint meeting of the Colorado Commission of Indian Affairs, The Colorado Department of Public Health, The Southern Ute Indian Health Center and the Denver**

**Public Library, in November 2021, discussed ways to provide culturally appropriate mental health service to Native veterans, which is often not available in rural areas of Colorado** (McKayla Lee, "State prioritizing mental health among Native Veterans," *Southern Ute Drum*, November 19, 2021).

**The Washington State Legislature, in May 2021, passed the Climate Commitment Act, which requires tribal permission of any projects undertaken on Indian Nation land, mandates that 10% of all state carbon tax revenue goes to the State's tribes and provides public funding for tribes forced to move by climate change** ("U.S.: New Legislation Requires Tribal Consent," *Cultural Survival Quarterly*, September 2021).

Stephen Groves, "Indigenous history, culture cut from South Dakota standards," Associate Press (*AP News*), August 10, 2021, <https://apnews.com/article/education-south-dakota-sd-state-wire-08683b42eebac5ae02843752fecad97a>, reported, **"Teachers, educators and other South Dakota citizens charged with crafting new state social studies standards said Tuesday that Gov. Kristi Noem's administration deleted many elements intended to bolster students' understanding of Native American history and culture from their draft standards."**

Members of the working group — appointed by the Department of Education to review and update the standards — said they were caught by surprise on Friday when the department released a document (<https://doe.sd.gov/contentstandards/documents/SS-StandardsProposed.pdf>) with significant changes. New standards are released every seven years. They said changes made to the draft they submitted in late July gave it a political edge they had tried to avoid, instead aligning with the Republican governor's rhetoric on what she calls patriotic education."

Cut from the draft recommendations of the working group were those involving American Indian history and culture, including Oceti Sakowin stories in kindergarten and study of tribal banking systems in high school.

**"Colorado Governor Rescinds John Evans Proclamation of 1864,"** *This Week@First Nations*, via E-mail, August 20, 2021, reported, "At a ceremony this week in Denver, **Gov. Jared Polis rescinded a 19th-century proclamation and others that called for citizens to kill Native Americans and take their property, in what he hopes can begin to make amends for 'sins of the past,'** reports CBS Denver ([https://denver.cbslocal.com/2021/08/17/jared-polis-1864-order-kill-native-americans/?bbeml=tp-pck9Q6QNPEiuBt3JmyTokQ.j8HXBW1aUk6EUgorTAZtSQ.rInsAjBjdGUyofvcp\\_MjWLg.lPeoxXzCZOEyJdB3wyxClg](https://denver.cbslocal.com/2021/08/17/jared-polis-1864-order-kill-native-americans/?bbeml=tp-pck9Q6QNPEiuBt3JmyTokQ.j8HXBW1aUk6EUgorTAZtSQ.rInsAjBjdGUyofvcp_MjWLg.lPeoxXzCZOEyJdB3wyxClg)). The Polis administration said these proclamations 'shamefully targeted and endangered the lives' of Indigenous people who lived in the Colorado territory at the time. **First Nations attended the Tuesday event, alongside citizens of the Southern Ute, Ute Mountain, Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes,** which was covered live by Denver's KDVR. Watch the coverage here ([https://kdvr.com/news/local/gov-polis-reversing-old-colorado-proclamation-on-american-indians/?bbeml=tp-pck9Q6QNPEiuBt3JmyTokQ.j8HXBW1aUk6EUgorTAZtSQ.rInsAjBjdGUyofvcp\\_MjWLg.lYVNBMrJaSEGNC\\_ZFRQ4-mQ](https://kdvr.com/news/local/gov-polis-reversing-old-colorado-proclamation-on-american-indians/?bbeml=tp-pck9Q6QNPEiuBt3JmyTokQ.j8HXBW1aUk6EUgorTAZtSQ.rInsAjBjdGUyofvcp_MjWLg.lYVNBMrJaSEGNC_ZFRQ4-mQ))."

Mark Walker, "For Tribal Members in Oklahoma, Medicaid Expansion Improves Access to Specialty Care: Medicaid expansion is expected to improve not just access to care for low-

income Native Americans who had previously been shut out of health insurance, but the finances of the Indian Health Service," *The New York Times*, September 4, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/09/04/us/politics/oklahoma-medicaid-indian-health-service.html>, reported that **with the Indian Health Service (IHS) often running out of money half way through the for needed outside of system health care that IHS, with a lack of experts and specialists, cannot, "That has left many families to choose between an expensive trip to a private hospital and forgoing specialized care — until now. In July, Oklahoma expanded free Medicaid coverage to an additional 200,000 low-income adults, including many tribal members, after voters passed a ballot initiative compelling the state to do so.**

Since the expansion took effect on July 1, **more than 23,000 eligible Native Americans have enrolled in the program**, according to state officials — about 13 percent of the total 171,056 people who have signed up statewide."

Carina Dominguez, "Experts say Arizona redistricting aims to diminish Native vote: Many are scrutinizing Arizona's assault on Native voting rights and hope an independent commission adopts more competitive and representative district, *ICT*, December 9, 2021, [https://mcusercontent.com/ee83519a17075b9d5a2c44042/files/a5542e55-2bd5-9a0a-903f-45f72a2ae0e7/12.09.21\\_The\\_Weekly.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/ee83519a17075b9d5a2c44042/files/a5542e55-2bd5-9a0a-903f-45f72a2ae0e7/12.09.21_The_Weekly.pdf), reported, "A representative democracy means the people choose their elected officials, not the other way around.

**Concerns about voter suppression efforts are mounting in Arizona. Many say the redistricting process is being targeted to diminish Native voting power." The Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission was set to open its redistricting plan to public comment on December 4. Many in the state hope their final plan is fair and representative. Under the amended Arizona constitution the commission has the sole authority to undertake the redistricting** (<https://irc.az.gov/about/proposition-106>)."

Cedar Attanasio, "CYFD Pledges Support For Tribal Adoptions In State Law: New Department Leader Pledges Transparency And Accountability," *The Paper*, October 12th, 2021, [http://abq.news/2021/10/cyfd-pledges-support-for-tribal-adoptions-in-state-law/?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=The+Paper.+Subscriber&utm\\_campaign=e6403573e7-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2021\\_10\\_13\\_05\\_47&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_f8e2121d66-e6403573e7-68116799&mc\\_cid=e6403573e7&mc\\_eid=822e39214e](http://abq.news/2021/10/cyfd-pledges-support-for-tribal-adoptions-in-state-law/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=The+Paper.+Subscriber&utm_campaign=e6403573e7-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2021_10_13_05_47&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f8e2121d66-e6403573e7-68116799&mc_cid=e6403573e7&mc_eid=822e39214e), reported, "In her first prepared speech Tuesday, the new leader of New Mexico's child protection department pledges to restore the agency's credibility following a series of scandals under her predecessor.

**New Mexico Children Youth and Family Department secretary Barbara J. Vigil also promised to enshrine federal law prioritizing tribal members in adoptions of Native American children into the practices of her department and state law."**

Jonathan Sims, "Indian School Graves Rediscovered Under City Park: A Plaque Goes Missing, and History Is Uncovered," *The Paper*, July 28th, 2021, [https://abq.news/2021/07/indianschools/?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=The+Paper.+Subscriber&utm\\_campaign=e64015d248-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2021\\_08\\_06\\_01\\_46&utm\\_term=0\\_f8e2121d66-e64015d248-68116799&mc\\_cid=e64015d248&mc\\_eid=822e39214e](https://abq.news/2021/07/indianschools/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=The+Paper.+Subscriber&utm_campaign=e64015d248-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2021_08_06_01_46&utm_term=0_f8e2121d66-e64015d248-68116799&mc_cid=e64015d248&mc_eid=822e39214e), "Editor's Note: The following story is the first in a series chronicling the legacy of New Mexico's Indian Boarding Schools. Our



reporter, Jonathan Sims, is a former appointed leader of the Acoma Pueblo and is himself a product of the Indian boarding school system, as were generations of his own family,

**Indian Boarding School atrocities have been in the media lately as our relatives up north in British Columbia began searching through untold histories and found the unmarked graves of 182 Indigenous children that never made it home from their residential school system. Locally, Albuquerque's tie to the big story made its way into the media when a handmade plaque tied to a tree in a city park commemorating dozens of unmarked graves of Indigenous children from Albuquerque Indian School went missing in June.** The plaque had been placed in lieu of the actual missing plaque placed in cement decades prior to acknowledge that a city park was built upon the graves of Native schoolchildren. That cement plaque had gone missing in 2017. While media focused on the missing handmade plaque, **the larger story is that city leaders and many locals had no idea the plaque was there, or what its significance was** to begin with.

Behind the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center building and the Bernalillo County Extension Office off 12th and Menaul, is a small, triangular park called 4-H Park. According to research conducted by University of New Mexico professor Dr. Ted Jojola, it is an unmarked gravesite for Indigenous children who attended the Albuquerque Indian School. Dr. Jojola's area of research is in the community and regional planning program. He says the cemetery was specifically built for AIS students. From 1883 to 1933, this small section of land was home to an estimated 60 to 100 graves of Native children. Lack of documentation from that time makes the exact number of graves hard to pinpoint. What confounded us at The Paper, was the overwhelming lack of acknowledgment from anyone about the history of this place. Albuquerque Indian School had a major impact on Indigenous children around New Mexico and was an important element in how Indian education changed in the last century. As a city memory, it is important to educate ourselves about our past and properly pay tribute to this reverent place. It is a story that includes one of the largest tracts of land that is still being developed inside the heart of the city and a place Native children throughout the region called home for better or worse. We begin with a short history of this place."

Nancy Marie Spears, "Tribal Law Enforcement Officials Say McGirt Strengthening Public Safety," *ICT*, November 4, 2021, [https://mcusercontent.com/ee83519a17075b9d5a2c44042/files/2ae1c3ad-2c73-7117-af98-5e2ad12b13dd/11.4.21\\_The\\_Weekly.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/ee83519a17075b9d5a2c44042/files/2ae1c3ad-2c73-7117-af98-5e2ad12b13dd/11.4.21_The_Weekly.pdf). reported, **"Oklahoma tribal public safety officials say the U.S. Supreme Court's McGirt ruling is strengthening momentum for improvements to public safety infrastructure in their police departments"**

**"The Choctaw and Muscogee nations have hired additional public safety officers and are entering into more cross-deputization agreements with tribal, state and federal agencies"** One result has been an almost doubling of calls to the police.

Jonathan Sims, "New Data Shows Native Families Desperately Lacking In NM Foster Care System: Foster Families Needed Even More During Pandemic, *The Paper*, November 30th, 2021, [https://abq.news/2021/11/new-data-shows-native-families-desperately-lacking-in-nm-foster-care-system/?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=The+Paper.+Subscriber&utm\\_campaign=d119af0c9f-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2021\\_11\\_30\\_10\\_42&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_f8e2121d66-d119af0c9f-68116799&mc\\_cid=d119af0c9f&mc\\_eid=822e39214e](https://abq.news/2021/11/new-data-shows-native-families-desperately-lacking-in-nm-foster-care-system/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=The+Paper.+Subscriber&utm_campaign=d119af0c9f-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2021_11_30_10_42&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f8e2121d66-d119af0c9f-68116799&mc_cid=d119af0c9f&mc_eid=822e39214e), reported, "There are **many**

fallouts from COVID-19: education, healthcare, economics, mental health and more. Some of the hardest hit communities were the Native American communities in New Mexico. According to the New Mexico Department of Health, over 50 percent of COVID deaths last year were from the Native community. At the same time, the number of Native American children entering the Children Youth and Family system increased. As we look at Native American children in the New Mexico foster care system, the need for foster families is at an all-time high. There simply aren't many foster families in the system. Not before COVID and certainly not during the pandemic. So why is that? It's a complex issue, both legally and culturally, but at the heart of it are children who need a home.

*The Paper* spoke to Therese Yanan at the Native American Disability Law Center and Bette Fleishman, director of Pegasus Legal Services for Children. They said **overall, there was actually a decrease in the number of children in the system in New Mexico. In the calendar year 2019, there were 1,525 children entered into CYFD custody. The following year 2020 that number dropped to 1,209.**" However, the number of in Native American children entering the system increased—from 134 or 6.1 percent in 2019 to 147 or 7.4 percent in 2020 because of the deaths of parents, mostly from COVID-19.

Cedar Attanasio, "New Mexico Pledges Support For Native Adoptions," *ICT*, October 14, 2021, [https://mcusercontent.com/ee83519a17075b9d5a2c44042/files/f3fcbbf5-241d-c974-8651-5e8f79de7509/10.14.21\\_The\\_Weekly.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/ee83519a17075b9d5a2c44042/files/f3fcbbf5-241d-c974-8651-5e8f79de7509/10.14.21_The_Weekly.pdf), reported, "In her first prepared speech Tuesday the new leader of New Mexico's child protection department pledges to restore the agency's credibility following a series of scandals under her predecessor.

**New Mexico Children Youth and Family Department Secretary Barbara J. Vigil also promised to enshrine federal law prioritizing tribal members in adoptions of Native American children into the practices of her department and state law."**

Scott Bauer, "Governor Issues Formal Apology For Boarding Schools," *ICT*, October 14, 2021, [https://mcusercontent.com/ee83519a17075b9d5a2c44042/files/f3fcbbf5-241d-c974-8651-5e8f79de7509/10.14.21\\_The\\_Weekly.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/ee83519a17075b9d5a2c44042/files/f3fcbbf5-241d-c974-8651-5e8f79de7509/10.14.21_The_Weekly.pdf), reported, "Gov. Tony Evers issued a formal apology Monday for Wisconsin's role in Native American boarding schools, joining with leaders from tribes in the state at an Indigenous Peoples Day event.

**Evers signed an executive order that also formally supported the previously announced U.S. Department of Interior investigation into the schools and asked that anything done in Wisconsin be conducted in consultation with the state's tribes."**

Mary Annette Pember "Shawnee Reclaim The Great Serpent Mound, *ICT*, June 24, 2021, [https://mcusercontent.com/ee83519a17075b9d5a2c44042/files/40147001-c2e6-75f7-33e0-b7001b693d22/6.24.21\\_The\\_Weekly.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/ee83519a17075b9d5a2c44042/files/40147001-c2e6-75f7-33e0-b7001b693d22/6.24.21_The_Weekly.pdf), reported, "The Summer Solstice, **June 20, the longest day of the year, marks the first time that the Shawnee tribe has officially returned to the Serpent Mound located in Ohio** to present their history and connection to this place that they called home so many years ago.

**Although it was certainly ancestors of the Shawnee people who built the magnificent serpent shaped mound, the largest earthwork effigy in the world, Ohio failed to involve the tribe in conveying its meaning to the public until now."**

Jonathan Sims "City Holds A Reflection And Healing Memorial For Albuquerque Indian School: Mayor Apologizes For History and Trauma Inflicted By Indian Boarding Schools, *The*

*Paper*, September 27th, 2021, [https://abq.news/2021/09/city-holds-a-reflection-and-healing-memorial-for-albuquerque-indian-school/?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=The+Paper.+Subscriber&utm\\_campaign=3120f6a5c4-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2021\\_09\\_27\\_11\\_34&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_f8e2121d66-3120f6a5c4-68116799&mc\\_cid=3120f6a5c4&mc\\_eid=822e39214e](https://abq.news/2021/09/city-holds-a-reflection-and-healing-memorial-for-albuquerque-indian-school/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=The+Paper.+Subscriber&utm_campaign=3120f6a5c4-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2021_09_27_11_34&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f8e2121d66-3120f6a5c4-68116799&mc_cid=3120f6a5c4&mc_eid=822e39214e), reported, "On Saturday afternoon **the city [of Albuquerque, NM] held a reflection and memorial event for Albuquerque Indian School that was long overdue. The city has been hung up over what to do with Menaul Boulevard's 4-H Park, the site of the former AIS cemetery where it is believed that an unknown number of students lie buried.** A small group of just over 60 was made up of primarily city officials, community stakeholders and some concerned individuals gathered in the rain at the Native American Community Academy, the last standing building from the Albuquerque Indian School era. Just at the start of the programming, the winds picked up and the sprinkles started. Mayor Keller, ever the optimist, decided to progress until it really started raining. Only a few remained, soaked and huddled in the small NACA cafeteria, 30 minutes later."

"City of Las Cruces Considers Changing Derogatory Street Name, *The Paper*, November 26th, 2021, [https://abq.news/2021/11/city-of-las-cruces-considers-changing-derogatory-street-name/?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=The+Paper.+Subscriber&utm\\_campaign=253fec80d1-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2021\\_11\\_26\\_07\\_35&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_f8e2121d66-253fec80d1-68116799&mc\\_cid=253fec80d1&mc\\_eid=822e39214e](https://abq.news/2021/11/city-of-las-cruces-considers-changing-derogatory-street-name/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=The+Paper.+Subscriber&utm_campaign=253fec80d1-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2021_11_26_07_35&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f8e2121d66-253fec80d1-68116799&mc_cid=253fec80d1&mc_eid=822e39214e), reported, "**The city of Las Cruces is considering whether to change a street name that contains a word that's used as a slur toward Indigenous women.**

*Las Cruces Sun-News* reports that City Councilor Johana Bencomo recently proposed to change the name of Squaw Mountain Drive."

Brian Oaster, "Bridging Cultural And Political Gaps Through Indigenous First Foods," *ICT*, November 12, 2021, [https://mcusercontent.com/ee83519a17075b9d5a2c44042/files/7afd5c2c-00ce-3f6f-a846-fe775d0e69e6/11.12.21\\_The\\_Weekly.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/ee83519a17075b9d5a2c44042/files/7afd5c2c-00ce-3f6f-a846-fe775d0e69e6/11.12.21_The_Weekly.pdf), reported, "A city isn't the most likely place for an Indigenous crop revival. But **across the greater Portland area in Oregon, municipalities like Metro and the City of Portland have been partnering with organizations and tribes to promote Native American land access and cultivation of first foods, the term used for traditional local foods that have nourished Indigenous people for centuries.**

In a city park, a drained lakebed, an old grazing lot, and along an urban creek, first foods are returning to areas where they once flourished before the land was covered by farms and urban sprawl."

### Tribal Developments

Chris Aadland, "Tribal governments adopting vaccine mandates amid COVID-19 surges: Several tribes announced vaccine requirements for tribal employees weeks before President Joe Biden's announcement earlier this month," *ICT*, September 22, 2021, <https://indiancountrytoday.com/news/tribal-governments-adopting-vaccine-mandates-amid-covid-19-surges>, reported, that with the more virulent omicron version of COVID-19 appearing, "**With President Joe Biden mandating vaccines or testing for millions of American workers,**

some tribes have signaled their support for the move by announcing their own mandates, many pre-dating the president's statement, for tribal employees."

Among the October tribal COVID-19 prevention actions, "The Blackfeet Nation recently re-implemented a mask mandate and the Oglala Sioux Nation closed schools on the Pine Ridge reservation due to an outbreak." Others early on requiring vaccinations of employees were the Red Lake Nation, Navajo Nation, Lummi Nation, Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma, San Carlos Apache Tribe, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community and the Northern Arapaho Tribe of Wyoming.

Navajo Nation, which had suffered terribly from COVID-19 early on, continued to have new cases at a much lower rate and fewer deaths. On December 15, 2021, the Nation reported **38 new cases, 38,598 recoveries, and seven more deaths related to COVID-19.** The overall total number of positive COVID-19 cases had reached **40,615, with 1569 deaths.** The numbers for the current day, and for each past day, are available at: <https://www.navajonnsn.gov/News%20Releases/OPVP/2021/Dec/FOR%20IMMEDIATE%20RELEASE%20-%2038%20new%20cases%2038598%20recoveries%20and%20seven%20more%20deaths%20related%20to%20COVID-19.pdf>.

The Southern Ute Tribe of Colorado did very well with COVID-19 before the delta variant. Only one tribal member had become infected, and that person was not on the reservation. That changed with delta. As of mid-December 2021, there had been 163 found to have the infection, 116 of whom had recovered, and 3 had died (<https://www.southernute-nnsn.gov>).

The Ute Mountain Ute Tribe of Colorado with some 1100 tribal member living on reservation (of 2116), by October 2021, about a third of the reservation's residents had been infected at some point during the COVID-19 pandemic, and at least eight tribal members had died (Robert Sanchez, "Inside the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe's Bold Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic," 5280: *Denver's Mile High Magazine*, December 2021, <https://www.5280.com/2021/12/inside-the-ute-mountain-ute-tribes-bold-response-to-the-covid-19-pandemic/>).

First Nations Development Institute announced in an October 1, 2021 E-mail, "**COVID-19, Delta Variant Support Continues for Native Communities,**" "As Native communities continue to respond to the effects of the pandemic and the ongoing threat of the delta variant, there is still support from First Nations. In September, we awarded two more rounds of COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund grants. Twenty-six more Native nations and organizations received grants, bringing the total of funds awarded to \$4,634,608.28 (<https://www.firstnations.org/covid-19-emergency-response-fund/?bbeml=tp-pck9Q6QNPEiuBt3JmyTokQ.jUpwBtnancUSveQmtaSrhwQ.r2g97KIEZ5U-uQ-yyaY1ZsQ.lOByLw2lciEOBJZutRVkz1A>). These grants can be used to support ongoing response and recovery efforts, build critical services and infrastructure, invest in communications and technology, and meet overall operating costs. "

"Yee Ha'ólníí Doo October 2021 Newsletter," via E-mail, October 2, 2021, [www.navajohopisokidarity.org](http://www.navajohopisokidarity.org), stated, "Ya' at'eeh and Loloma!"

For Diné, October is known as Gháájí and indicates a separation of the seasons. It also signifies the Navajo New Year and the beginning of storytelling.

### **COVID Relief**

We eagerly look forward to being able to move past the story of COVID on Navajo and Hopi, but in the **interim launched a Delta Relief Program on September 1 that provides isolation assistance to families with a confirmed case of COVID and families that have been exposed to a confirmed COVID case.** We made the decision to launch this second wave of COVID relief in response to the rapid doubling of weekly new cases on Navajo in the months of July and August. Please consider giving to our Relief Fund to advance this work.

### **Prevention**

**We continued our #ProtectCommunity Vaccination Campaign, but adapted it to a virtual format.** Participants in this public health education program have an opportunity to win a prize if they are fully vaccinated, and have the opportunity to earn \$50 if they get vaccinated within 2 weeks of participating in our program. We also held our first Radio Forum on KNDN, which included a live Q&A with Navajo healthcare professionals.

In October we are **launching the third phase of our Clean Hands Project to get some 250 handwashing stations into homes that lack running water so families have easier access to handwashing opportunities.**

### **Long Term Resiliency**

**To make our communities pandemic proof for the long term, we continue to advance our Community Center work. Our Tsé Bii' Ndzisgaii Community Center located in Monument Valley, Navajo Nation continues to provide resources and programs to promote entrepreneurship, youth leadership, language preservation, and food security.**

In its first two months of operation it has served 233 community members. Its most popular resources are its Business Center and Library. Center staff will offer locals Computer Skills Workshops throughout the month of October. Visitors are amazed that they are able to access these resources free of charge.

**To strengthen food security within the Navajo Nation, we partnered with local farmers to distribute fresh, organic Navajo-grown produce in a remote Navajo community.**

Please continue supporting our Relief Fund to assist with our ongoing COVID relief-related needs, and please consider giving to our new Resiliency Fund that will contribute towards our Community Centers. Links to the funds are located at the bottom of this newsletter.

Please also join us on Indigenous Peoples Day (Monday, October 11) for a special Noon Mountain Time (Navajo Time) fb live event. Watch our fb group page for more details!

Ahéhee' and Askwali,  
Yee Ha'ólníí Doo."

Mark Thiessen and Becky Bohrer, "COVID spike pushes Alaska's health care system to brink: The state's largest hospital is overwhelmed with patients and was the first weeks ago to declare crisis-of-care protocols, meaning doctors are sometimes prioritizing care based on who has the best odds of survival," *ICT*, October 6, 2021, <https://indiancountrytoday.com/news/covid-spike-pushes-alaskas-health-care-system-to-brink>, reported, **"But the battle against the coronavirus isn't over. The highly contagious delta variant is spreading across Alaska, driving one of the nation's sharpest upticks in infections and posing risks for remote outposts like Tanacross where the closest hospital is hours away."**

**The COVID-19 surge is worsened by Alaska's limited health care system that largely relies on hospitals in Anchorage, the biggest city. It's where *the state's largest hospital, Providence Alaska Medical Center, is overwhelmed with patients and was the first weeks ago to declare crisis-of-care protocols*, meaning doctors are sometimes prioritizing care based on who has the best odds of survival.**

**Since then, 19 other health care facilities in Alaska, including Anchorage's two other hospitals and Fairbanks Memorial, have also entered crisis care mode, something overtaxed facilities in other states have had to do, including Idaho and Wyoming."**

Tsanavi Spoonhunter, "Keeping a roof over their heads: Northern Arapaho housing program is a model for how to use pandemic relief funds to help families stay in their homes," *ICT*, June 16, 2021, <https://indiancountrytoday.com/news/keeping-a-roof-over-their-heads>, reported, "she [Pamela Lock ] and her son were encouraged to apply for pandemic relief funds through a special emergency program run by the Northern Arapaho Tribal Housing Department. They are now among more than 300 applicants approved so far to receive about \$830,000 in funds – an average of about \$2,400 each." **The state of Wyoming was much slower in processing requests from applicants and giving out housing grants. Finding the Northern Arapaho housing program is a model, state housing officials have sought guidance from the tribe on improving the state program.**

A study published in *The Lancet*, in October 2021, shows that in addition to being racist in impact, killings by police in the United States are underreported, perhaps only half being included in national statistics, and this likely includes Native deaths by police, not included specifically in the study, "Fatal police violence by race and state in the USA, 1980–2019: a network meta-regression." *The Lancet*, October 2, 2021, [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(21\)01609-3/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(21)01609-3/fulltext),

"Summary

#### **Background**

**The burden of fatal police violence is an urgent public health crisis in the USA. Mounting evidence shows that deaths at the hands of the police disproportionately impact people of certain races and ethnicities, pointing to systemic racism in policing. Recent high-profile killings by police in the USA have prompted calls for more extensive and public data reporting on police violence. This study examines the presence and extent of under-reporting of police violence in US Government-run vital registration data, offers a method for correcting under-reporting in these datasets, and presents revised estimates of deaths due to police violence in the USA."**

"Findings

Across all races and states in the USA, we estimate 30 800 deaths (95% uncertainty interval [UI] 30 300–31 300) from police violence between 1980 and 2018; this represents 17 100 more deaths (16 600–17 600) than reported by the NVSS. Over this time period, the age-standardised mortality rate due to police violence was highest in non-Hispanic Black people (0·69 [95% UI 0·67–0·71] per 100 000), followed by Hispanic people of any race (0·35 [0·34–0·36]), non-Hispanic White people (0·20 [0·19–0·20]), and non-Hispanic people of other races (0·15 [0·14–0·16]). This variation is further affected by the decedent's sex and shows large discrepancies between states. **Between 1980 and 2018, the NVSS did not report 55·5% (54·8–56·2) of all deaths attributable to police violence.** When aggregating all races, the age-standardised mortality rate due to police violence was 0·25 (0·24–0·26) per 100 000 in the 1980s and 0·34 (0·34–0·35) per 100 000 in the 2010s, an increase of 38·4% (32·4–45·1) over the period of study.

#### Interpretation

**We found that more than half of all deaths due to police violence that we estimated in the USA from 1980 to 2018 were unreported in the NVSS. Compounding this, we found substantial differences in the age-standardised mortality rate due to police violence over time and by racial and ethnic groups within the USA. Proven public health intervention strategies are needed to address these systematic biases. State-level estimates allow for appropriate targeting of these strategies to address police violence and improve its reporting."**

Meghan Sullivan "Following The Coronavirus Relief Funds In Alaska," *ICT*, September 30, 2021, [https://mcusercontent.com/ee83519a17075b9d5a2c44042/files/d40f58c6-97f4-9123-dbeb-5a760a9a5047/9.30.21\\_The\\_Weekly.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/ee83519a17075b9d5a2c44042/files/d40f58c6-97f4-9123-dbeb-5a760a9a5047/9.30.21_The_Weekly.pdf), reported that following a June decision by the U.S. Supreme Court that Alaska Native corporations were to receive funding under the CARES Act, **"Overall, 13 Alaska Native regional corporations and more than 150 village corporations received nearly \$450 million in relief funds.** They have until December 31, 2021, to spend it, according to the CARES Act legislation.

**Most of the corporations are planning to deploy a combination of individual shareholder payments and donations to larger assistance programs. First, they will distribute stipends directly to shareholders, based on who experienced financial setbacks during the pandemic. The remaining funds will then go towards other community initiatives, unless the corporations set aside a predetermined amount."**

Nancy Marie Spears, Beth Wallis and Mackenzie Wilkes, "COVID relief funds highlight complexity of issues: 'There were so many rules from the U.S. Department of Treasury regarding the CARES ... that made it really difficult to try to spend that money where it was needed'," *ICT*, August 26, 2021, <https://indiancountrytoday.com/news/covid-relief-funds-highlight-complexity-of-issues>, reported, **"Congress allocated a historic amount of federal funds to tribes through the 2020 CARES Act and the 2021 American Rescue Plan Act. For some Indigenous communities, those federal funds were beneficial. For others, the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted deeper systemic complexities that federal funding cannot fully address.**

**Indigenous nations across the country have experienced chronic federal underfunding, which has led to disproportionate impacts tied to COVID-19 through housing, employment, public safety, food security, health care and economic outcomes."**

**The CARES Act Coronavirus Relief Fund, allocated \$8 billion to tribal governments and Alaska Native Corporations for “necessary expenditures” incurred because of COVID-19, and the American Rescue Plan Act funds provided Indigenous communities with \$31 billion for infrastructure needs and other federal programs. Shares of an additional \$1 billion were being dispersed to each eligible tribal government, plus \$900 million was allocated for several purposes, including tribal housing improvements. Smaller Congressional COVID relief bills allocated further funding to a variety of Indigenous entities: \$2.6 billion from the Consolidated Appropriations Act, a minimum of \$750 million plus a share of at least \$11 million from the Paycheck Protection Program and Health Care Enhancement Act, and \$74 million from the Families First Coronavirus Response Act.**

**For tribal nations to receive the money often was difficult.** Navajo Nation Council member Eugenia Charles-Newton commented, “What we learned was, **even though money was allocated, we were still running into a lot of issues. There were so many rules from the U.S. Department of Treasury regarding the CARES ... that made it really difficult to try to spend that money where it was needed.**” In some instances, transparency by tribal governance on how the funding was used was also an issue.

**On the Blackfeet Nation, which received \$38,692,273 in CARES money, a number of tribal citizens protested for accountability outside the Blackfeet Tribal Business Council office in Browning, MT, on June 21, 2021. As of July 2021, the nation was expecting to receive some \$81 million in funding from the American Rescue Plan Act. On the Blackfeet Reservation, economic and living conditions have been bad, and have been made worse by COVID. For example, food insecurity there was at a rate of 69 percent, compared to the national average of 12.5 percent.**

One resident tribal elder, who was on disability, said with conditions worsening with the pandemic, the one payment of \$500 she received was quickly consumed for food, electricity and water bills, and gas for her car. She stated that local initiatives, such as buses that run through the reservation on weekdays providing three meals for children and federal programs such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, have been helpful.

**Vaccination rates on the Blackfeet Nation have been high, with more than 8,700 people in the community of around 10,000 inoculated by Aug. 11, with 48 deaths.** In the reservation community of Heart Butte, residents said the impact of COVID-19 has been worse than around the state while the community, with its underdeveloped infrastructure, had gained little from federal spending. **Overall, tribal communities in Montana had experienced at least 2.2 times more COVID-19 cases compared to white people, and 1.7 times as many deaths as of late August 2021.**

**A number of Indigenous nations have applied federal funds to address long existing issues exacerbated by the pandemic. The Yurok Tribe of California used some of its \$40,181,881 CARES Act funds to address ongoing reservation food security issues, as well as distributing COVID-19 relief checks to members, installing broadband infrastructure and building an emergency response center.** Food insecurity, and access to good food, have long been problems on the reservation of more than 5000 residents. The pandemic made those issues more acute. In response, the nation used its CARES Act allotment to acquire forty acres of ancestral land for \$490,000 which will encompass gardens, a commercial kitchen and small homes. The Yurok's had already established the Ancestral Guard to teach its youth farming and fishing on the Klamath River as part of providing families a sustainable way to obtain food. Traditionally, the Yurok relied heavily on fishing in the Klamath, but drought and an increasing



parasite infection in the river have been disseminating the Chinook salmon, requiring the nation to diversify its food sources, most particularly in launching its gardens.

On the Navajo Nation, with a 2020 reported mostly Navajo population of 172,813, by late August 2021, COVID-19 has infected more than 31,000 tribal members and killed more than 1,300. [See above for more recent figures]. The Nation has struggled hard to limit the pandemic, at varying times employing daily curfews, lockdowns and mask mandates.

The Navajo Nation received \$714,189,631 in CARES Act funding from the U.S. government, – two and a quarter times its usual allotment of federal funds. In August it was receiving \$1.86 billion in first-round American Rescue Plan Act funds which the Nation was still in the process of allocating as of mid-December 2021 to meet numerous long-term deficiencies and major infrastructure needs. One of these ongoing shortages has been Navajo Police Department personnel, equipment and other infrastructure. In August, the department had only 200 officers to patrol the vast reservation with many isolated areas in radio blind spots, and with many of its roads, dirt and in dangerous condition. A spring 2021 study of department (<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ISYTSnsD4DAdKulDCIn1ptztjSvPhuP-/view>) needs by Strategy Matters found that for adequate policing, the department need a minimum of 500 officers, and ideally should have 775. The report also stated that the department would need to expand its facilities to house more staff, while the police chief hoped funding would be available to replace its 71 year old former post office building, which has serious mold problem and its too small training academy housed in two double-wide trailers. The pandemic has been particularly hard on Navaho police, who have had added to their usual duties enforcing curfews, operating educational checkpoints, distributing PPE and transporting arrestees to the hospital for COVID-19 tests before booking, while covering for sick and quarantining colleagues. To accomplish that, officers often worked 16 to 24-hour shifts, and had vacation time canceled.

Of the various COVID related received federal funds that the nation had allocated, payments were made to tribal citizens of \$1,350 for adults and \$450 for children to approved applicants. Other moneys were used for a variety of needs, including installing bathroom additions, water cisterns, broadband/cellphone towers and septic systems, and bringing electricity to more than 1,000 homes through on-and off-grid methods. Individual tribal members used their money in diverse ways, including purchasing a generator for an off the grid house' a homeless single mother with three children purchasing an old travel trailer to live in; families buying - often for the first time - new beds and bicycles for their children. One member, who grew up herding sheep on the reservation, used his federal stimulus money to move from Santa Fe, NM, to the Red Mesa region of the Navajo Nation to take a job there, while one member used some of his allocation to travel to the Midwest to pick up a reliable vehicle from his adult children that he could use to get to and from work.

COVID-19 has also magnified Native American health disparities in urban areas, where about 70 percent of Native Americans reside in urban areas, while most Indian Health Services funding and services go to reservation health facilities. Of the \$600 million in COVID tribal health funding, immediately distributed in April 2020, \$570 million went to IHS and reservation health facilities, with only \$30 million going to the 41 health programs of Urban Indian Organizations. Overall, IHS received more than \$1 billion in CARES Act funds, which not only helped it meet the pandemic, but assisted it in making up

some of its huge deficiencies from serious underfunding, that increasing Congressional IHS appropriations over the last few years have only somewhat reduced.

Executive director of Native American LifeLines, an IHS-contracted referral service, Kerry Lessard, commented that providing adequate health and wellness care to tribal members is a trust responsibility, regardless of where they live. To be adequate, that care needs to be both sufficient and culturally appropriate. And needs of Native people in urban areas are significant. Wendy Carrión, director of health services at the Sacramento Native Health Center, noted that about 46 percent of their patients had multiple preexisting conditions, making them vulnerable to severe effects from COVID-19. She said the urban health program found its patients wanted information and care from officials who understood the needs of Indigenous people. She said it was also important to provide vaccines not only to Sacramento's Indigenous populations, but to non-Indigenous people as well, to protect the Native American community, commenting, "We needed to focus on the Native community and make sure that ... they have access to both testing and immunization. But in order to keep the community safe ... we were able to talk to them and be able to expand it to the rest of the community."

**A continuing problem for U.S. Indigenous people made particularly evident by COVID is lack of Native specific data collection.** Dr. Spero Manson, an epidemiologist and director of the Colorado School of Public Health's Centers for American Indian & Alaska Native Health pointed out that among others, Maryland, has not been tracking COVID-19 cases among Native Americans. He said, "If we are to understand the health status of the Native community and to make sure that interventions and funding are being what they need to be, you have to report on us. But more than that, it is figuratively and literally saying you don't count — we're not counting you, you don't count."

The greatly increased American Indian and Alaska Native funding under the CARES Act and American Rescue Plan has permitted many Indigenous nations partially to address ongoing infrastructure and other long-term issues exacerbated by COVID-19, including food security, water access and emergency response. Much more funding yet needs to be provided to bring reservation and urban Native living up to a reasonably equal level with that of mainstream America, as is required of the U.S. government by its trust responsibility.

"Distributing Emergency Cash Assistance To Native Families During A Pandemic," Oklahoma Native Assets Coalition, Inc. (ONAC) Authored by Kristen Wagner, PhD, and Christy Finsel September 2021, The entire report at: [https://oknativeassets.org/resources/Documents/ONAC%20Emergency%20Cash%20Assistance%20Report\\_FINAL\\_Digital\\_Single%20Pages.pdf?bbeml=tp-pck9Q6QNPEiuBt3JmyTokQ.jAYeqA8JWck2L\\_OFM1\\_G0BA.rG9RAYASebEeM7bVI\\_zKuMg.lokHe-QlljUquoyRM5F8L1g](https://oknativeassets.org/resources/Documents/ONAC%20Emergency%20Cash%20Assistance%20Report_FINAL_Digital_Single%20Pages.pdf?bbeml=tp-pck9Q6QNPEiuBt3JmyTokQ.jAYeqA8JWck2L_OFM1_G0BA.rG9RAYASebEeM7bVI_zKuMg.lokHe-QlljUquoyRM5F8L1g), With Support of the Wells Fargo Foundation

**"About The Oklahoma Native Assets Coalition, Inc.**

The Oklahoma Native Assets Coalition, Inc. (ONAC) is an American Indian-led nonprofit network of Native people who are dedicated to increasing self-sufficiency and prosperity in their communities. The coalition, headquartered in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, has existed since 2001, and was classified by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit in 2014. ONAC focuses on promoting culturally responsive asset-building strategies and serves Native communities on a national level. For more information about ONAC, including its programs, please access ONAC's website at: <http://www.oknativeassets.org>.

**Abstract**

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the **Oklahoma Native Assets Coalition, Inc. (ONAC)**, a **Native-led nonprofit serving Native communities across the U.S.**, has provided emergency cash assistance payments (**\$500 per applicant**) to **American Indian and Alaska Native families**. In total, **ONAC raised funds to support 1,070 families**. **ONAC approached 23 tribes and Native-led nonprofit partners to request their assistance to provide the outreach and referrals for the payments that were distributed to tribal citizens residing in 28 states.**<sup>1</sup> This referral process has worked well, as ONAC has limited funding and could not have reasonably distributed a publicly-available application link given the need for assistance among Native families (ONAC would have been swamped with requests). ONAC

has equitably dispersed emergency cash assistance funds by region of the country.

Through this program, ONAC distributed the funds by check made payable to the applicant or ACH transfer to the applicant's bank account. As part of the application, ONAC provided Bank On information for those who were not banked and may have wanted to become so as part of the emergency cash assistance program.<sup>2</sup> Also, a link to register for ONAC-provided financial coaching was made available for those interested in the service. In the applications, ONAC collected information about how the family planned to use the funds. Applicants reported that the assistance would be used for rental and mortgage payments, groceries, utilities, Internet service, burial expenses, student loan payments, and health care expenses. For harder-to-reach Native families who sometimes had no Internet service, devices for online applications, or bank accounts, ONAC assisted them with the application by phone or worked with the community partner to receive lists of mailing addresses for check disbursement. Some of the community partners assisted with outreach and application completion by visiting with families through the family's screen door or providing assistance with the application over the phone."

#### **"Conclusion**

**Despite the progress that ONAC has made in distributing assistance to Native families, emergency cash assistance in Native communities is still needed. ONAC is aware of the need for additional emergency cash assistance based on feedback from a number of ONAC's tribal partners, as well as from the Native families ONAC directly serves via its asset building programs. Prices on products and services have risen, yet household income continues to decline in many Native households due to unemployment and underemployment related to the ongoing pandemic.**

It is our understanding that **additional cash assistance is also needed due to the high COVID-related death rates in Native communities and how these deaths are impacting family balance sheets and care for Native children. COVID-19 has hit Native families hard. According to a National Institutes of Health study, "1 of every 168 American Indian/Alaska Native children . . . experienced orphanhood or death of caregivers. Compared to white children, American Indian/Alaska Native children were 4.5 times more likely to lose a parent or grandparent caregiver."**<sup>6</sup> A number of Native families, especially those caring for children, are struggling during this ongoing pandemic and are in need of financial assistance.

**Related to needing financial support, Native individuals and families have demonstrated a growing need for financial coaching services. Requests for financial coaching have tripled in the past two months with some individuals noting that their savings are depleted and they need to have a plan to stretch their funds. A number of registrants are expressing**

interest in basic budgeting and credit counseling to support their personal efforts to manage household finances through the pandemic.

This case example of creating and implementing a direct cash distribution process highlights the importance of funding Native-led nonprofits that are most closely connected with their community members, as well as being aware of the areas where community need is greatest. ONAC was able to distribute cash assistance awards quickly due to the good lines of communication already established between community partners and program referrals. Another helpful factor was the program design, which allowed for online applications, one-on-one phone assistance with filling out the application, and the option to receive funds via an ACH transfer to a bank account or by a check by mail.

The level of flexibility built into this program allowed people who most needed the funds to receive them regardless of their banked or unbanked status. It is estimated that the economic impacts of the pandemic are going to affect Native families for, at least, the next several years. Therefore, it is more important than ever that there are easy-to-access systems of support to continue to meet their needs.

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6. On October 7, 2021, the National Institutes of Health published a news release entitled, **“More than 140,000 U.S. children lost a primary or secondary caregiver due to the COVID-19 pandemic.”** <https://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/more-140000-us-children-lost-primary-or-secondary-caregiver-due-covid-19-pandemic>. This news release referenced a study published in *Pediatrics*. <https://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/early/2021/10/06/peds.2021-053760>."

"2020 Census: Native population increased by 86.5 percent," *ICT*, August 13, 2021, <https://indiancountrytoday.com/news/2020-census-native-population-increased-by-86-5-percent>, reported on the increasing racial diversity in the U.S. as found in the 2020 U.S. Census, **"The growth in the American Indian and Alaska Native population in the last decade contributes to the country's portrait of being much more multiracial and more diverse** (<https://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/newsroom/press-kits/2021/redistricting/20210812-presentation-redistricting-jones.pdf>), according to 2020 Census data released Thursday. The demographic data will be used to redraw the nation's political maps.

**The American Indian and Alaska Native population, alone and in combination, increased from 5.2 million in 2010 to 9.7 million in 2020, a 86.5 percent increase.**

This makes the American Indian and Alaska Native people represent 2.9 percent of the U.S. population.

**3.7 million people self identified as American Indian and Alaska Native alone.**

**5.9 million in combination one race or more**

**9.7 million alone or in combination**

**The number of people who identified as White and American Indian and Alaska Native grew from 1.4 million in 2010 to 4 million in 2020. Native Hawaiians, alone and in combination, count for 1.6 million."**

StrongHearts Native Helpline, which provides 24/7 culturally appropriate domestic violence, dating and sexual violence helpline at: (844)762-8483 or by clicking on the chat icon at [strongheartshelpline.org](https://strongheartshelpline.org), has released statistics on their Native American and Alaska Native contacts who have experienced sexual violence:

- 35 percent were 25 to 36 years of age

- 32 percent were 37 to 48 years of age.
- 19 percent were 13 to 24 years of age.
- 15 percent were 49 to 60+ years of age.

The top three needs of Native American and Alaska Native sexual violence victim survivors are listed in order of prevalence:

- 64 percent needed peer support.
- 33 percent needed legal advocacy.
- 28 percent needed shelter.

("StrongHearts Native Helpline releases one-year report," *Southern Ute Drum*, September 24, 2021).

Rebecca Kirkpatrick, "Mayan League Launches New Program for Indigenous Language Interpreters to Address Crisis at the U.S./Mexico Border," *Cultural Survival*, June 24, 2021, <https://www.culturalsurvival.org/news/mayan-league-launches-new-program-indigenous-language-interpreters-address-crisis-usmexico>, reported, **"Since April 2021, 170,000 people have been arriving monthly at the United States-Mexico border from Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador. There are 25 different languages spoken in Guatemala alone, 24 of which are Indigenous languages. This means that many migrants arriving at the border from these countries are not fluent in either one of the languages in which the entire immigration process is conducted. Indigenous language interpreters are in seriously short supply, leaving Indigenous language speakers to stumble through a complicated government system entirely on their own."**

According to one *article in the Cultural Survival Quarterly* by Alianza Indígena Sin Fronteras, International Mayan League, and Indigenous Languages Office, **'Indigenous Peoples are denied both due process and their identity through language exclusion, coupled with their erasure as distinct peoples through statistical omission and erroneous categorization as Latino or Hispanic.'** For speakers of Indigenous languages arriving from Mexico, Central, and South America, the already difficult task of migrating to the United States is made even more so by a significant lack of Indigenous language interpreters. It is very often assumed that because they come from countries where the dominant language is Spanish, members of Indigenous communities migrating to the United States are fluent in Spanish. The reality, however, is that oftentimes their Spanish is rudimentary at best, which leads to serious gaps in communication between border officials and Indigenous migrants and, as a result, endangers asylum seekers' right to due process.

Fortunately, the issue has not gone entirely unnoticed. **In a 2019 Universal Periodic Review of the United States, Cultural Survival reported on the mortal danger that can result from the language barrier between Indigenous migrants and border officials and made recommendations for the United States government to take action. The recommendations included the provision of funding and training for licensed interpreters of Indigenous Central American languages. The United States government is morally and legally obligated to ensure that those who are fleeing economic injustice and violence have the right to due process and to be treated with respect. These rights are frequently violated and the lives of Indigenous migrants are constantly at risk as a result.**

**Indigenous language speakers arriving at the border are often forced to sign paperwork they don't fully understand** because there are no Indigenous language interpreters available. **Consequently, they may unwittingly waive family reunification or state that their**

**child is in good health when they are actually in need of immediate assistance. This lack of understanding and inability to be understood can lead to refusal of entry into the country and is likely a significant factor in the death of at least five Indigenous children at the United States-Mexico border since 2018.** There is a desperate need for fully qualified Indigenous language interpreters at the border to ensure that Indigenous migrants are equipped with all of the information they need to give themselves the best chance at securing entry into the United States in a safe and dignified way.

One organization that is **working to address this issue is the International Mayan League. The Mayan League works to inform the Maya people of their fundamental rights and to make sure that these rights are upheld and respected.** Juanita Cabrera Lopez (Maya Mam), Executive Director of the International Mayan League, has stated that 'the lack of disaggregated Maya language data and erroneous Hispanic/Latino categorization has effectively erased the existence of our peoples and created a crisis in access to services and resources. In the midst of COVID-19, such inequalities, rooted in pre-existing racism and discrimination, have only been exacerbated and affected all facets of life in the community.'

**In an effort to put an end to these human rights violations and provide Indigenous migrants with the linguistic support they need at the United States-Mexico border, on May 27, 2021, the Mayan League launched a new program for Indigenous language interpreters.** The program consists of training workshops to provide Indigenous language speakers with the skills needed to become interpreters. Participants in these programs learn interpretation ethics, techniques, and standards, as well as terminology for diverse interpretation settings, all through the lens of Indigenous identity, culture, and **history. The Mayan League's Indigenous Languages Rights Program currently provides bilingual interpretation services between Spanish and K'iche', Ixil, Q'anjob'al, Q'eqchi', and Mam.**

The provision of Indigenous language interpreters at the United States-Mexico border is crucial, not simply because it is necessary, but also because it is a basic human right for migrants and asylum seekers to be understood and to understand throughout the immigration process. It could very well mean the difference between life and death.

**Requests for services can be made** by contacting [interpreters@mayanleague.org](mailto:interpreters@mayanleague.org) or [interpretation@thecifva.org](mailto:interpretation@thecifva.org). At least one week's notice is required. To find out more please contact the Mayan League or Centreville Immigration Forum at either [interpreters@mayanleague.org](mailto:interpreters@mayanleague.org) or [interpretation@thecifva.org](mailto:interpretation@thecifva.org)."

**The conservation group, Open Space returned Papscanee Island in New York State to the Stockbridge-Munsee Nation**, in May 2021, "U.S.: Papscanee Island Returned to the Stockbridge-Munsee Tribe," *Cultural Survival*, September 2021).

Nancy Marie Spears, "Quapaw Addresses New Criminal Justice Center, McGirt Application," *ICT*, October 28, 2021, [https://mcusercontent.com/ee83519a17075b9d5a2c44042/files/9da0d13b-7dc4-e89b-3ac9-925da70a7469/10.28.21\\_The\\_Weekly.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/ee83519a17075b9d5a2c44042/files/9da0d13b-7dc4-e89b-3ac9-925da70a7469/10.28.21_The_Weekly.pdf), reported, **"Members of the Quapaw Nation Business Committee and representatives from the U.S. Attorney's Office Northern District of Oklahoma held a news conference Thursday to commemorate an Oklahoma's district court ruling affirming the tribe's reservation**, according to a statement from the tribe"

**"Tribal leaders also addressed in the news conference strides the tribe has made in preparation for the jurisdiction transfer that has ensued after the McGirt application, including opening a \$4 million courts and criminal justice center less than two years ago."**

**The Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma was authorized by the U.S. Department of Transportation to become the first Indian nation to plan and finance road improvements without federal oversight** (U.S.: Cherokee Nation to Self-Govern Tribal Transportation," *Cultural Survival*, September 2021).

Susan Montoya Bryan, "Indigenous Group Questions Removal of Boarding School Burial Plaque: Plaque Memorialized Indigenous Children Who Died Attending Boarding School," *The Paper*, July 2, 2021, [https://abq.news/2021/07/indigenous-group-questions-removal-of-boarding-school-burial-plaque/?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=The+Paper.+Subscriber&utm\\_campaign=a5f95e58c8-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2021\\_07\\_02\\_12\\_51&utm\\_term=0\\_f8e2121d66-a5f95e58c8-68116799&mc\\_cid=a5f95e58c8&mc\\_eid=822e39214e](https://abq.news/2021/07/indigenous-group-questions-removal-of-boarding-school-burial-plaque/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=The+Paper.+Subscriber&utm_campaign=a5f95e58c8-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2021_07_02_12_51&utm_term=0_f8e2121d66-a5f95e58c8-68116799&mc_cid=a5f95e58c8&mc_eid=822e39214e), reported, **"A historical plaque memorializing the dozens of Native American children who died while attending a boarding school in New Mexico more than a century ago has gone missing, sparking concern among Indigenous activists."**

Members of the Coalition to Stop Violence Against Native Women are among those pushing the city of Albuquerque to investigate. The small plaque was located in a park near the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center and the original site of the Albuquerque Indian School."

Christine Chung, "Researchers Identify Dozens of Native Students Who Died at Nebraska School: Using digitized records and newspaper clippings, researchers pieced together the history of the Genoa U.S. Indian Industrial School, a government-run institution that closed in 1934," *The New York Times*, November 17, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/11/17/us/native-american-boarding-school-deaths-nebraska.html> reported that at the. edge of Genoa, NB, **"No one knows how many students died there, at the Genoa U.S. Indian Industrial School,** though thousands are believed to have passed through its doors. Government documents have proved elusive or obfuscated an accurate death toll. Graves have not been found on the grounds.

**But, using digitized government records and newspaper clippings, researchers recently pieced together part of the history of the Genoa School, which operated from 1884 to 1934 and once sprawled over 30 buildings and 640 acres." They have found that at a minimum, 87 children died at the school, and identified 50 of the students.** It is estimated that many more Indian students likely died there.

**The Passamaquoddy Nation was awaiting immanent return, in September 2021, of an ancient fishing village on Lake Meddybemps in Maine, that the U.S. military had used to dump toxic waste** ("U.S.: Passamaquoddy Tribe Reacquires Land," *Cultural Survival Quarterly*, December 2021).

"Cleveland's Baseball Team Goes From Indians To Guardians," *ICT*, July 29, 2021, <https://mcusercontent.com/ee83519a17075b9d5a2c44042/files/96b39057-4f73-59ec-b984->

ff30436c2564/7.29.21\_The\_Weekly.pdf, reported, **"Since 1915, Cleveland's Major League Baseball team has been known as the Indians. The team is now renamed the Guardians."**

"The ballclub announced the name change Friday — effective at the end of the 2021 season — with a video on Twitter narrated by actor Tom Hanks. The decision ends months of internal discussions triggered by a national reckoning by institutions and teams to permanently drop logos and names considered racist."

Sara Reardon, **"Tribes want to stop jailing people for suicide attempts: Jailing people because of a mental health issue is illegal in Montana, but the Fort Peck Assiniboiné and Sioux Tribes has its own laws. One tribal policy allows law enforcement to put citizens who threaten or attempt suicide in jail or juvenile detention to prevent another attempt,"** *ICT*, October 26, 2021, <https://indiancountrytoday.com/news/tribes-want-to-stop-jailing-people-for-suicide-attempts>, reported **that some tribal members are objecting to Fort Peck Assiniboiné and Sioux Tribes policy of jailing people for attempting suicide, as isolation in jail only makes their mental condition worse, and may cause people considering killing themselves to not call a suicide hot line, or others to call 911.**

**"Fort Peck's tribal leaders say they approved the policy out of necessity because there were no mental health facilities equipped for short-term housing of people in mental crisis," and until they can get the mental health services that they have been requesting for over a decade, the Tribe has little recourse.**

Mark Walker, **"Flooding and Nuclear Waste Eat Away at a Tribe's Ancestral Home. The federal government allowed a stockpile of spent fuel on a Minnesota reservation to balloon even as a dam project whittled down the amount of livable land,"** *The New York Times*, November 13, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/11/13/us/politics/tribal-lands-flooding-nuclear-waste.html>, reported, **"For decades, chronic flooding [from a lock-and-dam system built by the Army Engineers two years after the tribe was recognized] and nuclear waste [waste from a power plant built adjacent to the reservation] have encroached on the ancestral lands in southeastern Minnesota that the Prairie Island Indian Community calls home, whittling them to about a third of their original size." The land loss has left no room for tribal development and resulted in over 150 tribal members waiting to receive homes on the reservation, now with only 300 livable acres.**

**"With no remedy in sight, the tribal community is asking Congress to put into trust about 1,200 acres of nearby land that it purchased near Pine Island, Minn., about 35 miles away, in 2018. That would allow the tribe to preserve its future by adding land farther away from the power plant to its reservation. In return, the tribe says it would give up the right to sue the government over flooding caused by the dam."**

**"Anpetu Luta Otipi new treatment, Detox Center,"** *Lakota Times*, November 18, 2021, <https://www.lakotatimes.com/articles/anpetu-luta-otipi-new-treatment-detox-center/>, reported **that the new Anpetu Luta Otipi treatment, Detox Center opened on the Pine Ridge Reservation, November 24, 2021, "expanded from [the old center's] 11,400 square feet to a 16,896 sq. ft. facility with a 48 bed capacity. The three-acre campus contains the residential treatment and detox center, a sweat lodge, recreational outdoor space, employee and visitor parking and RV pads with hookups for onsite behavioral health professional residence and inside the center includes has classrooms, meditation/recreational rooms, a gym, gathering space, two**



full kitchens, a nursing station, several staff offices, detox units for males and females and bedrooms for participants who enter into intensive residential treatment."

Tom Crash, "OST Tackles Homelessness," *Lakota Times*, December 02, 2021, <https://www.lakotatimes.com/articles/ost-tackles-homelessness/>, reported, "In a **move to help with the problem of homelessness on the reservation, the council voted 17-0-2 to approve \$169,135 for six non-profits**, including the Wild Horse Butte CDC, **OST Partnership for Housing and the homeless shelter in Pine Ridge**, Iglutecha. Garf Steele, council representative from Wounded Knee district commented that a Homeless Task Force had met the past two Mondays, discussing homelessness on Pine Ridge and we're **looking at structures in each district that could be used as shelters.**"

"Burial Ground Under the Alamo Stirs a Texas Feud: Native Americans built the Alamo and hundreds of converts were buried there. Descendants are now fuming because Texas has rejected efforts to protect the site," *The New York Times*, November 25, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/11/25/us/alamo-burial-native-americans.html>, reported, "... **long before the Alamo garrisoned secessionists, Spanish missionaries used the site, known as the Mission San Antonio de Valero, to spread Christianity among Native Americans. People from different tribes built the Alamo with their own hands, and missionaries buried many of the converts, as well as colonists from Mexico and Spain, around the mission or right under it.**

**Now, a new battle over the Alamo is brewing, as Native Americans and descendants of some of San Antonio's founding families seek protections for the human remains while Texas officials press ahead with a contentious \$400 million renovation plan for the site."**

Kolby KickingWoman, "Muscogee Nation Voters Pass Press Protections," *ICT*, September 30, 2021, [https://mcusercontent.com/ee83519a17075b9d5a2c44042/files/d40f58c6-97f4-9123-dbeb-5a760a9a5047/9.30.21\\_The\\_Weekly.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/ee83519a17075b9d5a2c44042/files/d40f58c6-97f4-9123-dbeb-5a760a9a5047/9.30.21_The_Weekly.pdf), reported that **the Muscogee Nation, "In its most recent election held on Sept. 18, Muscogee citizens overwhelmingly voted to amend the tribe's constitution to include... [freedom of press] protections and mandated tribal funding for its news enterprise, Mvsko Media."**

The National Park Service, in September 2021, approved the establishment of the Southern Ute Tribe's Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO) that will take over from the Colorado Historical Society directing and conducting a comprehensive survey and maintaining an inventory of historically and culturally significant properties on tribal land, identify and nominate eligible properties to the National Register of Historic Places otherwise administer applications for listing historic properties on the register, develop and administer a comprehensive historic preservation plan and advise and assist federal, state and local authorities in carrying out their historic preservation activities. This is the 206th THPO to be established. ("Tribe welcomes establishment of Tribe's Tribal Historic Preservation Office," *Southern Ute Drum*, September 24, 2021).

McKayla Lee, "Fort Lewis takes further steps towards reconciliation," *Southern Ute Drum*, September 10, 2021, <https://www.sudrum.com/eEditions/DrumPDF/2021/SUDrum-20210910.pdf>, reported, "Hundreds of community members, students and college alumni

gathered at **Fort Lewis College** in Durango, CO on Monday, September 6 to **witness the ceremonial removal of the Fort Lewis College Indian Boarding School panels that were installed onto the beams of the clocktower that sits centrally on campus.** The panels were removed because they depicted inaccurate and disrespectful historical experiences of the Indian Boarding School era."

"100th Annual Southern Ute Fair cancelled for September," *Southern Ute Drum*, July 30, 2021, <https://www.sudrum.com/eEditions/DrumPDF/2021/SUDrum-20210730.pdf>, reported, **"The 100th Annual Southern Ute Fair has been postponed for the year 2021.** This decision was not made lightly and included input from tribal leadership and various departments, members, and employees. Safety is our number one concern and **though neighboring municipalities and towns have reduced COVID-19 restrictions, the Southern Ute Indian Tribe remains attentive to the health and well-being of the membership. Variants have been on the rise and we are focused on protecting our elders and 'at risk' population.**

Jeremy Wade Shockley, "Horse Empower brings families closer, fosters communication," *The Southern Ute Drum*, October 8, 2021, <https://www.sudrum.com/eEditions/DrumPDF/2021/SUDrum-20211008.pdf>, reported, **"The Southern Ute Behavioral Health Division utilized grant funding earmarked for mental health programming to provide Horse Empower sessions to Southern Ute tribal members during the month of September.** This ties into the overarching Native Connection Programs' goal of prevention of substance use and suicide.

'This is an amazing project that our program was able to bring to the Native youth and their families,' emphasized Native Connection Program Coordinator, Precious Collins.

Equine Assisted Learning (EAL) is an experiential approach to teaching life skills such as leadership, communication and team building utilizing a partnership with horses."

**The Navajo Nation Council, in December 2021, was considering a bill to allocate \$68 million to complete work on 12 water connection projects that would bring safe, clean potable water to more than 16,400 people on the Navajo reservation** ("Bill earmarks \$68 million for NM water projects," *Navajo Times*, December 2, 2021).

**Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez signed into law the Air Is Life Act of 2021, on November 6, 2021. The measure bans the use of commercial tobacco products in enclosed and indoor areas on the Navajo Nation** ("Air Is Life Act passed into law," *Navajo Times*, November 1, 2021).

**The Navajo Nation Council, in mid-November 2021, voiced opposition to President Biden's declaring a ten mile fracking free zone around the Chaco National Monument, saying the action was taken without consultation with Navajo Nation, whose families were impacted by the decision.** The impact has both health and economic ramifications for Dine living within the zone ("Council opposes Biden's 10-mile buffer zone proposal," *Navajo Times*, November 18, 2021).

**Chief Plenty Coups Honor Guard, all descendants of Apsáalooke (Crow Nation) Chief Plenty Coup, led the opening of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier Centennial**

**Commemoration in Arlington, Virginia**, November 9, 2021, the first time in 96 years that anyone except a military honor guard has been allowed to approach the tomb (Jourdan Bennett-Begaye, "Apsáalooke honor Tomb of Unknown 100 years later," *ICT*, November 10, 2021, <https://indiancountrytoday.com/news/apsaalooke-honor-tomb-of-unknown-100-years-later>).

**"The U.S. Department of the Interior, in June 2021, returned 18,000 acres of land within the boundaries of their reservation to the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation in Montana"** (U.S.: 18,000 acres Returned to Tribes in Montana," *Cultural Survival Quarterly*, September 2021).

**Northern Cheyenne tribal council member Silver Little Eagle has complained, that because she is a woman, she has been bullied and harassed on reservation for seeking legal action on being assaulted, exemplifying the difficulties of Native women seeking redress from violence committed against them** (Jack Healy, "Tribal Leader Is Assaulted and System Adds to Pain," *The New York Times*, June 21, 2011).

Felicia Fonseca, "Tribe becomes key water player: As Arizona faces mandatory cuts next year in its Colorado River supply, the tribes see themselves as major players in the future of water," *ICT*, July 7, 2021, <https://indiancountrytoday.com/news/tribe-becomes-key-water-player>, reported, **"The Colorado River Indian Tribes and another tribe in Arizona played an outsized role in the drought contingency plans that had the state voluntarily give up water. As Arizona faces mandatory cuts next year in its Colorado River supply, the tribes see themselves as major players in the future of water," as the Arizona tribes have major water rights and "have been invited to the table for negotiations on the issues about the river.**

The tribes gave up farming on some fields to contribute water for the original settlement, receiving in return more money than they would have made by farming. Now, "while some fields are dry on the reservations, the tribe plans to use the money to invest in its water infrastructure. It has the oldest irrigation system built by the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs, dating to 1867, serving nearly 125 square miles of tribal land."

The Yurok Nation of Northern California, with collaboration from the Trust for Public Land, regained more than 2000 acres of ancestral land at Ke'pel Creek, where tribal members can now hold ceremonies, fish and hunt without outside intrusion (U.S.: Yurok Tribe Reclaims Ancestral Territory in Northern California," *Cultural Survival Quarterly*, September 2021).

Eli Francovich, "Homesteading family's lasting legacy realized in agreement to return nearly 10,000 acres of habitat to Colville Tribes in conservation deal," *Spokesman-Review*, October 20, 2021, <https://www.spokesman.com/stories/2021/oct/20/as-a-homesteading-families-name-dies-off-nearly-10/>, reported, "On a February day, with wind-whipped temperatures falling to 4 below zero, **Colville tribal leaders approved an unusual transaction** at their offices in Nespelem.

**They agreed to accept ownership of a 9,243-acre ranch from Seattle-based Conservation Northwest, so long as the tribes agreed to a set of ownership stipulations (known as covenants) aimed at conserving the biodiversity of that land.**

The arrangement, which had been a decade in the making, represented a cultural and ecological milestone: simultaneously securing a key habitat corridor between the Cascade and Rocky Mountains and returning tribal land taken by the U.S. government in 1892."

Wil Phinney, "Umatilla Tribes Lead The Way, *ICT*, June 24, 2021, [https://mcusercontent.com/ee83519a17075b9d5a2c44042/files/40147001-c2e6-75f7-33e0-b7001b693d22/6.24.21\\_The\\_Weekly.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/ee83519a17075b9d5a2c44042/files/40147001-c2e6-75f7-33e0-b7001b693d22/6.24.21_The_Weekly.pdf), reported, **"Thirty-two years ago, when the Umatilla Tribes realized non-Indians owned more property on the 172,000-acre reservation than the combined total for tribal government and tribal allottees, it embarked on a 50-year plan to buy back its land.**

**Thanks to an aggressive Land Acquisition Program, today the Tribes own 94,590 acres. Since 1990, the Tribes have purchased 77,346 acres—43,393 acres in fee status and 33,953 acres in trust status."**

**In the California Gold Rush Era, Serranus Hastings, who founded of the University of California, Hastings College of the Law initiated massacres of Indians in the Round Valley. Perhaps 6000 Native Californians were killed in the state's ethnic cleansings. With that history the issue of whether to change the name of the college has arisen, especially for the descents of those Hastings attacks that targeted, members of the Yuki Tribe of the current Round Valley Indian Tribes, two of whose members are on the college board. The current college Dean has been pushing to retain the name (Thomas Fuller, "He Unleashed a California Massacre. Should This School Be Named for Him? The founder of the Hastings College of the Law masterminded the killings of hundreds of Native Americans. The school, tribal members and alumni disagree about what should be done now. *The New York Times*, October 28, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/10/27/us/hastings-college-law-native-massacre.html>).**

"The International Indian Treaty Council Joins The Pit River Tribe In Celebrating Historic Land And Cultural Rights Victories," International Treaty Council, November 16, 2021, <http://hosted.verticalresponse.com/1383891/1134a7efb8/545546365/aa063f1824/>, reported, **"International Indian Treaty Council (IITC) affiliate Pit River Tribe is celebrating two historic victories: protecting their sacred places and reinstating jurisdiction over their traditional territories in Northern California. These include the defeat of a massive industrial wind farm project, which threatened an area of significant environmental and cultural importance on October 21, 2021, as well as the return of 786 acres of ancestral land by the Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) on November 5, 2021. This land was originally purchased in the early 1900s by Mt. Shasta Power using what tribal members described as "deceitful and coercive" methods.**

Pit River, a federally recognized Tribe, composed of 11 bands of Achumawi and Atsugewi speaking Peoples, has lived in and stewarded land in present-day Shasta, Lassen, Modoc, and Siskiyou counties and beyond since time immemorial. Pit River, like other California Indigenous Peoples, survived several waves of colonial genocide, including the California Goldrush, forced relocation, government-backed massacres, boarding schools, and other assimilation programs.

**Houston-based energy corporation ConnectGen proposed the Fountain Wind project in Shasta County in 2018. This proposal included the installation of over 70 massive**

wind turbines on an undeveloped mountain of great cultural and ecological significance. **The Tribe immediately launched a campaign to oppose the project.** On June 22, 2021, after 10 hours of testimony from tribal members, local residents, and IITC, the Shasta County Planning Commissioners voted 5-0 against the project. ConnectGen appealed the decision, and on October 26, 2021, the Shasta County Board of Supervisors voted 4-1 to deny the company's appeal after 20 hours of public testimonies.

Agnes Gonzalez, Pit River Tribal Chairwoman, confirmed that 'Tribal members stood strong speaking from their hearts' and criticized the 'green-washing' of the Fountain Wind project. **The proposed plans would have required a major building effort endangering sensitive animal and plant habitats while also contributing to fire dangers in the region. The construction would have produced a larger carbon footprint than what would have been offset during the project's lifetime,** according to Brandy McDaniels, Madesi Band Cultural Representative for the Pit River Tribe

Gregory Feather Wolfin, Pit River Tribe Environmental Director, **underscored that the campaign to defeat the project (which united tribal, environmental, Indigenous rights, and public interest advocates) demonstrated the inextricable ties between the defense of Indigenous sacred places, Tribal sovereignty, and the protection of sensitive environments in drought and fire-ravaged California.**

IITC Board member Radley Davis, a respected Pit River cultural leader from the Illmawi Band, celebrated the victory, confirming that **'this mega wind project would have forever erased ancestral, sacred and ceremonial sites, decimated eagles, hawks, bats, and would have placed miles of electrical lines through forest lands already at extremely high fire risk.** Our Nation stood together with our neighbors and allies to protect our homes, lands, and natural resources against powerful interests. Pit River endorsed the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in 2012, which strengthened this successful effort to defend our rights'.

In a second major victory, on November 5, **the Pit River Tribe gathered to celebrate the return of 789 acres of land within the ancestral territories of the Illmawi and Atsugewi bands,** which was officially announced to the public on October 29. The return of this land to tribal stewardship was historic for Pit River and all California Indigenous Peoples organizing to call for #LandBack in a united effort to achieve the return of stolen lands. 'All PG&E and publicly managed lands within our 100 square mile territory should be returned to the Pit River Tribe', states Morning Star Gali, Pit River Tribal Member, and IITC California Tribal and Community Liaison. 'Protection of our sacred lands and waterways cannot effectively happen without Tribal management and stewardship. Land Back is more than a hashtag; it is the opportunity to heal our Nations.'

IITC is an organization of Indigenous Peoples from North, Central, South America, the Arctic, Caribbean, and Pacific working for the sovereignty and self-determination of Indigenous Peoples and the recognition and protection of Indigenous rights, Treaties, traditional cultures, and sacred lands. IITC was founded on the Standing Rock Reservation in South Dakota in June 1974. In 1977, the IITC became the first Indigenous Peoples' organization to be recognized as a Non- Governmental Organization (NGO) with Consultative Status to the United Nations Economic and Social Council. In 2011, IITC was the first to be upgraded to General Consultation Status in recognition of its active participation in a wide range of international bodies and processes in order to advance, defend and recognize the rights of Indigenous Peoples."

**Three Native villages in the St. Lawrence Islands of Alaska have suffered very high rates of cancer because their water source is polluted, poisoning drinking water and food.** Meghan Sullivan, "ANCSA At 50: Berries, Wildlife And Toxic Lands," *ICT*, December 2, 2021, [https://mcusercontent.com/ee83519a17075b9d5a2c44042/files/3833293d-d772-492f-224f-942e446f4035/12.02.21\\_The\\_Weekly.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/ee83519a17075b9d5a2c44042/files/3833293d-d772-492f-224f-942e446f4035/12.02.21_The_Weekly.pdf), reported, **"When the Alaska Native Claims Settlement passed into law in 1971, 44 million acres of Alaskan land were promised to Alaska Native regional and village corporations. As it turned out, a significant portion of these lands were contaminated prior to their conveyance -- berries poisoned and harvests tainted by long forgotten war relics abandoned on the outskirts of Alaska Native villages.**

**'Let me be clear: under ANCSA, Alaska Native people gave up 88 percent of our traditional lands. In exchange, we received, in part, contaminated sites that we may be legally liable for,' Sarah Lukin, Alutiiq, said in a 2017 testimony on the issue."**

**Alaska Natives have been campaigning for years for the federal government to clean up the contamination.**

"Alaska Native artist creates stamp for Postal Service," *ICT*, July 13, 2021, <https://indiancountrytoday.com/news/alaska-native-artist-creates-stamp-for-postal-service>, reported, "Alaska Native artist Rico Worl said he jumped at the chance to create for the U.S. Postal Service a stamp he hopes will be a gateway for people to learn about his Tlingit culture.

A ceremony marking the release of Worl's Raven Story stamp was held Friday in Juneau, where Worl lives." The stamp is a traditionally styled depiction of a Raven, which is important in Tlingit culture.

Joaquin Estus, "Return of Aleut girl's remains eases painful memories: 'Sophia Tetoff's homecoming is a significant step in addressing the historic wrongs inflicted on our people,'" *ICT*, August 4, 2021, <https://indiancountrytoday.com/news/return-of-aleut-girls-remains-eases-painful-memories>, reported that **the return to Aleut Alaska Natives on St. Paul Island, AK of the body of Sophia Tetoff who was taken to was taken from the villagers to an orphanage 136 years before, was seen by villagers as a step in undoing historic wrongs. "Those historic wrongs include the enslavement and forced labor of the Unangax people, or Aleuts, who were brought to the Pribilof Islands from the Aleutians to harvest fur seals for their pelts. First the Russians, then the U.S. government kept tight control of the Aleuts on St. Paul and St. George, the two inhabited Pribilof islands. Agents dictated who worked, if and when Aleuts could leave their island, and even who could marry whom. For slaughtering seals and processing their furs, workers were paid in housing, clothing, food and small amounts of cash. The commercial harvest ended in 1984.**

**After Japanese attacks in the region during World War II, Pribilof island residents were evacuated and crowded into internment camps in crumbling abandoned buildings in southeast Alaska where as many as one in ten, mostly elderly and young, died."**

"Group finds site linked to tribes seeking return of remains," *Lakota Times*, December 9, 2021, <https://www.lakotatimes.com/articles/group-finds-site-linked-to-tribes-seeking-return-of-remains/>, reported that **the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and five other, "Tribes fighting for the return of human remains and funerary artifacts excavated from an ancient settlement in present-day Alabama got help for their argument Tuesday when a federal advisory committee found the site to be culturally linked to their tribes.**

The Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Review Committee found a 'preponderance of the evidence for cultural affiliation' between the remains and artifacts taken from the settlement founded 1,000 years ago and the Muskogean speaking tribes known to live near there when European settlers arrived. Tribal officials said afterward that the finding means the University of Alabama will be in violation of federal law if it does not return the funerary objects and sacred items to the tribes."

"Ancient Footprints Push Back Date of Human Arrival in the Americas: Human footprints found in New Mexico are about 23,000 years old, a study reported, suggesting that people may have arrived long before the Ice Age's glaciers melted," *The New York Times*, September 23, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/09/23/science/ancient-footprints-ice-age.html>, reported, **"Ancient human footprints preserved in the ground across the White Sands National Park in New Mexico are astonishingly old, scientists reported on Thursday, dating back about 23,000 years to the Ice Age.**

**The results, if they hold up to scrutiny, would rejuvenate the scientific debate about how humans first spread across the Americas**, implying that they did so at a time when massive glaciers covered much of their path," [or perhaps much earlier].

Chris Aadland. "Redistricting leads to concern over diluted Indigenous voting power: Concerns over the process disenfranchising tribal communities and Indigenous voters aren't new, and some groups have worked to raise awareness about the importance of the process," *ICT*, November 15, 2021, <https://indiancountrytoday.com/news/redistricting-leads-to-concern-over-diluted-indigenous-voting-power>, reported, **"As voting-rights advocates in Indian Country look to boost Indigenous representation in politics, some say redrawn political maps in Oregon will dilute the power of many Native American voters to elect the candidates who best understand their communities."**

**"In Washington, the redistricting commission revised some maps after its initial proposals prompted pushback from tribes and voting-rights advocates.**

The criticism comes as **groups in Indian Country have been trying to ensure that the nationwide redistricting effort leads to voting districts that are more fairly constructed or allow Indigenous voters more power in electing candidates they believe will best represent them.** Redistricting happens only once every 10 years following a U.S. Census effort."

Andrew Selsky, "First Native to head the National Park Service: Charles 'Chuck' Sams III is the agency's first Senate-confirmed parks director in nearly five years," *ICT*, November 24, 2021, <https://indiancountrytoday.com/news/first-native-to-head-the-national-park-service>, reported, **"The U.S. Senate has unanimously approved the nomination of Charles 'Chuck' Sams III as National Park Service director, which will make him the first Native to lead the agency."**

"Sams is Cayuse and Walla Walla, of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation in Oregon."

"Joint Statement: NCAI and NARF Congratulate Lauren King on Confirmation to the U.S. District Court," National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), October 7, 2021, <https://www.ncai.org/news/articles/2021/10/07/joint-statement-ncai-and-narf-congratulate-lauren-king-on-confirmation-to-the-u-s-district-court>, reported, "The National Congress of

American Indians (NCAI) and the Native American Rights Fund (NARF) **congratulate Lauren J. King, a citizen of the Muscogee Nation, on her confirmation as a federal judge in the U.S. District Court of Washington, Western District.** She joins the federal bench as only the third active Native American federal district court judge in the United States, the fifth in the history of the federal judiciary, and the first Native American federal judge in the state of Washington"

Richard Walker, "Echohawk, Sixkiller Trail In Bid To Be Seattle's Next Mayor," *ICT*, August 5, 2021, [https://mcusercontent.com/ee83519a17075b9d5a2c44042/files/e83aceed-97c9-6836-5c1b-c6cf86c5a6bc/8.5.21\\_The\\_Weekly.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/ee83519a17075b9d5a2c44042/files/e83aceed-97c9-6836-5c1b-c6cf86c5a6bc/8.5.21_The_Weekly.pdf), reported, **"Two Indigenous candidates making historic bids to be the next mayor of Seattle were trailing late Tuesday in the city's primary election.**

**With returns still being counted, Colleen Echohawk, Pawnee, and Casey Sixkiller, Cherokee, had not broken into the top two spots needed to advance to the Nov. 2 general election."**

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### Economic Developments

"Tesla Skirts State Car Laws With Nambé Car Store: Tesla Opens 1st Store On Tribal Land," *The Paper*, September 16th, 2021, [https://abq.news/2021/09/tesla-skirts-state-car-laws-with-nambe-car-store/?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=The+Paper.+Subscriber&utm\\_campaign=49735a36e0-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2021\\_09\\_17\\_10\\_54&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_f8e2121d66-49735a36e0-68116799&mc\\_cid=49735a36e0&mc\\_eid=822e39214e](https://abq.news/2021/09/tesla-skirts-state-car-laws-with-nambe-car-store/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=The+Paper.+Subscriber&utm_campaign=49735a36e0-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2021_09_17_10_54&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f8e2121d66-49735a36e0-68116799&mc_cid=49735a36e0&mc_eid=822e39214e), reported that **at Nambe Pueblo in New Mexico, "Carmaker Tesla has opened a store and repair shop on Native American land for the first time, marking a new approach to its years long fight to sell cars directly to consumers and cut car dealerships out of the process."**

"Navajo Company Takes Over Operation Of Coal Mine It Owns," *The Paper*, October 1st, 2021, [https://abq.news/2021/10/navajo-company-takes-over-operation-of-coal-mine-it-owns/?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=The+Paper.+Subscriber&utm\\_campaign=85e5aecbe4-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2021\\_10\\_01\\_01\\_29&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_f8e2121d66-85e5aecbe4-68116799&mc\\_cid=85e5aecbe4&mc\\_eid=822e39214e](https://abq.news/2021/10/navajo-company-takes-over-operation-of-coal-mine-it-owns/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=The+Paper.+Subscriber&utm_campaign=85e5aecbe4-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2021_10_01_01_29&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f8e2121d66-85e5aecbe4-68116799&mc_cid=85e5aecbe4&mc_eid=822e39214e), reported, **"A Navajo Nation company is taking over the operation of a coal mine it owns in northwestern New Mexico.**

**The Navajo Transitional Energy Co.** has owned the Navajo Mine since 2013 but had contracted with a subsidiary of the North American Coal Corp. to run it."

"The mine that feeds the adjacent Four Corners Power Plant has nearly 400 employees — 85% of whom are Native American. Moseley said the Navajo Transitional Energy Co. will retain the workforce."

"Tribe joins Western States and Tribal Nations Natural Gas Initiative," *Southern Ute Drum*, August 13, 2021, <https://www.sudrum.com/eEditions/DrumPDF/2021/SUDrum-20210813.pdf>, reported, **"The Southern Ute Indi-an Tribe today became the newest member of Western States and Tribal Nations (WSTN) Natural Gas Initiative, expanding the**



organization's sovereign tribal perspective and strengthening its voice to advocate for energy development that boosts rural economies, tribal self-determination and environmental improvement."

Mavis Harris, "2020 Indian Gaming Revenues Of \$27.8 Billion Show A 19.5% Decrease," National Indian Gaming Commission, August 17, 2021, Media Contact: Mary Parker (202) 336-3470

mary\_parker@nigc.gov, www.nigc.gov, reported, "Today, National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC) Chairman E. Sequoyah Simermeyer and Vice Chair Jeannie Hovland released **the Fiscal Year 2020 (FY 2020) overall Gross Gaming Revenue (GGR) figure. FY 2020 revenues totaled \$27.8B, a decrease of 19.5% over FY 2019.**

**The COVID-19 pandemic impacted the FY 2020 GGR results. Unlike previous years, the NIGC administrative regions experienced a FY 2020 decline of more than 13% in GGR. The Rapid City Region experienced the largest decrease of 36.6%. Graphics are available for download on the NIGC website and highlight the decreases across all NIGC regions.**

This Gross Gaming Revenue decrease was expected; the unknown was just how much of an impact COVID-19 had on Indian gaming. Every year, the annual GGR figure tells a story about Indian gaming's successes, contributions to Indian communities, and economic impacts. This was highlighted even more during the pandemic. Nevertheless, tribes were on the forefront of creating standards, developing new safety protocols, and sharing community resources. I foresee this decrease as only a temporary setback for Indian gaming," Chairman Simermeyer said.

The GGR figure is an aggregate of revenue from 524 independently audited financial statements, of 248 federally recognized Tribes across 29 States. The GGR for an operation is based on the amount wagered minus winnings returned to players.

Despite the limits and uncertainty of the last year, it is important to focus on the sacrifices of and economic refuge provided by tribes and the community impacts. Tribal gaming has shown resilience and commitment, and continues to develop new roads to economic stability. I look forward to seeing Indian gaming continue to lead the way in efforts to reduce the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic," Vice Chair Hovland said.

For more detailed information, refer to our National Indian Gaming Commission website."

Stewart Huntington, "Tribe inches closer to historic purchase of Las Vegas resort: The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians would be the first tribe to own a resort in the heart of the nation's gaming industry," *ICT*, December 7, 2021, <https://indiancountrytoday.com/news/tribe-inches-closer-to-historic-purchase-of-las-vegas-resort>, reported, "**A California tribe is poised to make gaming history later this month after the Nevada Gaming Control Board voted unanimously last week to recommend approval for its purchase of a Las Vegas resort.**

**If the state's gaming commission green lights the sale of the Palms Casino Resort on Dec. 16, the San Manuel Band of Indians would become the first tribe to own and operate a resort in the heart of the U.S. gaming industry."**

Carina Dominguez, "Sports betting rollout: 'The giant has woken up:' States have taken various approaches to sports betting, Connecticut penned out exclusive rights for tribes and the

state lottery while Arizona has opened the gates well beyond tribal gaming," *ICT*, October 7, 2021, <https://indiancountrytoday.com/news/sports-betting-rollout-the-giant-has-awoken-up>, reported, **"Tribal gaming experts across the nation are monitoring the situation closely with excitement and skepticism."**

**More than half of the country is currently offering sports betting in some form, with even more states expected to offer it in 2022 and 2023.**

In developments involving Indian Nations, in Connecticut the **Mohegan Sun and Foxwoods casinos began sports gaming September 30, 2021 under a new agreement with the state.** Since the Mohegan Tribe owns the Connecticut Sun basketball team, it suspended betting on all WNBA games to avoid a potential conflict of interest. In competition with the two nations, The Connecticut Lottery Corporation began retail and online sports betting in October at 15 retail sportsbooks locations.

In **Arizona**, in late August 2021, Republican **Governor Doug Ducey launched sport betting on an emergency basis to granting 10 licenses to the state's 22 federally recognized tribes and 10 to non-tribal entities** allowing betting on all sports events in the state. Among the non-tribal entities, betting on sports was authorized at Arizona Diamondbacks Chase Field by a third party to avoid a conflict of interest.

**In Florida, the Seminole tribe began online and retail sports betting** in mid-October 2021 under a new agreement with the state. that would allow retail and online sports betting but are facing several lawsuits and logistical hurdles.

**With different states acting differently, some allowing sports wagering, others not; with some of those that do retaining exclusive gambling by tribes, but others allowing sports betting by non-tribal entities in competition with tribes, the impact on tribal gaming and economies will clearly vary, but is yet unclear."**

Jeff Manning, "Oregon tribes question state gambling regulations: Critics say the Flying Lark in Grants pass is essentially a casino outside tribal lands, a significant shift in state policy that deserves more scrutiny than it's getting. Six tribes and retailers who sell Oregon Lottery games and advocates for problem gamblers all object to the Flying Lark," *ICT*, October 26, 2021, <https://indiancountrytoday.com/news/oregon-tribes-question-state-gambling-regulations>, reported, **"Six tribal nations called on Gov. Kate Brown and other state political leaders to launch a thorough review of Dutch Bros founder Travis Boersma's plan to open a gambling entertainment center** in his hometown of Grants Pass on Oct. 6.

**They argue that that Boersma's planned 'Flying Lark' will fundamentally change gambling in Oregon with little formal review.** Consultants hired by opponents contend the Flying Lark will be the first casino allowed off tribal lands. It will lure business away from tribal casinos and the Oregon State Lottery, their analysis found, and could lead to more gambling venues at other tracks in the state."

**The St. Regis Mohawk Reservation in New York State is the only place in the state where growing Marijuana and selling its various products is legal. The reservation housed 12 such outlets**, as of late September 2021 (Jesse McKinley, "Marijuana Shops Are Blooming on Tribal Land," *The New York Times*, September 26, 2021).

Jonathan Sims, "Native-owned Brewery Honors Indigenous Land With Beer Labels: Bow and Arrow Brewing Works With Native and Non-Native Breweries To Create Land Awareness,"

*The Paper*, November 18, 2021, <https://abq.news/2021/11/native-owned-brewery-honors-indigenous-land-with-beer-labels/?bbeml=tp-pck9Q6QNPEiuBt3JmyTokQ.jcjp-PR3EiE2XcZEG2fpidg.rAPV3UR-ph0iw2f395tzy9Q.lprx6PdCVQUqUs0eslxIiTg>, reported, **"The founders behind Bow and Arrow Brewing Co. in Albuquerque want you to add another bar trick up your sleeve: knowing the ancestral lands your beer was brewed upon. Yes, you are on Native land, and so is your beer! In celebration and advancement of Indigenous Peoples Day and Native American Heritage Month, Bow and Arrow brewed up the Native Land Label. A collaboration of breweries using a 'Land Acknowledgment' label."**

"Bow and Arrow Brewing is the only Native-owned brewery in New Mexico and will soon release the "Native Land" label, an idea that allows brewers nationwide, Native or not, to share their local ancestral land identity with their consumers. Here's how it works: When a brewery signs up with Bow and Arrow, they must discover the land claim they are on and also promise to provide a part of the sales to a Native American nonprofit."

Kalle Benallie, "COVID's impact on Native markets: SWAIA is back, but with pandemic restrictions. The pandemic has not only affected the public's access to the annual Santa Fe Indian Market, but also how many artists can participate," *ICT*, August 20, 2021, <https://indiancountrytoday.com/news/covids-impact-on-native-marketsreported>, "The Santa Fe Indian Market has made its way back after taking a year off due to the pandemic." The previously free market now charges for admissions, but allows more artists to show and sell their art work, in reduced maximum space per artist.

**The American Indian Chamber of Commerce of New Mexico**, <http://www.aiccnm.com>, visited December 9, 2021, states, "Helping Native People achieve successful economic development initiatives while incorporating, strengthening and building upon tribal values"

The Chamber acts in several core areas:

**Education:**

"Individuals interested in being employed in Tribal-owned businesses and Member-owned businesses will have knowledge of how these organizations are created and operate along with cultural sensitivity to the communities, organizations, and individuals they will work with including tribal leadership, boards of directors, program directors, and community.

**Growing Business Through Education?**

The Chamber can provide information on policies, such as the Buy Indian Act, Indian Incentive Program, and ways businesses can leverage them. The Chamber can also provide contacts to other entities, such as the Native American PTAC, that help businesses start and grow.

**Capacity Building:**

"Individual, organizational, and financial capacity building will assist with promoting business growth and success.

Individual Capacity Building is coaching business ownership and leadership to develop and implement a plan for growth.

Organization Capacity Building is implementing systems and processes within organization to support the growth plan.

Financial Capacity Building is securing financial resources through access to capital and increasing bonding capacity as necessary.

How Will One benefit From Capacity Building?

After participation within the capacity building courses and trainings, business owners and leaders will have a three-year tactical plan to scale their business. This will include establishing the organizational and financial capacity to foster, secure, and maintain economic opportunity for their business and community in the future. Along with this, they will have obtained knowledge, skill, and ability to implement it."

### **Business Development**

"Aligning opportunity with capacity will feed and foster business growth.

Business to Government opportunities are researched and distributed to businesses performing in those sectors.

Business to Business opportunities are fostered through networking, advertising, and referrals.

Business to Customer advocacy and brokering of qualified businesses to contracting officials and buyers is key to exercising special certifications and designations.

How will one benefit from Business Development?

Existing contractors will become aware of contracting opportunities from various anchor institutions including local, state, federal, and tribal governments; education institutions; and health institutions to name a few. Contractors will be better positioned to win bids through training, consulting, and match-making events. Business to Business opportunities will be progressed through monthly networking events and ongoing referrals.

Networking to promote development

Our chamber events will provide all businesses big and small to grow and develop through networking and providing connections to other businesses and even contracting officers."

The chamber is assisted in this work by a weekly newsletter.

### **Research & Policy**

"Research inquiries will benefit tribal economic development. Research helps inform policy development, implementation, evaluation, and change. Policies within the city, local, state, and federal governments, which influence tribal economic opportunity will be a key focus. Relationships with policy makers have been established.

How will one benefit from training in Research & Policy?

Existing businesses will benefit from a clearer understanding of opportunities and resources; they will understand their access to capital options, best practices in various industries and how to affect economic opportunity through effective and positive policy. Tribal, Federal, State, and local officials will convene to identify economic opportunities will benefit New Mexico communities."

### **Workforce Development**

"Developing the Workforce

The 'right' workforce is one which compliments the short and long term direction of the business and are not a hinderance to success. Business owners and leaders have indicated a major challenge to growth is employees with poor work ethic. Work ethic will be influenced through 'soft skill' training to include: Problem Solving, Process Mapping, Team Building, Effective Communication, Active Listening, and Conflict Management to name a few.

How Will One Benefit From Workforce Development?

Employers will have a workforce with the skill set necessary to position short and long term success. Changes in employee work ethic will lead to organizational culture change to best insure a sustainable success. Performance areas which will likely change include productivity, attendance, and attitude. Furthermore, individuals seeking employment will be better prepared when entering the workforce and adding to the success of the new employer."

### Education and Culture

Alicia Inez Guzmán, Searchlight New Mexico, "The great disconnect," *New Mexico Political Report*, June 21, 2021, [https://nmpoliticalreport.com/2021/06/21/the-great-disconnect/?mc\\_cid=bd0ccd49c8&mc\\_eid=cde7993ced](https://nmpoliticalreport.com/2021/06/21/the-great-disconnect/?mc_cid=bd0ccd49c8&mc_eid=cde7993ced), reported, **"On May 18, a judge overseeing the historic Yazzie-Martinez case ordered the New Mexico Public Education Department to take stock of the massive digital divide in the state and finally identify the roughly 76,000 students who lacked Internet connections they desperately needed for school."**

One of PED's responses was to create a Google survey for students and staff to fill out online, an action that left advocates and school leaders mystified." A major problem with the survey was that it did not reach a large majority of the students who had no internet access, who were its primary target population.

**"The survey is just the latest back-and-forth in a seemingly endless seven-year legal battle over inequitable education in New Mexico, where vulnerable students receive such an inadequate education that they're in danger of being irreparably harmed, the First Judicial District Court found in 2108. The court has retained jurisdiction over the Yazzie-Martinez case ever since, to make sure the state implements a litany of comprehensive, mandated reforms."**

**Three years later, the state has barely made any progress, critics argue.** They say the online survey reflected a broad lack of foresight and basic understanding, especially in light of the state's long-standing problems with internet access, which vastly undercut students' ability to learn after the pandemic struck and classes went online." **The lack of internet access has been a particular problem for Native students, and Hispanic students living in rural areas, and is one aspect of the inequality in New Mexico K-12 education focused on in Yazzie-Martinez case.**

Previously, Anja Rudiger, Ph.D., Presented by the Tribal Education Alliance, New Mexico, "Pathways to Education Sovereignty: Taking a Stand for Native Children," December 2020, **full 54 page report** at: [https://nabpi.unm.edu/assets/documents/tea-full-report\\_12-14,2020.pdf](https://nabpi.unm.edu/assets/documents/tea-full-report_12-14,2020.pdf),

#### **"I. Executive Summary**

**Pathways to Education Sovereignty explores the unfinished journey of Indian education from coercion and assimilation to tribal practices of teaching and learning now known as Indigenous education. It charts Indigenous solutions to New Mexico's education crisis contained in the Tribal Remedy Framework, a comprehensive plan for upholding Native students' constitutional right to an adequate and sufficient education. The Tribal Remedy Framework was created collectively by tribal community members and endorsed by the leadership of New Mexico's Nations, Tribes and Pueblos. This report examines the**

structural deficiencies of the state's public education system, the shortcomings of reform efforts, and the strategic solutions proposed by tribal communities.

The 2018 court ruling in *Yazzie/Martinez v. State of New Mexico* found that “the education system in New Mexico violates the New Mexico Constitution art. XII, § 1” (Decision and Order, 7/20/18, p. 59) and that the state has “not studied or developed effective educational systems for Native American students” (Court’s Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, 12/20/18, ¶3067), despite the directives of New Mexico’s Indian Education Act (22-23A-1 NMSA 1978). This report presents updated data documenting educational inputs and outcomes related to Native students. These facts and figures confirm, unequivocally, the existence of an education equity gap. Left unchecked, this gap will continue to jeopardize the well-being, identity and future of Native children and their communities. This report draws on a long history of recommendations for a new approach to Indian education, including those put forth by numerous federal commissions and independent task forces and by education experts and tribal advocates. The report contrasts the insufficiencies of New Mexico’s current piecemeal reforms and small-scale state grant funding with the need for a significant, systemic transformation to address historical injustices and ensure equitable outcomes.

Pathways to Education Sovereignty centers on an analysis of the proposals contained in the Tribal Remedy Framework and examines the following three strategic solutions:

**Shared responsibility and increased tribal control over the schooling of Native children:**

Capacity building within Tribal Education Departments (TEDs), including through investment in a pipeline for Native professionals supported by college and career preparation programs.

Recurring state funding for TEDs, including through the school funding formula’s at-risk factor.

A local governance and accountability framework that formalizes collaboration between Tribes and school districts; Native technical assistance centers to support TEDs and schools.

**Community-based education, created by and centered within tribal communities:**

Investment in tribal libraries as community education centers to provide extended learning, technology access, career and support services.

Investment in early education programs and services developed and delivered by tribal communities; full tribal authority over early childhood services.

Capacity building for tribal community-based networks to deliver integrated student supports, including social and health services; formal coordination and contracting with public schools.

A balanced, culturally and linguistically relevant education that revitalizes and sustains the strengths of children and their communities:

Policies to address institutional racism; development of trauma informed practices; implementation of Indigenous justice models to end the marginalization and school pushout of Native children.

Investment in tribally-led curriculum development centers and Native language programs, operated in partnership with Native higher education institutions and

**programs; addition of a Native language factor to the school funding formula; full tribal authority over Native language and culture programs.**

**Investment in a pipeline for Native teachers, educational leaders and staff; mandatory anti-racism and Indian Education Act training for all teachers, educational leaders and staff.**

**Each of these solutions compels the state to adopt a fundamental shift in approach:** a commitment to rectifying historical injustices and persistent systemic racism; an appreciation of Indigenous community knowledge and practices; and a readiness to facilitate tribal involvement in, and control over, the education of Indigenous children. With a consistent and comprehensive commitment, New Mexico can move toward a new paradigm for Indigenous education. The result would be a balanced public education system that brings schools and communities together and empowers tribal families and communities to reclaim the education of their children."

Cedar Attanasio, "State's Social Studies Curriculum Changes Teach More Pueblo, LGBTQ History: New Mexico social studies curriculum open to public comment," *The Paper*, September 30th, 2021, [https://abq.news/2021/09/states-social-studies-curriculum-changes-teach-more-pueblo-lgbtq-history/?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=The+Paper.+Subscriber&utm\\_campaign=bb82009cff-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2021\\_09\\_29\\_11\\_40&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_f8e2121d66-bb82009cff-68116799&mc\\_cid=bb82009cff&mc\\_eid=822e39214e](https://abq.news/2021/09/states-social-studies-curriculum-changes-teach-more-pueblo-lgbtq-history/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=The+Paper.+Subscriber&utm_campaign=bb82009cff-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2021_09_29_11_40&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f8e2121d66-bb82009cff-68116799&mc_cid=bb82009cff&mc_eid=822e39214e), reported, **"New Mexico education officials are asking for public comment on their overhaul of the social studies curriculum"** in geography, civics and history.

**"The current curriculum requires an understanding of a group broadly defined as 'Native Americans,' almost always in comparison to Anglo and Spanish settlers. The new curriculum would require students to understand more about Navajo, Pueblo and other tribes.**

The proposed curriculum would also require high school students to study the history of the LGBTQ rights movement and the AIDS epidemic, which are not mentioned in the current curriculum," as part of the addition of recent historical events."

**The Keres Children's Learning Center of Cochiti Pueblo in New Mexico is expanding its Keres Language and modified Montessori based education program from elementary school to infant/toddler and adolescent learning, while its Indigenous Montessori institute continues to train teachers of various Indian Nations** ("KLC Working to Expand to Serve Children Ages 0-18," *Exercising Tribal Educational Sovereignty*, published fall 2021). Contact: Keres Children's Learning Center, P.O. Box 113, Cochiti, NM 87072 (505)274-8029 or (505)999-8310.

**Saint Michaels Indian School on the Navajo Reservation has expanded its Navajo language offerings, adding sixth grade Navajo art and seventh grade Navajo current events** ("SMIS Expands Navajo Language Offerings," *Cardinal News*, fall 2021).

Dina Horwedel, Director of Public Education, American Indian College Fund, 303-426-8900, [dhorwedel@collegefund.org](mailto:dhorwedel@collegefund.org), **"American Indian College Receives \$1 Million Grant from Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, December 7, 2021, reported, "The American Indian College Fund (College Fund) announced that it has received a \$1 million grant from the**

**Chan Zuckerberg Initiative (CZI) to support the College Fund's work helping Indigenous students access a higher education.** The College Fund's work creates greater education equity in Native communities, while lifting families out of poverty. The grant is part of CZI's five-year, \$500 million investment CZI announced in December 2020."

Dina Horwedel, "American Indian College Fund Receives \$5.315 Million to Support Indigenous Early Childhood Education: Grant from Bezos Family Foundation Will Support Faculty Development, Family Engagement, and Develop a Community of Practice at 10 Tribal Colleges," American Indian College Fund, via E-mail, October 6, 2021, reported, "**The American Indian College Fund's Indigenous Early Childhood Education program is poised to continue its work at tribal colleges and universities over the next four years thanks to a \$5,315,000 grant from the Bezos Family Foundation. By educating students, training faculty, creating early childhood education programs at tribal colleges and universities, and involving parents and community in the education of young people, the College Fund hopes to grow the number of Native children and families it reaches, new early childhood curriculum created, and train even more early childhood educators. Early childhood education has been shown to promote education access, persistence, completion, and career readiness in students, and the College Fund's holistic program steeped in culture and language strengthens Native communities.**

**The College Fund has built a four-pronged program to work with 10 tribal colleges and universities (TCUs) through:**

- family engagement to empower parents to advocate for their children and themselves as they interact with education institutions.

- storytelling to engage diverse audiences and connect program participants to a movement to strengthen the Native teacher pipeline, change the narrative about Native communities to focus on their rich knowledge and traditions, and inspire the next generation of Native teaching professionals.

- establishing a community of practice for early childhood educators that creates and strengthens TCUs' early childhood education pathways that are rooted in community knowledge.

- increasing education success by strengthening degree program creation and enhancement, creating pathways to bachelor's degrees in early childhood education, connecting strong paths to bachelor's degrees, supporting internship practicums, and increasing TCUs' ability to support student recruitment, transfers, retention, and college completion.

- developing College Fund capacity through child development education, allowing it to expand its expertise to better administer early childhood education programs with TCUs, grow education opportunities for children, and strengthen Native nations.

Cheryl Crazy Bull, President and CEO of the American Indian College Fund, said, "The College Fund is pleased that our relationship with the Bezos Family Foundation blossomed into this investment in our children and their families. As Indigenous people, we have traditional knowledge about how to raise and teach children that helps us to be better citizens of our Tribal Nations and of American society. We are looking forward to building on that knowledge and on the dreams of our families and Tribal Colleges and Universities for even better social and educational experiences for our children."

"The Bezos Family Foundation is proud to support American Indian College Fund's work to expand access to high-quality, culturally-grounded early childhood preparation pathways within Tribal Colleges and Universities," said Mike Bezos, Vice-President and co-Founder of the



Bezos Family Foundation. 'We know from the science that positive interactions between young children and the adults in their lives is a powerful way to support healthy development, and we are confident that American Indian College Fund's work will help support the preparation of Indigenous educators and strengthen Native communities.'

The College Fund will be working with TCUs this fall to award funding for the first year in the four-year program. The College Fund will build upon its early childhood education program success, which has reached more than 5,000 children, 3,900 families, and 2,700 teachers at TCUs across Indian Country. In addition, the College Fund has committed to raise an additional six million dollars to offer the programming to 25 other TCUs."

Dina Horwedel, Director of Public Education, American Indian College Fund, 303-426-8900, [dhorwedel@collegefund.org](mailto:dhorwedel@collegefund.org), "Dollar General Literacy Foundation Grants \$300,000 to American Indian College Fund for High School Equivalency Programs at Tribal Colleges: Native Students Have Lowest National High School Attainment Rates; Progress Needed to Achieve Equity in Native Communities," American Indian College Fund, September 29, 2021, via E-mail, reported, **The Dollar General Literacy Foundation is continuing its work with the American Indian College Fund to increase the number of Native American high school graduates through the award of \$300,000 for the Native Students Stepping Forward: Dollar General High School Equivalency Completion program.**

The Native Students Stepping Forward program will provide affordable, culturally based high school equivalency (HSE) learning services to an estimated 400 students at approximately six tribal colleges and universities (TCUs) located on or near Indian reservations—where no other such services exist. To date, through the College Fund's partnership with the Dollar General Literacy Foundation, 257 students graduated from HSE programs hosted at the TCUs. These successes significantly impact the students' families and communities.

The program aims to help TCUs increase HSE enrollment, retention, and/or graduation rates and improve adult literacy in the communities they serve over the year-long grant period. TCU program facilitators will help the College Fund to assess successes, challenges, and solutions in providing HSE services to Native communities; gauge the impact of increased funding focused on systemic needs to enhance HSE services; and identify best practices in TCU HSE programming to share the success with other Native communities.

Cheryl Crazy Bull, President and CEO of the American Indian College Fund, said, 'The College Fund and the Dollar General Literacy Foundation share a vision of educational and career success by meeting people where they are. Their commitment to literacy and high school equivalency programming changes lives and we appreciate their investment.'

'We are honored to stand alongside the College Fund to serve students as they take steps towards their High School Equivalency,' said Denine Torr, Dollar General Literacy Foundation's executive director. 'Through our partnership, we hope to continue providing opportunities for Native American students to achieve their educational goals and create bright futures for themselves, their families, and their communities.'

**The pandemic has impacted Native American students in tribal communities the hardest, due to economic and health care inequities on tribal lands. In addition, limited access to technology has hindered access to schools with remote learning environments. Prior to the pandemic, Natives already had the lowest high school graduation rates in the nation at 74% compared to the national average of 86%. As a result, college enrollment and attainment rates were also lower with 19% of 18–25-year-old AI/AN students enrolled**

**in college compared to 32.1% of the overall U.S. population, and college degree attainment rates at less than half that of other groups, at 15% compared to 32.1%.**

**College enrollment also suffered during the pandemic among American Indian and Alaska Native students, with Native first-time student enrollment experiencing the steepest decline of all racial/ethnic groups in the country, down 23% at all colleges and universities nationwide.**

To create the leaders, educators, health care workers, and businesspeople Native communities need, the American Indian College Fund knows that higher education is the answer. To attain that goal, American Indian and Alaska Native students must complete high school first. The goal of the Native Students Stepping Forward: Dollar General High School Equivalency Completion program is to help students like Monique Gonzales do just that.

Monique earned her HSE at Tohono O'odham Community College in Sells, Arizona while simultaneously earning college credits through Arizona's College Credit Pathway program. Inspired by her twin brothers, who are hearing-impaired and who attended Arizona School of Deaf and Blind in Tucson, Monique realized her skills gained while serving as their interpreter could help others.

Monique said, 'I can spread my knowledge about the deaf community with the Nation and other Native American tribes, as we lack this knowledge and these accommodations.' Today she is studying to earn an associate degree in applied science and deaf studies with certification in American Sign Language Interpreting at Phoenix College. She plans to transfer to Grand Canyon University or Gallaudet University to earn a bachelor's degree, then earn a master's degree."

**"American Indian College Fund Launches Boarding School Descendant Scholarship for 2021-22: \$60,000 Grant from National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition Funds Twenty Native Scholarships for 2021-22," American Indian College Fund E-mail, October 26, 2021, [www.collegefund.org](http://www.collegefund.org), reported, "The American Indian College Fund and the National Native American Boarding School (NABS) Healing Coalition have joined forces to provide scholarships to descendants of boarding school survivors. Twenty scholarships of \$3,000 each were awarded for the academic year 2021-22.**

The scholarship is designed to acknowledge the experiences of boarding school survivors and to allow families to come together and heal. In the application process, students share a 500-word essay about their relationship with a boarding school survivor in their family. This process is designed to prompt sharing and healing, while acknowledging the impact of this trauma on their lives and relationships.

NABS raised over \$51,000 as part of a matching campaign to fund the scholarships for this academic year. In addition to financial support, the American Indian College Fund (the College Fund) provides students with culturally relevant and holistic support to facilitate persistence in education, academic achievement, personal and professional development, and career planning.

Christine Diindiisi McCleave, CEO of the National Native American Boarding School (NABS) Healing Coalition, said, "We know that the impacts of Indian boarding schools are intergenerational and have played a profound role in the educational disparities Native American students experience today. This scholarship program is a first step for boarding school descendants to heal intergenerational trauma, change their own narratives, and restore what was taken from us through Indian boarding schools."

Cheryl Crazy Bull, President and CEO of the American Indian College Fund, said, Native students are reclaiming education. All of us are survivors of intentional damage to the rights of our Tribes to educate and socialize their own people. The College Fund is honored to work with NABS to support those who are directly impacted by boarding schools. This helps all of us restore ourselves to the abundant and healthy lifestyles that are our right."

To qualify for the scholarship, a student must be a U.S. citizen, a tribal member or descendant of a federally or state-recognized tribe, a boarding school survivor or direct descendant of boarding school survivors, and enrolled full-time in a non-profit higher education institution in the United States. Students do not need to demonstrate financial need for this scholarship. Applicants must complete the College Fund's online Full Circle Scholarship application and a 500-word personal essay about the assimilation model of boarding schools. Interested students can apply at <https://collegefund.org/students/scholarships/>.

About the National Native American Boarding School (NABS) Healing Coalition--The mission of the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition (NABS) is to lead in the pursuit of understanding and addressing the ongoing trauma created by the United States Indian boarding school policy. NABS's work is centered around seeking truth, justice, and healing for survivors and descendants of Indian boarding schools."

"Cultural connections through horse teachings," *Lakota Times*, July 22, 2021, <https://www.lakotatimes.com/articles/cultural-connections-through-horse-teachings/>, reported, "In this last month, **nearly 30 youth attended Sunka Wakan camps and left with a connection to Lakota horse culture that will empower them in their life. These skills included horsemanship, crafting, healthy masculinity and safe behaviors.**

**The youth learned about traditional roles and responsibilities and teachings incorporated into crafting in designing horse masks and making arrow quivers. The main teachings was developing a connection to their horse, understanding with their horse and with themselves."**

Mary Ann Jacobs, Ph. D., Associate Professor and Chair, AI, UNCP, sent an E-mail, October 19, 2021, saying, **"To honor and recognize the founding fathers of The University of North Carolina at Pembroke, the relatives and direct descendants of our founders are invited to ride in the 2021 Homecoming Parade!**

**The UNCP's Founding Fathers' float continues the legacy of the trailblazers who saw a vision to educate the American Indian people of southeastern North Carolina and beyond. And demonstrates their enduring commitment to the purpose and promise of a UNCP education.**

The parade is scheduled for Thursday, October 21, 2021.

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First Nations Development Institute announced in an October 1, 2021 E-mail, **"Support Available to Preserve and Protect Native Languages,"**

**Native cultures and languages are, collectively, key assets for all Native communities. To support the revitalization and perpetuation of these valuable assets, First Nations is again awarding funding through our Native Language Immersion Initiative with grants ranging from \$45,000 to \$75,000 to build the capacity of Native-controlled nonprofit organizations and tribal government programs actively supporting Native language immersion**

**programs.** Learn more and apply here (<https://www.firstnations.org/rfps/native-language-immersion-initiative-grant-2022/>) by November 10, 2021. Questions about applying

### **Support Available to Preserve and Protect Native Languages**

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Vi Waln, "Lakota language revitalization," *Lakota Times*, September 23, 2021, <https://www.lakotatimes.com/articles/lakota-language-revitalization/>, reported, "Local tribal citizens often voice their desire to learn to speak the Lakota language, yet are reluctant to progress for a variety of personal reasons.

**The Rosebud Economic Development Corporation (REDCO) announced in a press release their plans for a new “language preservation initiative that will pay learners an annual salary to become fluent Lakota speakers.** The new program aims to reduce barriers for citizens of the Sicangu Lakota Oyate (Rosebud Sioux Tribe) to learn the language and pass it on to future generations.”

Vincent Schilling, **There are now a sufficient number of Native films and TV programs that *IPJ* is only reporting on a few significant ones.**

"Native women warriors featured include LaDonna Brave Bull Allard, Phyllis Young and Wasté Win Young — all leading the struggle surrounding the #NoDAPL movement," ICT, October 7, 2021, [https://mcusercontent.com/ee83519a17075b9d5a2c44042/files/ce4c0a66-e528-da34-39d1-f67c4587e4f6/10.7.21\\_The\\_Weekly.01.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/ee83519a17075b9d5a2c44042/files/ce4c0a66-e528-da34-39d1-f67c4587e4f6/10.7.21_The_Weekly.01.pdf), reported, "A breathtaking and **heartfelt new documentary highlighting a four-year battle of Native women-led water protectors in the #NoDAPL movement has recently secured a spot on Fuse TV.**

***End of the Line: The Women of Standing Rock*** premiered on Fuse TV — a video-on-demand streaming platform that focuses on empowering and cultural-based content — on June 25, a date marking the 145th anniversary of the Battle of Bighorn."

Felicia Fonseca, "Iconic Clint Eastwood Western Dubbed in Navajo," *ICT*, November 12, 2021, reported, [https://mcusercontent.com/ee83519a17075b9d5a2c44042/files/7afd5c2c-00ce-3f6f-a846-fe775d0e69e6/11.12.21\\_The\\_Weekly.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/ee83519a17075b9d5a2c44042/files/7afd5c2c-00ce-3f6f-a846-fe775d0e69e6/11.12.21_The_Weekly.pdf), reported that **the western movie, "A Fistful of Dollars" is the third major film dubbed in Navajo.**

Kaitlin Onawa Boysel, "First Americans Museum set to open: The museum represents the 39 tribes in Oklahoma and sits on a 40-acre site near downtown Oklahoma City," ICT, September 17, 2021, <https://indiancountrytoday.com/news/first-americans-museum-set-to-open?fbclid=IwAR06LUiv2QzYvRuWkYBoGhu16YOJiV4mKGAfXkJFLsSVs36JUAM7KM5c1o&bbeml=tp-pck9Q6QNPEiuBt3JmyTokQ.jtHSuJ4tyCkCKaxiTm6K0Fw.rLC1Q705IFEmd59Kt87Bm0Q.lwZUo0peYKEun1az9ijA1Ng>, reported, "An Indigenous museum that's been in the making since the 1980s is finally opening its doors.

**The First Americans Museum** (<https://famok.org>) opens September 18 with a packed weekend of events to celebrate. **The museum represents the 39 tribes in Oklahoma** and sits on a 40-acre site along the Oklahoma River across from downtown Oklahoma City."

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## **International Developments**

### **International Organization Developments**

#### **UN Permanent Forum On Indigenous Issues**

Socrates Vasquez, "Recommendations for Post-Pandemic Measures for Indigenous Peoples," Cultural Survival, July 07, 2021, <https://www.culturalsurvival.org/news/recommendations-post-pandemic-measures-indigenous-peoples>, reported, "On April 19-30, 2021, the **20th session of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues was held. A new precedent was established with a hybrid model meeting with most of the event being held online. Only the opening and closing sessions were conducted in person.** In this context of the COVID-19 pandemic, **participants presented a series of recommendations to the National States about the post-pandemic measures to be taken to respect, protect, and fulfill Indigenous Peoples' rights.**

A report presented by Darío José Mejía Montalvo (Zenú), a member of the UN Permanent Forum for Indigenous Issues, **emphasized how Indigenous Peoples have been respectful of other beings on Earth, but nation States, through laws and ill-designed policies have stripped away what Indigenous communities have occupied since time immemorial times continuing the cycle of life. The same communities that have comprehensively managed and conserved large territories are now increasingly threatened. The right to territory and to protection of the same are fundamental for the lifeways of Indigenous communities and society in general.**

Mejía stressed that prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the States already abandoned Indigenous communities through discriminatory policies, historical racism, and marginalization. Some of these exclusions are the lack of access routes and roads to communities; the lack of information and translation about the COVID-19 pandemic into Indigenous languages; barriers in accessing vaccines; and an adequate preventative mobilization in the communities due to inability in accessing information in Indigenous languages. 'The pandemic also evidenced pre-existing inequalities, in many cases, it deepened them. The impact has been greater in the areas of health, economy, and food security, but especially on women, girls and boys.'

**During this COVID-19 pandemic, many Peoples continue to be dispossessed of their lands and their leaders killed. They die from the pandemic but also from the greed of a consumer society whose happiness is measured in accumulated goods.** Throughout the history of Indigenous Peoples, pandemics were used as extermination and colonization strategies, today it also continues in other ways.

The report also mentions: 'Some of these causes are due to injustices and historical inequalities that give rise to extreme poverty and exclusion. Indigenous Peoples represent almost 19 percent of the people who suffer extreme poverty and are almost three times more likely to

find themselves in that situation than people who do not belong to an Indigenous community.' Furthermore, Indigenous Peoples **'continue to be among the groups with limited access to social protection, in part due to the broader patterns of marginalization, discrimination, and exclusion that affect them. Existing policies and measures to promote Indigenous Peoples' access to social protection are considered insufficient and do not always have their full and effective participation.'**

In this session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, Indigenous leaders mentioned the importance of **calling for 'the establishment of effective mechanisms that include the participation of Indigenous leaders, entities, and institutions in decision-making processes, since this is a step important to facilitate inclusive and culturally appropriate measures to address the crisis.'**

The importance of carrying out a continental campaign by international organizations and local governments was emphasized so that Indigenous communities can have adequate access to vaccines and overcome the gap of delay that has always been seen in Indigenous territories. Likewise, it was recognized that **'despite all these challenges, Indigenous Peoples are custodians of a large amount of traditional knowledge, practices, languages, and cultures that include responses to crises that have proven their validity over time. Indigenous Peoples' organizations around the world have quickly organized to respond to the pandemic and have provided food and health aid to remote locations.'**

Myrna Cunningham (Miskitu), a doctor from Nicaragua, participated in the session and emphasized that **the intercultural approach must permeate throughout the vaccination process, taking into account languages and the ways in which Peoples and communities resolve their health issues, stressing that sufficient resources should be allocated as a means to historical restorative justice.**

The most outstanding **recommendations** mentioned by the panelists and should be addressed urgently are summarized below:

**Governments should ensure the effective participation of Indigenous Peoples in all recovery efforts, for example, where culturally relevant health and education services were an integral part of these recovery plans. It is critical that recovery efforts take into account the effects of the pandemic on Indigenous women and girls and include measures to address them.**

**States should develop various tools to collect and disseminate quality disaggregated data and indicators that serve as the basis for the development of policies that address the health and socioeconomic impact of the pandemic on Indigenous Peoples.**

**States and international organizations should also prepare and disseminate culturally appropriate information in Indigenous languages. This would build trust, for example in vaccination campaigns and in the application of social protection programs for Indigenous Peoples.**

**Governments, financial institutions, and the private sector must end the land grabs, evictions, criminal activities, and general violence that had increased on Indigenous territories during the pandemic, putting people at risk, particularly Indigenous women and children. In addition, major development projects and natural resource extraction should be carried out in accordance with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, respecting the right of Indigenous Peoples to self-determination and the principle of Free, Prior and Informed Consent. In addition, the recognition of the**

**collective rights of Indigenous Peoples to land and territorial security must be enforced, since they increase resilience in the face of crises such as COVID-19."**

The International Treaty Council reported in an October 12, 2021 E-mail, "Contact: [communications@treatycouncil.org](mailto:communications@treatycouncil.org), "UN Human Rights Council adopts historic resolutions on the right to a Safe Environment, Climate Change and the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, "

Geneva, Switzerland, October 12, 2021: **At the close of the UN Human Rights Council's forty-eighth session on Friday, October 8, three resolutions in which the IITC had actively engaged were adopted. The right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment is now formally recognized at the global level through a resolution endorsed by over 1000 Indigenous Peoples, civil society organizations, and UN Experts. This resolution affirms the right already recognized in Article 29 of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.** The unbreakable link between human rights and a safe environment was further underscored by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in its recommendations for the country review Mexico from 2015. The CRC asserted at that time that "Environmental Health" is a protected right under Article 24 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in response to IITC's submission addressing the devastating and deadly health impacts of toxic and banned pesticides on Yaqui Indigenous children in that county. As a result of the Human Rights Council's landmark resolution, this is now recognized as a universal right.

Click here for a copy of the resolution as adopted: <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/LTD/G21/270/15/PDF/G2127015.pdf?OpenElement>.

In a **second historic resolution, the Council created a new Special Rapporteur's Office on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change.** The urgent need for the creation of this new Special Rapporteur to gather information and report on human rights violations created by the causes, impacts, and, in some cases, false market-based solutions to climate change generated broad support from Indigenous Peoples, small island States, civil society organizations, and other human rights mandate holders, including the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. IITC played an active role in the work of this broad coalition over the past year as a focal point for Indigenous Peoples in a number of webinars and educational fora, stressing its vital importance as the climate crisis continues to worsen.

Click here for a copy of the resolution as adopted: <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/LTD/G21/268/23/PDF/G2126823.pdf?OpenElement>.

Andrea Carmen, Executive Director of the International Indian Treaty Council (IITC) and member of the Facilitative Working Group for the UNFCCC Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Platform, warmly welcomed these historic advances, which affirm the understanding of Indigenous Peoples around the world that human health and well-being cannot be separated from a clean and healthy environment: "The adoption of these resolutions as a result of a broad collective effort will enhance the ability of Indigenous Peoples to present rights-based solutions for environmental recovery and restoration, and to protect the integrity of their natural ecosystems from environmental contamination and climate change, in line with their human rights. Too often throughout the UN system, we have seen some so-called solutions promoted to address environmental degradation, biodiversity loss, deforestation, and climate change that ignore, or even further violate the rights of Indigenous Peoples to protect their homelands and

continue their ways of life. We hope that these decisions by UN Human Rights Council will help us chart a stronger rights-based course to ensure environmental protection and reverse climate change'.

In addition to these historic and long-awaited advances, **the Human Rights Council's resolution on Human Rights and Indigenous Peoples was also adopted** on the last day of the session. **This resolution also affirms the essential role of Indigenous Peoples in addressing climate change and biodiversity loss, and it addresses other closely related concerns, including ending impunity for the repression of human rights defenders.** IITC is also gratified that the resolution recognizes the importance of recent and upcoming studies by the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous People and the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. It also **provides a way forward to advance enhanced participation of Indigenous representative institutions, affirms a process for international repatriation of sacred items and human remains, and denounces violence against Indigenous women and girls, among many other important provisions.**

Click here for a copy of the resolution as adopted: <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/LTD/G21/269/28/PDF/G2126928.pdf?OpenElement>.

**The UN's Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment released a strongly-worded policy brief in August, arguing that achieving environmental goals 'demands a dramatic departure from 'conservation as usual'.' His brief calls instead for a radically different, rights-based approach.**

The entire brief is at:  
<https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Environment/SREnvironment/policy-briefing-1.pdf>.  
The points covered are"

**Fortress conservation violates human rights and fails to protect nature**

**The devastating impacts of fortress conservation on Indigenous Peoples,**

**The tremendous human cost of fortress conservation has generated limited gains for nature**

**Indigenous Peoples and other rural rightsholders must be key partners in conserving and restoring biodiversity**

Recognizing the conservation contributions of Indigenous Peoples,

Recognizing the conservation contributions of peasants

Recognizing the conservation contributions of Indigenous, Afro-descendant, local community, and peasant women

Recognizing the conservation contributions of Indigenous, Afro-descendant, local community, and peasant youth, and the imperative to safeguard nature for future generations

**Conclusion and recommendations for the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and beyond**

**Recommendations Specific to the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework**

**Recommendations applicable to all conservation measures**

**The Conclusion and recommendations:**

**IV. Conclusion and recommendations for the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and beyond**

**The world has an opportunity to safeguard all life on Earth through scaling up recognition for human rights and the conservation contributions of Indigenous Peoples,**



**Afro- descendants, local communities, peasants, and the women and youth within these groups.** The ecological, bio cultural, and spiritual value of the biodiversity stewarded by Indigenous Peoples and other rural rights holders is infinite. In economic terms, the smallholder production of Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendants, local communities, and peasants has enormous collective value. Smallholder farming and forestry production alone generate an estimated value between US\$ 869 billion and US\$ 1.29 trillion in 2017 dollars.<sup>112</sup> Given the magnitude of Indigenous Peoples' and other rural rights holders' many nature-based contributions, the large proportion of global ecosystems managed by these communities, and their impressive conservation record despite circumstances of marginalization and minimal external assistance, the potential of Indigenous Peoples and other rural people with legally recognized, adequately supported tenure rights to substantially contribute to global area-based conservation targets is readily apparent.<sup>113</sup> Indeed, community-based conservation efforts result in particularly favourable biodiversity outcomes where community land and resource rights are adequately recognized, supported, and respected.<sup>114</sup> Both communities and biological diversity benefit even further when such efforts strengthen the specific tenure rights of rural women.<sup>115</sup> Consequently, implementing rights-based conservation approaches is both a legal obligation under international law and the most equitable, effective, and efficient conservation strategy available to protect biodiversity at the scale required to end the current global crisis.

**In recognition of the mutual dependence between nature and the human rights of Indigenous and other rural peoples and the urgent need to combat nature's decline, the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework and all conservation, restoration, and sustainable use initiatives must ensure that:**

**(1) Rights-based approaches are obligatory in all actions to conserve, restore, and share the benefits of biodiversity, including conservation financing;**

**(2) Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendants, local communities, peasants, rural women, and rural youth are acknowledged as key rights-holders and partners in protecting and restoring nature, whose human, land and tenure rights, knowledge, and conservation contributions must be recognized, respected, and supported; and**

**(3) Everyone's right to live in a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment is acknowledged, and is accompanied by measurable targets towards the recognition and implementation of this right.**

The remainder of this brief presents specific recommendations in furtherance of these overarching imperatives, which incorporate and build upon recommendations presented in the UN Special Rapporteur's 2020 report to the General Assembly, *Human Rights Depend on a Healthy Biosphere*.<sup>116</sup> The first set of recommendations are specific to the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework, while the second set of recommendations involve protecting the human rights of Indigenous Peoples and other rural rights holders in all biodiversity conservation actions.

#### **A. Recommendations specific to the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework**

**The Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework should:**

**(1) Explicitly acknowledge everyone's right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment, which includes healthy biodiversity and ecosystems, and include measurable targets towards the recognition and implementation of this right (e.g., inclusion in constitutions, legislation, and National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans).**

**(2) Prioritize the empowerment and substantive participation of Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendants, local communities, peasants, rural women, and rural youth, along with the**

legal recognition and implementation of their human, land and tenure rights, as the central strategy driving the rights-based Framework.

(3) Emphasize rights-based actions that equitably partner with and support the conservation leadership of Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendants, local communities, peasants, rural women, and rural youth, build their capacity, rely on their traditional knowledge and nature management practices, and achieve multiple human rights and sustainable development benefits (e.g., biodiversity conservation initiatives that reduce poverty, promote gender equality, improve food security, and address climate change).

(4) Be revised so that the 2050 Vision statement reads: “The vision of the framework is a world of living in harmony with nature where: By 2050, biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining nature’s contributions to people and the interdependent biological and cultural diversity that enable them, sustaining a healthy planet and ensuring recognition and respect for human, land, and tenure rights of Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendants, local communities, peasants, rural women, rural youth and other rural rights holders, thereby delivering ecosystem benefits essential for all people and future generations.”

(5) Be revised so that the 2030 Mission statement reads: 'To take urgent action across society and in partnership with Indigenous Peoples and other rural rights holders—including local communities, Afro-descendants, peasants, rural women, and rural youth—to design and implement rights-based approaches that conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ensure the fair and equitable sharing of benefits from the use of biological resources, thereby putting biodiversity on a path to recovery by 2030 for the mutual benefit of the planet, all people, and all future generations.'

(6) Include an additional 2030 Goal whereby all Indigenous Peoples', Afro-descendants', and local communities' rights to the community lands, waters, carbon, sub-surface resources, and territories they traditionally own and/or govern are legally recognized, respected and implemented, with particular attention to the rights of Indigenous, Afro-descendant, and local community women.

(7) Include a subsection within the 2030 Action Targets dedicated to support for Indigenous Peoples' and other marginalized rural groups' human, land, and tenure rights—including all rights enshrined in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007), the UN Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (2018), the International Labour Organization Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention No. 169 (1989), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (1981), and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989). **The sub-section should include:**

a) Two 2030 Action Targets that replace the text of Target 21 in the current draft, and that read:

“By 2030, ensure Indigenous Peoples', Afro-descendants', local communities', and peasants' (including rural women and rural youth within these groups) full consultation and equitable and effective participation—including rights of free, prior and informed consent (FPIC)—in all decision-making related to biodiversity. Support their decision-making capacity, and ensure that their participation, priorities, traditional knowledge, innovations, and nature stewardship practices guide conservation decision-making at all levels;

By 2030, ensure the legal recognition and security of Indigenous Peoples', Afro-descendants', local communities', and peasants' tenure rights over all lands, waters, and other natural resources

that they customarily or otherwise own, manage, or use, with particular attention to the tenure rights of women and youth within these groups.”

b) 'Measurable 2030 Action Targets specific to the traditional knowledge of Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendants, local communities, peasants, rural women, and rural youth, and to their receipt of fair and equitable conservation benefits (as reflected in current Targets 9, 13, and 20).').

(8) Require human rights-based, gender-sensitive conservation approaches to be incorporated within the development, content, and implementation of all National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and other planning and monitoring mechanisms. **Relatedly, require NBSAPs and other planning and monitoring mechanisms to:**

a) Guarantee all people’s access to information, participation in decision- making, and access to justice in biodiversity conservation matters;

b) Include gender and youth inclusion strategies;

c) Require States to regularly monitor adherence to human rights standards and respect for the human, land, and tenure rights of Indigenous Peoples and other rural rights holders in all conservation measures.

(9) Increase the 2030 Action Target to assist low-income states so that at least \$100 billion in annual grants from high-income states is devoted to assist low-income states in conserving, protecting, restoring and ensuring the sustainable use of nature (matching international climate finance commitments).

(10) Include a 2030 Action target for zero murders of environmental human rights defenders working on biodiversity and conservation-related issues, highlighting the duty of all conservation actors to protect them, apply a zero- tolerance approach to their abuse, and take effective actions to ensure their freedom from harassment, intimidation, violence, criminalization and other forms of abuse.

#### **B. Recommendations applicable to all conservation measures**

**To protect human rights, the rights of Indigenous Peoples and other rural rights holders, and ensure healthy ecosystems and biodiversity, States should urgently undertake the following actions.**

(11) Prioritize and accelerate the legal recognition of the land, forest, freshwater, and other tenure rights, associated titles, and other rights held by Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendants, local communities, peasants, and rural women and youth within these groups, thereby empowering those who depend directly on nature for their livelihoods and cultural identities to engage in long-term, sustainable biodiversity conservation and use practices based on traditional knowledge, customary laws, and the implementation of local stewardship systems.

(12) Place Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendants, local communities, peasants, rural women, and rural youth—along with their traditional knowledge and sustainable nature governance practices—at the forefront of efforts to identify, designate, and manage new and existing areas important for cultural and biological diversity, including Indigenous protected and conserved areas,<sup>117</sup> Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas,<sup>118</sup> territories of life, sacred sites, and other effective area-based conservation measures, including through adequate legal, financial and other resources.

(13) Ensure Indigenous Peoples’ and other rural rights holders’ access to and use of land, water, wildlife, plants, and sacred sites for survival, subsistence and small-scale commercial livelihoods, medicinal, cultural, and spiritual purposes, with specific arrangements established

through inclusive, gender- sensitive consultation processes that are in accordance with the right of free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC). Reform conservation and protected area legislation as necessary to ensure these protections for all Indigenous Peoples and other rural rights holders whose livelihoods and cultures depend on areas designated for conservation protection.

(14) Provide swift, just, fair, and equitable investigation and redress for past conservation-driven violations of the rights of Indigenous Peoples, Afro- descendants, local communities, peasants, and women and youth within these groups related to the creation and/or management of protected areas, including through restitution of rural rights holders' lands, territories, and associated resource rights. When this is not possible, provide just, fair, culturally acceptable, and equitable compensation. Unless otherwise freely agreed upon by the Indigenous Peoples or other rural rights holders concerned, compensation should take the form of lands, territories, and resources equal in quality, size and legal status, or of monetary compensation or other appropriate redress.

(15) Redirect financial flows for conservation to Indigenous Peoples, Afro- descendants, local communities, and peasants, including initiatives led by rural women and rural youth, for protecting and sustainably using biodiversity.

(16) States and other institutions should only fund conservation initiatives that: (a) respect and protect the title, tenure, access, and nature governance rights of Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendants, local communities, and peasants—including women and youth within these groups—to their lands and territories, including the right of free, prior, and informed consent to any actions that affect them; (b) when directed at law enforcement, require and ensure that eco-guards and rangers are trained to international human rights standards and subject to effective oversight and accountability; (c) provide local residents with access to independent grievance and redress mechanisms that can receive complaints of, and provide remedies for, human rights violations; and (d) require regular transparent reporting by funding recipients on how they are meeting human rights norms.

(17) Work across government ministries and processes related to biodiversity conservation, restoration and sustainable development to create opportunities for Indigenous and other rural youth to contribute to decision- making processes at all levels. Genuinely listen to young people's priorities, concerns, and perspectives, and ensure that their demands have substantive impact on the development of all policies and the implementation of all activities to safeguard nature.

(18) Require urgent action to protect and respect the rights of environmental human rights defenders, prevent their abuse, and provide swift, fair and effective investigation, redress and reparations for existing violations against them. Specifically, strengthen practical measures to support environmental human rights defenders, including: effective and timely remedies in cases where Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendants, local communities, peasants, and other defenders face threats, criminalization and/or any form of violence; and revoke illegally issued land concessions, water, agricultural or other development permits on lands customarily owned, used, or occupied by Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendants, local communities, or peasants.

(19) Pass and enforce laws requiring businesses and their subsidiaries in all sectors to: prevent, identify and adequately respond to adverse impacts on human rights, ecosystems, biodiversity, Indigenous Peoples, Afro- descendants, local communities, peasants, rural women, rural youth, and environmental human rights defenders at the project level and throughout supply chains in accordance with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. Such laws should include substantial penalties for non- compliance, and should require that all businesses

and their subsidiaries: conduct pre-investment due diligence on the potential human rights and environmental risks associated with their contemplated operations and supply chains; withdraw from any contemplated initiatives that do not satisfy human rights and environmental standards commensurate with both national and international law; take actions to appropriately respond to any possible human rights and environmental violations; develop and implement gender-sensitive policies specific to respecting the rights of Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendants, local communities, peasants, rural women, and rural children; respect Indigenous Peoples' and other marginalized rural groups' FPIC rights, and guarantee all rural rights holders' substantive participation in decision-making processes for projects that could affect them; establish accessible grievance mechanisms and access to remedy for affected persons; and transparently share compliance actions, failures, and lessons learned with the public.

(20) Pass and enforce laws requiring large conservation organizations to take actions to prevent, identify and adequately respond to human rights abuses, specifically requiring all large conservation organizations to: conduct due diligence on the potential human rights risks associated with their contemplated operations; withdraw from any contemplated operations that do not satisfy human rights standards; take actions to appropriately respond to any potential human rights violations that occur in relation to their conservation initiatives; develop and implement gender-sensitive policies specific to respecting the rights of Indigenous Peoples, Afro-descendants, local communities, peasants, rural women, and rural children; respect Indigenous Peoples' and other marginalized rural groups' FPIC rights, guaranteeing all rural rights holders' substantive participation in decision-making processes that could affect their rights; provide Indigenous peoples and other rural rights holders with an equitable share of project benefits; develop and implement specific policies concerning the hiring, training, support, and required conduct of eco-guards and others responsible for securing protected areas or other areas designated for conservation; provide accessible grievance mechanisms and access to remedy for affected persons, and transparently share compliance actions, failures, and lessons learned with the public. These requirements are consistent with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights."

Savannah Stewart, "Fighting for the right to participate in the UN, The Eastern Door, October 12, 2021, [https://easterndoor.com/2021/10/12/fighting-for-the-right-to-participate-in-the-un/?fbclid=IwAR3EfY-wDKbTQYoY61x0\\_OrEXsx4H44DJJbImlvF0rH7a5HIhJ6FkHTuC1c](https://easterndoor.com/2021/10/12/fighting-for-the-right-to-participate-in-the-un/?fbclid=IwAR3EfY-wDKbTQYoY61x0_OrEXsx4H44DJJbImlvF0rH7a5HIhJ6FkHTuC1c), reported on Kenneth Deer's comments, as "...he and other **Indigenous leaders are pushing for their right to appropriate participation at the UN.**

**'When the UN was created, it gave two levels of participation: one to member states and the other to non-governmental organizations (NGOs),' Deer explained.**

**This has the effect of denying Indigenous nations a seat at the table,** as they don't fit in either category.

'Indigenous Peoples have governments, so we are not NGOs, so we don't register as NGOs in the UN system. Therefore, we can't speak as our own governments.'

At the 2014 UN World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, **the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution to facilitate the participation of Onkwehón:we in the organization.**

Deer said this could take the shape of a new status for membership, similar to the non-member observer status that was granted to Palestine."

## Regional and Country Developments

Leyland Cecco, "Indigenous children set to receive billions after judge rejects Trudeau challenges: First Nations children entitled to government compensation, Canada 'wilfully and recklessly' discriminated against them," *The Guardian*, September 29, 2021, [https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2021/sep/29/canada-indigenous-children-first-nations-trudeau?CMP=Share\\_iOSApp\\_Other&bbeml=tp-pck9Q6QNPEiuBt3JmyTokQ.jdI0qqZM4kku8bBdsvFS-OA.rJ-IngRjUaEW\\_\\_KYEbU3w4g.II3guvQjzIk-kWoLdwbB6vw](https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2021/sep/29/canada-indigenous-children-first-nations-trudeau?CMP=Share_iOSApp_Other&bbeml=tp-pck9Q6QNPEiuBt3JmyTokQ.jdI0qqZM4kku8bBdsvFS-OA.rJ-IngRjUaEW__KYEbU3w4g.II3guvQjzIk-kWoLdwbB6vw), reported that **following up on a ruling by the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal that the federal government, by failing to properly fund child and family services, had "wilfully and recklessly" discriminated against Indigenous children living on reserves, "A federal court in Canada has paved the way for billions in compensation to First Nations children who suffered discrimination in the welfare system, after a judge dismissed a pair of legal challenges by the government.**

**The tribunal [had] ruled the federal government was required to pay compensation worth C\$40,000 to each child removed from his or her home – the maximum allowable under the country's human rights act.**

**But instead of paying out the compensation, the prime minister Justin Trudeau said his government would appeal the ruling to make sure we're getting compensation right."**

Sarah Hume, "Canada Takes Steps to Ending Violence Against Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ People," *Cultural Survival*, July 15, 2021, <https://www.culturalsurvival.org/news/canada-takes-steps-ending-violence-against-indigenous-women-girls-and-2slgbtqia-people>, reported, **"Indigenous women and girls are 12 times more likely to be murdered or missing than non-Indigenous women, ultimately amounting to genocide, reports Canada's National Action Plan** (<https://mmiwg2splus-nationalactionplan.ca>). The report is titled 'Ending Violence Against Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2SLGBTQIA+ People,' and it follows the 2019 National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. The National Inquiry report is the result of evidence gathered from public hearings, guided dialogues, and testimonies about the violence against Indigenous women, girls, queer people, and gender-diverse people. **It provides 231 recommendations for ending this violence.**

Released in 2021, the National Action Plan is the next step in addressing the National Inquiry's recommendations. It also includes recommendations made in the Métis Perspectives of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and LGBTQ2S+ People. As an overarching, broad plan, this report details necessary actions for governments and organizations to implement. Another more specific document will later be created with timelines and measurements of progress. **The National Plan is recognized as an 'evergreen document,' changing and adapting to serve the needs of the future. It acts as a foundation and first step.**

The National Action Plan is broken down into multiple short sections. **Indigenous stakeholders such as the First Nations, Métis Nation, and Inuit contribute specific plans, focusing on their priorities and necessities. Each Canadian province also provides a plan that is particular to their provincial government.** Many provinces organize their information under two separate headings: 'Current Progress' and 'Priorities and Next Steps.' Most specific plans are three to four pages long in total — only main themes are reported in the National Action

Plan, with the majority of stakeholders including links to their full plan. These links provide more information about programs and will be accessible further below.

**The National Action Plan stresses the importance of centering families and survivors. Over 100 Indigenous women, 2SLGBTQQIA+ people, and others contributed to the development of the plan.** Organizations such as the Core Working Group, National Family and Survivors Circle, and provincial/territorial representatives were influential throughout the process. They made decisions to incorporate recommendations and reviewed the report before publication. **The National Action Plan states that it is necessary to honor the strength of Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people and 'support them in reclaiming their sacred roles and responsibilities.'** Other recurring themes include addressing the broader causes of violence such as racism and inequality, creating mechanisms to hold governments accountable for protecting their citizens, and ensuring that positive changes are felt by Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people.

Each specific plan created by Indigenous leaders, organizations, and provinces, will be described briefly here, highlighting their main points and providing links to their full plans. These localized plans identify the priorities of each group and allow for a better understanding of concrete actions currently taking place. While the goal of ending the violence against Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people remains the same throughout the National Action Plan, ideas for best practices may differ.

**The National Family and Survivor's Circle— composed of Indigenous women from diverse backgrounds— provides guidance on how to engage families, survivors, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people in the development and implementation of the National Action Plan.** They most notably call for an independent oversight body to hold the Canadian government accountable. This body would legally require governments to submit reports about their National Action Plan progress. When rights have been violated, this body allows for abuses to be investigated.

**The Assembly of First Nations is the national representative body of 634 First Nations and First Nations citizens across Canada, regardless of where they live. They request the creation of toolkits providing immediate steps to take when experiencing violence, or when a loved one goes missing or is murdered. Further, governments and police must take complaints about missing people seriously and properly investigate cases. Officials will keep the family informed throughout the process. To address root causes of violence and inequality, the First Nations Action Plan focuses on creating shelters, transitional housing, and safe modes of transportation.**

**The Inuit Action Plan summarizes the need for Inuit representatives to lead initiatives that historically have been led by governments. The Métis Nation calls for the creation of Métis Healing and Wellness centers that prioritize physical and mental health, trauma healing, and cultural knowledge. Métis-focused Gladue Reports are also necessary. Gladue principles are a way for the judge to consider the unique circumstances and experiences of Indigenous Peoples when making a decision of court. This includes intergenerational challenges of colonization such as racism, removal from land, and Indian residential schools.**

**The 2SLGBTQQIA+ sub-working group action plan requests federal legislation that includes the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. This would allow Indigenous self-determination and the right to take part in policy decision-making. They also call for expanding LGBTQIA+ programs and infrastructure by**

creating safe and supportive facilities. Because Indigenous Peoples living in urban areas often are ignored and undermined, the Urban plan dedicates itself to ensuring that urban Indigenous communities have direct access to research, planning, development, and delivery of urban programs and services. The Congress of Aboriginal Peoples demands that Indigenous Peoples receive funding and services regardless of Status or residency, as nearly 80 percent of Indigenous people live off-reserve in Canada today.

Highlights from the Federal Government Action Plan and each provincial government are included below, with separate links at the bottom of this page for easy reference. Most notably, the government of Canada proposed to invest \$2.2 billion over five years and \$160.9 million ongoing to respond to this national tragedy. Over the next five years, \$18 billion will be used to improve the quality of life and create new opportunities for people living in Indigenous communities. The government's next steps include drafting an Implementation Plan by July 2021 to provide details and timelines.

Themes from the provincial government plans are Indigenous-led programs, centering families and survivors in the National Action Plan, and addressing root causes of violence. Many provinces, including Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland and Labrador, have already established or are planning to establish cultural training for all frontline service employees. This aims to increase cultural understanding, and shift the system to better include Indigenous knowledge and experiences. Provinces such as Yukon, Nunavut, Saskatchewan, and Ontario, provide culturally appropriate services for child welfare, healing and wellness programs, and correctional centers. The Traditional Pathways Program in Saskatchewan, as an example, provides access to traditional medicines and services to First Nations and Métis patients.

Current progress and next steps prioritize funding Indigenous-led and community-based organizations. Most focus on violence prevention and healing. Other campaigns support public awareness and education, creating legislature to protect victims of domestic abuse, developing a human trafficking task force, and funding housing for Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQIA+ people. The National Action plan as a whole calls for Indigenous methodologies of data collection to be used in response to the history of Indigenous Peoples being researched, identified, and misidentified without their Free, Prior, and Informed Consent. Progress will be measured by annual reports, posted by governments to a public-access web portal, and by the outcomes for Indigenous communities.

#### **Specific Action Plans for Federal Government and Provinces (when provided):**

**Federal** **Government:** <https://www.rcaanc-cirnac.gc.ca/eng/1622233286270/1622233321912>.

**Prince Edward Island:** <https://docs.assembly.pe.ca/download/dms?objectId=f72fe7dc-0c8e-4b19-83e2-efe3a773486d&fileName=Premier.King.05052021.Status%20report%20on%20calls%20for%20justice-missing%20and%20murdered%20indigenous%20women,%20May%202021.pdf>.

**Ontario:** <https://www.ontario.ca/page/pathways-safety-ontarios-strategy-response-final-report-national-inquiry-missing-and-murdered>.

**Manitoba:** <https://www.gov.mb.ca/inr/mmiwg/index.html>.

**Saskatchewan:** <https://publications.saskatchewan.ca/#/products/112884>.

**Alberta:** <https://www.alberta.ca/alberta-joint-working-group-on-mmiwg.aspx>.



**British Columbia:** <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/law-crime-and-justice/about-bc-justice-system/inquiries/mmiw/mmiwg-status-update.pdf>

**Yukon:** <https://yukon.ca/en/changing-story-upholding-dignity-and-justice-yukons-missing-and-murdered-indigenous-women-girls-and>.

**Northwest Territories:** [https://www.eia.gov.nt.ca/sites/eia/files/td\\_235-192.pdf](https://www.eia.gov.nt.ca/sites/eia/files/td_235-192.pdf)."

Dan Bilefsky, "Coroner Finds Racism Played Part in Indigenous Woman's Death: Bias contributed to the death of an Indigenous woman who filmed herself being abused by hospital staff, a coroner said Tuesday," *The New York Times*, October 5, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/10/05/world/canada/canada-indigenous-death-joyce-echaquan.html>, reported, "It was a case that shook Canada: A 37-year-old Indigenous mother of seven died in a Quebec hospital last year after a nurse had taunted her, 'You're stupid as hell,' only good at having sex, and 'better off dead.'

**On Tuesday, a coroner said that the death of the woman, Joyce Echaquan, could have been prevented and that racism and prejudice had played a role in her treatment. Because of bias, she said, medical staff had erroneously assumed Ms. Echaquan was suffering withdrawal from narcotics." There was no evidence that she was experiencing a narcotics withdrawal, but she had a history of heart problems that should have been the starting point for the medical staff.**

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"Pope OKs Canada trip, help healing with Indigenous: The pilgrimage could be the occasion for a papal apology that has been demanded by many in Canada," *ICT*, October 28, 2021, <https://indiancountrytoday.com/news/pope-oks-canada-trip-help-healing-with-indigenous>, reported, **"Pope Francis has agreed to visit Canada to help efforts at reconciliation with Indigenous peoples following shocking revelations of the Catholic Church's role in the abuse and deaths of thousands of native children, the Vatican said on Wednesday."**

Miles Morrisseau, "Residential School Survivors' Meeting With Pope Postponed," *ICT*, December 9, 2021, [https://mcusercontent.com/ee83519a17075b9d5a2c44042/files/a5542e55-2bd5-9a0a-903f-45f72a2ae0e7/12.09.21\\_The\\_Weekly.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/ee83519a17075b9d5a2c44042/files/a5542e55-2bd5-9a0a-903f-45f72a2ae0e7/12.09.21_The_Weekly.pdf), reported, **"A planned meeting at the Vatican between survivors of Canada's Indian residential schools and Pope Francis has been postponed indefinitely because of a worldwide rise in the Omicron variant of the COVID virus," but the hope is that it can take place in 2022.**

"New Revelations of Child Graves at Residential Schools Lays Bare a History of Genocide," Cultural Survival, June 24, 2021, <https://www.culturalsurvival.org/news/new-revelations-child-graves-residential-schools-lays-bare-history-genocide>, reported, **"Recent investigations in Canada led by the Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc First Nation and Cowessess First Nation have uncovered the bodies of 215 and 751 Indigenous children victims of State-sanctioned Catholic residential schools in unmarked graves on the former properties of the Kamloops Residential School in British Columbia and the Marieval Indian Residential School in Saskatchewan. These numbers add to hundreds of other graves that have been uncovered at additional schools.**

**Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) concluded in 2015 that residential schools amounted to 'cultural genocide' of First Nations Peoples. Residential schools existed in Canada between the 1870s and 1996, when the last school closed; in the 150 years of their existence, an estimated 150,000 Indigenous children were sent to the schools, often**

against the wishes of their parents. According to the TRC, 'these government-funded, church-run schools were set up to eliminate parental involvement in the intellectual, cultural, and spiritual development of Aboriginal children' and many students were 'forbidden to speak their language and practice their own culture.' The report establishes that 'these measures were part of a coherent policy to eliminate Aboriginal people as distinct peoples and to assimilate them into the Canadian mainstream against their will...because [the government] wished to divest itself of its legal and financial obligations to aboriginal people and gain control over their land and resources.'

Over its 6 years of operation, the TRC heard testimony from more than 6,700 former students about the abuse they faced in the schools and the lasting impacts that the experience has had on their lives and on their communities. The TRC has confirmed 4,100 student deaths in the schools which resulted from abuse, negligence, lack of medical care, and suicide, but they estimate that at least 6,000 children died in the schools.

Chief Wilton Littlechild (Cree) was one of three commissioners in charge of Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission and is himself a survivor of residential schools. Cultural Survival Quarterly published this powerful interview with Chief Littlechild in 2011 about his experiences, the trauma he faced and how he continues to work to overcome it, and his hopes for reconciliation. **"This story is not an Indigenous or an Aboriginal story, it's actually Canada's story. The challenge we have is having Canada become engaged fully with the story. That's when you are going to see reconciliation happen fully,"** he stated in 2011.

Chief Littlechild continued, 'Indigenous people talking amongst each other about all our bad experiences, that doesn't work. It's got an important purpose in terms of the healing journey, but it won't solve the bigger picture in terms of where we need to go. Private industry also needs to become fully engaged in the discussion, and we are in fact looking into ways to achieve reconciliation through economic development. And of course the schools. Education is the key. Remember, students across Canada were sent to learn that we are inferior, that we're no good. In a classroom so much could be done in terms of the journey of reconciliation. I've met with several trustees, school districts, and other members of public education, encouraging them to open up their curriculum so that residential school history can be taught in the schools. Not just Indigenous schools: more so in the non-Indigenous schools.'

At its conclusion in 2015, the TRC released a wide-reaching list of 94 Calls to Action for reconciliation, including urging all levels of government — federal, provincial, territorial and Aboriginal — to work together to change policies and programs in a concerted effort to repair the harm caused by residential schools and move forward with reconciliation. The 'calls to action' are divided into two parts: legacy (1 to 42) and reconciliation (43 to 94). In one of its recommendations, the TRC pressed the federal government to develop a program for the identification and protection of residential school cemeteries.

In 2017, Canada was criticized at the UN for failing to implement these Truth Commission recommendations. The UN Committee for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination urged for the development of "a concrete action plan" to implement the TRC's 94 Calls to Action and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) in coordination with Indigenous Peoples, along with establishing a monitoring and evaluation process once these measures are implemented.

Residential schools were not unique to Canada. In the United States, the government operated as many as 100 boarding schools for American Indians, both on and off reservations, for over a century between 1877-1978. A US federal policy to assimilate Indians into

mainstream society, the Indian boarding school's explicit goal was to "kill the Indian and save the man," by taking American Indian children from their homes, cutting their hair, and forcing them to speak only English. Many American Indian children in boarding schools suffered physical, emotional, and sexual abuse as a result of practicing their culture and speaking their language behind closed doors. This erasure tactic of punishing young children was designed to both forcefully assimilate American Indian people, but also an intentional practice of cultural genocide. Many Indigenous Peoples continue to experience historical, familial, and intergenerational trauma because of the abuse endured from their parents and grandparents who were separated from their relatives and forced into boarding schools. The film *Dawnland* chronicles a Truth and Reconciliation Commission on residential schools that operated in the state of Maine and how it continues to affect Native communities there today.

On June 22, 2021, Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland announced a Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative, **a comprehensive review of the troubled legacy of federal boarding school policies in the U.S.**

**Although most residential schools were officially closed by the late 1990s, the separation of Indigenous children from their families continues to be an ongoing issue, in both the United States and Canada. This is true at the U.S. border and in the policies of child welfare programs. When residential schools closed in Canada, the care of Indigenous children was handed over to Child and Family Services departments under the provincial governments. Today in Manitoba, Indigenous children are 12 times more likely to be removed from their families and placed into foster care or group homes than non-Indigenous children. The province of Manitoba alone reports that 11,000 children are currently under their care, 85 percent of whom are Indigenous.**

After residential schools were closed in the U.S., the 1978 Indian Child Welfare Act was signed into federal law to protect Native American children from removal from their Tribal communities in cases of foster care placement or adoption. However, this act has repeatedly and recently faced legal attacks in the courts, with arguments that deny Tribal sovereignty over their children.

However, Indigenous communities in Canada, despite generations of historical trauma, are protagonists of change and resilience. Cora Morgan (Turtle clan of the Sagkeeng Anishnaabe First Nation) works as a Family Advocate for the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs. She shared a Cheyenne proverb that inspires her and brings her hope: A nation is not conquered until the hearts of its women are on the ground. And the hearts of the Anishnaabe women are not on the ground. In 2016, Cultural Survival profiled her work, alongside other mothers in her community, implementing healing programs aimed to keep Indigenous children in Indigenous families.

Andrea Landry (Anishinaabe) is a mother, professor, therapist, and Indigenous rights defender. Coming from a family who survived residential schools in Canada, she now teaches others how to move beyond cycles of trauma rooted in colonial pain in their paths forward as Indigenous parents, as she writes in her essay, "The Radical Healing Power of Indigenous Love".

Patricia Dawn (Métis Cree) founded the Red Willow Womyn's Society, helping Indigenous women in British Columbia's Cowichan Valley at risk of having their children apprehended by the Ministry of Children and Family Development. Cultural Survival's Keepers of the Earth Fund made a grant to support their work in 2018 to address the cycle of child removal.

Cultural Survival joins First Nations in Canada in mourning the deaths and abuse of generations of Indigenous children at residential schools. We join in calls for action — the implementation of all 94 recommendations from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and the operationalization of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in Canada, particularly Article 7, which states: “Indigenous Peoples have the collective right to live in freedom, peace and security as distinct peoples and shall not be subjected to any act of genocide or any other act of violence, including forcibly removing children of the group to another group.”

Cultural Survival also joins in the calls asking Pope Francis to issue an official apology on behalf of the Catholic Church as well as to commit funds for justice, reconciliation, and healing initiatives.

**A Canadian National Indian Residential School Crisis Line has been set up to provide support for former students and those affected.** Access emotional and crisis referral services by calling the 24-hour national crisis line: 1-866-925-4419."

"Leyland Cecco "‘There are bodies here’: survivors braced as search begins at Canada’s oldest residential school: Long-overdue search for unmarked graves at notorious Mohawk Institute prompts renewed calls for full transparency," *The Guardian*, November 10, 2021, [https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/nov/10/canada-residential-schools-unmarked-graves-mohawk-institute?bbeml=tp-pck9Q6QNPEiuBt3JmyTokQ.j3P-ZWm9tCEy0JNUPSe\\_k0A.rpflf5rx33EOZgzWPvE55bA.lpS42ThjulkmUpD\\_Biteq3Q](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/nov/10/canada-residential-schools-unmarked-graves-mohawk-institute?bbeml=tp-pck9Q6QNPEiuBt3JmyTokQ.j3P-ZWm9tCEy0JNUPSe_k0A.rpflf5rx33EOZgzWPvE55bA.lpS42ThjulkmUpD_Biteq3Q), reported, **"On Tuesday, police and community members at the Six Nations of the Grand River began searching the grounds of the Mohawk Institute – the oldest and longest-running residential school in Canada – as they launched a grim search for the remains of children who many believe were buried here in unmarked graves."** Thousands of First Nation children attended Mohawk Institute between 1831 and 1970.

"In theory, the young students were given a modern education designed to help them integrate into mainstream Canadian society. But survivors of the school – **dubbed the “Mush Hole” by survivors on account of its poor food and dismal rations – have long described the forced assimilation as a regime of terror, where children were subjected to verbal abuse, sexual assault and physical violence.**"

See also, Antonio Voce, Leyland Cecco and Chris Michael, "‘Cultural genocide’: the shameful history of Canada’s residential schools – mapped: Recent discoveries of unmarked graves have shed new light on the country’s troubled colonial legacy, *The Guardian*, September 6, 2021, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/ng-interactive/2021/sep/06/canada-residential-schools-indigenous-children-cultural-genocide-map>. For some of the terrible long lasting impacts of the boarding schools and the development of some of what has been done to overcome it, see Rupert Ross's books unfolding his learning of the aftereffects and work to overcome them in *Dancing with a Ghost: Exploring Indian Reality* (Markham, Ont.: Reed Books Canada, 1992); *Returning to the Teachings: Exploring Aboriginal Justice* (Toronto: Penguin, 1996); and *Indigenous Healing: Exploring Traditional Paths* (Toronto: Penguin Canada, 2014).

Ian Austen, "Search for Indigenous Children Takes New Step, Calling Police: The Six Nations in Ontario have set up a special group to oversee the investigation of student deaths, in a rare collaboration between an Indigenous group and the police," *The New York Times*, December 11, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/12/11/world/canada/missing-indigenous-children-police.html>, reported, **"Searches for the remains of Indigenous children who died while at Canada’s notorious residential schools have been taking place throughout the country since**

May. That was when radar scans of the Kamloops Indian Residential School grounds in British Columbia found evidence of 215 human remains buried in unmarked graves, many of them children.

But this search was different.

**While most Indigenous communities have been reluctant to work with the police because of a deep distrust of law enforcement, the Mohawk have entered a delicate collaboration with two police forces. Their hope is that by involving law enforcement, they can preserve the option of a formal criminal investigation into any unmarked grave sites — and to obtain justice, as well as to find out the truth of what happened."**

**Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, narrowly reelected - with a plurality leading a coalition government - has stated he wants to do more to fight climate change and to move forward on reconciliation with First Nations. But to do so, he needs to overcome a mixed record on both, including weather he is willing to cease supporting resource exploitive mining and drilling, and the transportation, especially in pipelines, of fossil fuels, while being consistently attentive to First Nation concerns. On the latter, he has continued to stumble.** Ian Austen, "Narrowly Returned to Power, Trudeau Promises an Activist Government: The Canadian prime minister failed to gain a majority in Parliament last month but acted otherwise when unveiling his new cabinet," *The New York Times*, October 26, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/10/26/world/canada/justin-trudeau-cabinet.html>, reported, "While Indigenous issues have historically have not been a major political force, they rose to the top of the national consciousness in the spring after the discovery of the remains of students buried on the grounds of the former Kamloops Indian Residential School in British Columbia. That was followed by several other similar discoveries, reviving a painful and traumatic history for Indigenous communities.

**Before the election, Mr. Trudeau declared a national holiday, making Sept. 30 the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.**

**But he undermined the gesture by spending the day traveling across the country with his family for a postelection beach vacation. Compounding the snub, his office did not respond to two requests from the Tk'emlups te Secwepemc First Nation, home to the Kamloops school site, to attend ceremonies there.**

**Last week, Mr. Trudeau traveled to the First Nation to apologize at a gathering where he was repeatedly, if respectfully, criticized for the timing of his vacation."**

Brett Forester, "Study: Canada criminal courts stacked against Indigenous accused: Indigenous offenders were 30 percent more likely to be imprisoned than White offenders, says the report," *ICT*, October 21, 2021, <https://indiancountrytoday.com/news/study-canada-criminal-courts-stacked-against-indigenous-accused>, reported,

**"Indigenous people are overrepresented in Canadian criminal courts and far more likely than White people to be convicted and locked up once they come before a judge, according to a recent federal government study.**

**Justice Canada researchers analyzed how Indigenous accused fared statistically at key stages of the criminal court process compared to white people between 2006 and 2016. The findings, released this year, were grim but not surprising.**

**Indigenous people made up 25 percent of all accused in 2016 — that is, one out of every four — despite comprising only 5 percent of the general population. This was up from 19 percent in 2006.**

**By comparison the percentage of White people accused of crimes fell from 63 percent to 55 percent over the same time period. Similarly, Indigenous accused were 55 percent less likely than White accused to have their charges withdrawn, dismissed or discharged.**

**Indigenous people were 33 percent less likely to be acquitted and 14 percent more likely to plead or be found guilty. Then, once convicted, Indigenous offenders were 30 percent more likely to be imprisoned."**

**Canada has begun allowing First Nation, Inuit and Metis people to use their traditional names on passports, especially in cases where they were forced to change their names ("Indigenous Peoples Reclaim Traditional Names on Passports," *Cultural Survival Quarterly*, September 2021).**

Amber Bracken, "I felt kidnapped': a journalist's view of being arrested by the RCMP: Police put me in handcuffs when I should have been doing my job. I wanted to be doing my job. I am furious," *The Narwhal*, December 16, 2021, <https://thenarwhal.ca/opinion-amber-bracken-rcmp-arrest/>, stated, **"All at once, RCMP officers came out of their hiding spots to fill the courtyard surrounding a tiny house at a site known as Coyote Camp in Wet'suwet'en territory.** Police wore both regular blue uniforms and a militarized green version, the latter laden with assault rifles and tactical equipment. The scene has already become known across Canada — police dogs barking and whining as officers used an axe and a chainsaw to enter the small structure to arrest seven unarmed and peaceful individuals.

Soon they would take my cameras from me. After that, my rights.

Some of the first advice I was given as a baby journalist was: 'Don't get arrested. You can't make any pictures from the back of a police car.' This maxim has served me well most of my career, which has taken me into zones of conflict and protest across North America.

**But covering the Wet'suwet'en pipeline opposition last month, I realized its limit: I could not both do my job as a journalist and avoid arrest. On Nov. 19, the RCMP made that impossible for me."**

**Susan Collis, Department of , the historic legal regime structuring settler colonialism in Canada, is being displaced by new statutory law, as nearly fifty federal statutes passed by successive governments between 2005 and 2020 rewrite First Nations land, taxation, resource, and governance regimes.**

I focus attention on these new laws, asking how they differ in instrument and ideology from the Indian Act. Particularly, I explore how new legislation responds to the Indian Act's (unintended) affirmation of the unique political status of Indigenous peoples and manages the long-sedimented legal and regulatory differences between reserve and Canadian jurisdictions. Transferring our attention from the Indian Act to actual sites of legislative activity, we are better positioned to perceive, critique, and challenge the evolving formation of settler colonialism in Canada today."

**Indigenous leaders and health experts in Canada, supported by a pair of 2019 reports, complain that First Nation Canadians have often received no or inadequate health**

care, and at times have faced racial abuse from health care staff, that has shortened lifespans, increased suffering from medical conditions and disease, and lowered the quality of life. They seek major reforms to equalize health care (Dan Bilefski, "Indigenous Canada Seeks Health Reform in the Wake of Abuses," *The New York Times*, August 29, 2021).

Angel Moore, "Mi'kmaw Harvesting Lobster Under Heavy Police, Federal Presence," *ICT*, August 5, 2021, [https://mcusercontent.com/ee83519a17075b9d5a2c44042/files/e83aceed-97c9-6836-5c1b-c6cf86c5a6bc/8.5.21\\_The\\_Weekly.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/ee83519a17075b9d5a2c44042/files/e83aceed-97c9-6836-5c1b-c6cf86c5a6bc/8.5.21_The_Weekly.pdf), reported, "**Mi'kmaw harvesters are back on the water fishing for lobster and following their own food, social and ceremonial fishery plan.**

**But the large contingent of police and fisheries officers is intimidating and infringing on their Treaty Rights."**

Previously, Non-Indigenous fisherman had attacked the Mi'kmaw lobster harvesters. Tribal members wish the government and its fisheries would work with them, instead of intimidating them.

Joaquin Estus, "Sinixt Eager To Celebrate First Nation Recognition," *ICT*, July 22, 2021, [https://mcusercontent.com/ee83519a17075b9d5a2c44042/files/cab2c3c7-649c-87f6-85b3-559ddafe87b5/7.22.21\\_The\\_Weekly.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/ee83519a17075b9d5a2c44042/files/cab2c3c7-649c-87f6-85b3-559ddafe87b5/7.22.21_The_Weekly.pdf), reported, "**After winning a landmark case before the Supreme Court of Canada, the Sinixt, or Arrow Lakes Band of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation in Washington, are looking forward exercising rights and receiving benefits that come with First Nations or registered Indian status in Canada [where 80% of their traditional homeland is located].**

However, last year in March, the United States and Canada closed their borders to nonessential travel. Sinixt discussions with Canadian officials are on hold until restrictions are eased."

**The Qalipu First Nation of Newfoundland, Canada's newest, receiving recognition in 2011, has been troubled by a row over identity, and who is a member** (Sara Miller Llana, "For Canada's newest nation, a declaration of - and fight over -identity," *Christian Science Monitor Weekly*, December 18, 2021).

**The Haida of Haida Gwaii Archipelago have begun requiring visitors to take a pledge to respect and care for the land** ("Canada: Haida Gwaii to Require Visitors Pledge Haida Gwaii," *Cultural Survival Quarterly*, September 2021).

Kalle Benallie, "Indigenous Economics Takes Centerstage:" *ICT*, June 24, 2021, [https://mcusercontent.com/ee83519a17075b9d5a2c44042/files/40147001-c2e6-75f7-33e0-b7001b693d22/6.24.21\\_The\\_Weekly.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/ee83519a17075b9d5a2c44042/files/40147001-c2e6-75f7-33e0-b7001b693d22/6.24.21_The_Weekly.pdf), reported, "When Eriel Tchekwie Deranger, executive director of Indigenous Climate Action, noticed a lack of participation and leadership from Indigenous people at the Canadian Society of Ecological Economics conference, she spoke up about her concerns."

**In result, the Canadian Society of Ecological Economics partnered with the Indigenous Climate Action to create the Indigenous Economics: Reclaiming the Sacred conference that took place from June 10 to June 12."**

Asa Welander, "Mexico's School Closures Are Increasing Inequality: With schools shut for over a year, limited access to technology is exacerbating the education gap, leaving Indigenous communities behind," *FP*, August 5, 2021, [https://foreignpolicy.com/2021/08/05/mexicos-school-closures-are-increasing-inequality/?utm\\_source=PostUp&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=35291&utm\\_term=Editors%20Picks%20OC&tpcc=35291](https://foreignpolicy.com/2021/08/05/mexicos-school-closures-are-increasing-inequality/?utm_source=PostUp&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=35291&utm_term=Editors%20Picks%20OC&tpcc=35291), reported that **in Mexico, "Schools closed all over the country, and the federal government rolled out a program called "Learn at Home," offering classes on television and online. But for teachers like Che Chi and Cen Kauil, this wasn't an option. The Indigenous community where they both work, Celtún, is located in the middle of the Mexican state of Yucatán and it lacks access to the required tools for virtual learning. 'It's functional for urban areas, but for remote communities without signal it's hard,' Cen Kauil said.**

According to the United Nations, **almost 500 million children around the world have been excluded from the remote learning solutions that replaced their normal schooling due to the pandemic. For those lacking the resources and necessary technologies, it has become impossible to keep up with classes. In Mexico, the number of children between 6 and 14 years old who are not receiving any formal education has increased by 74 percent compared to 2015, according to government figures. The hardest-hit communities are those without access to the internet and other technologies, which is the case for around half of Mexico's rural population, due to both poverty and lack of internet infrastructure."**

Julie Post, "Charges Brought Against Killers of Yaqui Water Defender Tomas Rojo Valencia," *Cultural Survival*, July 22, 2021, <https://www.culturalsurvival.org/news/charges-brought-against-killers-yaqui-water-defender-tomas-rojo-valencia>, reported, **"On June 17, 2021, human remains were found in the Sonoran town of Vícam, within the municipio of Guaymas, Mexico. Following a series of DNA testing, the prosecutor's crime laboratory released the information that these tests identified the remains as belonging to Tomás Rojo Valencia, the Yaqui spokesperson and water defender who had been reported as missing on May 27, 2021. Rojo Valencia was a prominent Yaqui leader who worked to defend the land, water, and rights of the eight Yaqui pueblos located along the Yaqui River. During the search for Tomás, his family released a press statement expressing their admiration for peaceful social struggle, his love for his Indigenous Yaqui community and identity, and his vision for asserting the rights of Indigenous Peoples throughout Mexico. The exact quote follows: 'Reconocemos y atesoramos ... (la) lucha social pacífica de nuestro amado Tomás, quien nos ha inculcado ... con gran ímpetu y amor por su sangre indígena, ... su gran visión de hacer valer nuestros derechos como indígenas de la nación yaqui.' This quote translates as 'We recognize and treasure ... the peaceful social struggle of our beloved Tomás, who has instilled in us ... with great enthusiasm and love for his Indigenous blood, ... his great vision of asserting our rights as Indigenous Peoples of the Yaqui nation.' The family's full statement can be found here.**

**As one of the leaders representing the eight villages of the Yaqui Peoples protesting against the construction and operation of the Independencia aqueduct which took place under the administration of former Sonoran Governor Guillermo Padres, Tomás Rojo Valencia became known across the state among other activists, as well as parties invested in the construction and operation of the aqueduct, which was planned and built without consultation or consent from the Yaqui Peoples. The Independencia aqueduct was constructed to extract water from the Yaqui River, which runs among the eight Yaqui**



**villages, to supply the two most heavily populated cities in the state of Sonora, Hermosillo and Ciudad Obregón, but without making accommodations for supplying water to the Yaqui villages who have stewarded this water source.**

One of the major forms of protest against such harmful infrastructure projects, including the Independencia aqueduct, carried out by the Yaqui was to set up blockades along major routes and highways that pass through their territory. The General Attorney's office of Sonora has confirmed that they have detained Rojo Valencia's alleged killer on potential charges including premeditated homicide and criminal association, and later a second suspect was arrested for suspected participation in Rojo Valencia's murder. The presumed motive is related to the criminal group with whom the murderer is associated seeking to illicitly benefit from the fees that the Yaqui group collects on the Mexico 15 international highway that passes through their ancestral land. Tomás Rojo Valencia was a noted proponent of the fee collection to benefit the Yaqui Indigenous Peoples. On July 11, 2021, the remains of Rojo Valencia were returned to his hometown of Pótam, where his community and kin were able to memorialize and celebrate his life according to Yaqui customs, with prayer and song.

In 2020, at least 331 human rights defenders were murdered. Indigenous Peoples are disproportionately represented within this statistic, specifically Indigenous human rights leaders within Latin America. At least 56 murders took place against Indigenous activists in the region that were documented by Cultural Survival, along with 11 disappearances and 26 violent attacks against Indigenous rights defenders, demonstrating the dangerous and persistent trend of violence towards Indigenous Peoples in Latin America. Within Mexico, so far in 2021 at least 14 Indigenous leaders have been killed in Chiapas, Oaxaca, Michoacán and Sonora, according to a July 6 press release by a coalition of organizations under the hashtag #AltoAlFuego or 'stop the violence.' In addition to Tomás Rojo Valencia, leaders among the 14 who have passed include Simón Pedro Pérez Lopez, Jaime Jiménez Ruiz, Fidel Heras Cruz, Raymundo Robles Riaño, Noé Robles Cruz, Gerardo Mendoza Reyes, María Eufemia Reyes Esquivel, Vicente Guzmán Reyes, Ambrosio Guzmán Reyes, José Luis Chávez Mondragón, Manuel Carmona Esquivel, and Luis Urbano Domínguez.

Cultural Survival joins the Instituto Nacional de los Pueblos Indígenas in condemning the murder of Tomás Rojo Valencia, and the context of continuing violence Indigenous community members face throughout Mexico. Cultural Survival urges the authorities to hold the perpetrators of violence accountable and to take steps to prevent this type of violence by respecting Indigenous Peoples right to free, prior, and informed consent before development projects are carried out on their lands as guaranteed by the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and respect for Indigenous Peoples right to access and steward their ancestral lands and waters."

"Regulating indigenous medicine in Mexico 'could violate rights': This article is more than 1 month old: Academics and traditional medical groups warn against proposed legislation to grant state authority to control practice," *The Guardian*, October 26, 2021, <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2021/oct/26/regulating-indigenous-medicine-in-mexico-could-violate-rights>, reported, **"Proposed legislation that would grant the Mexican state authority to regulate and control the practice of indigenous medicine could violate the country's constitution and international conventions on the rights of ancestral communities, academics and traditional medical groups have warned."**

Anatoly Kurmanaev and Oscar Lopez, "Mexico City Replaces a Statue of Columbus With One of an Indigenous Woman: The replacement of a figure seen as a monument to colonialism touched a nerve as the country debates how it is shaped by race and sex," *The New York Times*, October 15, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/10/14/world/americas/mexico-columbus-statue-indigenous.html>, reported, **"Statues of Columbus are being toppled across the Americas, amid fierce debates over the region's legacy of European conquest and colonialism."**

**In Mexico City, "After prolonged debate, Mayor Claudia Sheinbaum announced Tuesday that the Columbus statue that once gazed down on Mexico City's main boulevard will be replaced with a precolonial Indigenous figure — notably, a woman."**

"Mixtec Families Displaced by Violence in Atlatlahuca, Mexico," Cultural Survival, November 1, 2021, <https://www.culturalsurvival.org/news/mixtec-families-displaced-violence-atlatlahuca-mexico>, reported, "According to reporting by the newspaper Proceso, **in recent days various violent events have occurred causing the displacement of around 300 people in the municipality of San Esteban Atlatlahuca, in the state of Oaxaca. Those displaced say that on October 23, 2021, a group of an estimated 200 people attacked three villages in the Atlatlahuca municipality, the Mier and Terán, Ndoyonoyuji, and Guerrero Grande communities. The attackers, using drones and carrying heavy weapons, looted houses and then set them on fire.**

**Displaced families have stated that the three communities have been experiencing outrage related to the protection of their lands since at least 2003 when Ndoyonoyuji opposed the extraction of wood from communal forests for the alleged profit by outsiders. In 2006, two of its members were imprisoned in connection with this conflict. However, the violence has intensified since last October 21, when the parents of a Ndoyonoyuji municipal official were assassinated. According to the displaced people from this community, on the same day, 25 houses were burned and the next day more were burned. They estimate that the number of homes destroyed may be as many as 100. At this moment, the situation is unclear as they cannot return to the community out of fear of further violence.**

**This event occurs in a generalized context of violence for human rights and environmental defenders, especially those who are Indigenous. Mexico is the second most dangerous country for environmental activism, according to an article by Reporte Índigo published earlier this month, mentioning 30 murders in 2020 alone. The media reports that almost a third of attacks on land defenders were related to forest exploitation and that half were targeting Indigenous communities. In 2020, Cultural Survival documented 56 murders, 11 disappearances, and 23 violent attacks against Indigenous human rights and environmental defenders in Latin American countries where we work, including 8 in Mexico.**

**In the city of Tlaxiaco, there are approximately 180 displaced people of all ages, sheltered in the facilities of a government institute. An estimated 60 - 80 more people could be sheltering in private homes in other localities and in nearby forests, facing adverse weather conditions. People may also be seeking shelter in the church of Mier y Terán. The displaced families were forced to flee before the attacks. They lost their assets, including their livestock and crops.**

**As of October 27, 2021, those impacted and the media estimate between five and seven deaths due to these violent events. Two were Elders and one was found with bullet wounds**

**and signs of torture.** Those impacted from Guerrero Grande report that **11 of their companions are missing. Members of the Ndoyonoyuji community estimate that there are a total of 17 people missing or dead.** They fear that some of them could have been burned since the Center for Human Rights and Advice to Indigenous Peoples (CEDHAPI) reported the discovery of remains during a recent visit to the burned houses.

**The impacted families denounce that the municipal administration has not respected their land rights and that the agreements of previous dialogues with the state government have not been respected. They are now asking for dialogue with the federal government. They also report that they have suffered persecution and imprisonment for several years for denouncing the felling of forests, the proliferation of sawmills, and the damages to a sacred area in the mountainous area, where an archaeological site was destroyed.**

**Displaced families need urgent support of food, clothing, kitchen utensils, personal hygiene items, and educational materials for children.** It is possible to help through the Ve'e Nuu coffee shop at Tlaxiaco city. However, **what they most need is an end to violence and the guarantee of a peaceful return to their communities, since their current conditions are not sustainable in the long term. In addition, they will need resources to rebuild their houses. They are demanding respect for their territory and an end to deforestation of their forests. They ask for support from environmental organizations and the media to shed light on their situation.**

Cultural Survival joins human rights institutions and organizations in Mexico, including Defensoría de los Derechos Humanos del Pueblo de Oaxaca (DDHPO) and CEDHAPI A.C in **calling on Mexican authorities to take action for:**

**the state attorney general's office carry out the immediate investigations of the facts of the case;**

**the Mexican State, through the state and federal government, guarantees the life and physical integrity of the people who were attacked by the group of armed persons, by urgently sending, in consultation with affected community members, State, and federal public security;**

**the Mexican State to guarantee the rights of internally displaced persons within the framework of international humanitarian law.**

We join the community in urging Mexican officials to respect the community's rights to their lands and resources, as guaranteed in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples."

**The Columbus Statue on Mexico City's primary boulevard was replaced, in October 2021, by a pre-colonial female Indigenous figure** (Anatoly Kurmanaev, "Female Icon to Replace Columbus in Mexico," *The New York Times*, October 25, 2021).

**The Zapatista 421 Squad large composed of Indigenous people, engaged in protesting inequality in southern Mexico, landed in Galicia Spain, in June 2021, to mark the 500th anniversary of the Spanish conquest and commence a tour of Europe ("Mexico: Zapatista Squad 421 Squad Sends Delegation to Galicia," *Cultural Survival Quarterly*, September 2021).**

Teresita Orozco and Guadalupe Pastrana (Nahua), CS Staff, "Strengthening Indigenous Community Communication in Southeastern Mexico," Cultural Survival, December 15, 2021,

<https://www.culturalsurvival.org/news/strengthening-indigenous-community-communication-southeastern-mexico>, reported, "In September 2021, thanks to the generous support of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, **Cultural Survival held two trainings focused on Indigenous community communications through a gender lens. These were the first two of a series of trainings designed for leaders from Indigenous organizations and radio stations in Southeastern Mexico. These trainings centered on the importance of radio as a powerful tool for defending and promoting land and human rights,**" also providing empowerment for Indigenous women.

"In total, 50 people from 15 organizations and 8 Indigenous radio stations participated, with 5 of them in the process of opening a new radio station. The main objective was to promote the exchange of experiences, in addition to promoting with greater force the exercise of Indigenous community communication in these territories."

"KOEf Grant Partner Spotlight: The Yuku Savi Collective Plants Seeds for the Revitalization of Mixtec Cultural Practices," Cultural Survival, November 21, 2021, <https://www.culturalsurvival.org/news/koeef-grant-partner-spotlight-yuku-savi-collective-plants-seeds-revitalization-mixtec-cultural>, reported, "**The Mixtec are the third largest group of Indigenous Peoples in Mexico. The Mixtec community of Santa María Cuquila in Oaxaca, Mexico call themselves the Ñuu Savi which translates to 'People of the Rain.'** **Mixtec transnational migration is the phenomenon where Mixtec people migrate from Mexico to the United States. The pace of Oaxacan migration is accelerating due to reasons such as poverty, drought, and lack of employment opportunities.** As of 2011, an estimated 150,000 Mixtec people were living in California. Additionally, the loss of ancestral knowledge in the Santa María Cuquila Indigenous community is largely due to the difficulty of accessing plants of cultural importance, which contributes to this increasing trend of Mixtec migration.

Founded in 2017 and **based in the Santa María Cuquila community of Oaxaca, Mexico, The Yuku Savi Collective is committed to reducing the migration number of young Mixtec people through the generation of self-employment and the revitalization of culture and traditions as a defense of Indigenous Peoples. The Collective creates alternative work opportunities in Oaxaca to encourage Indigenous youth to stay in the community and strengthen their economy and culture. They also seek to generate comprehensive plans for the management of their forests and promote the sustainable use of plants of cultural importance.** The Yuku Savi Collective led a project to recover plant species of cultural importance while strengthening the communication between young people and the elderly in the spaces created for the exchange of experiences and knowledge.

The project started with the collection of ticunchi agave, agave pulquero, and cucharilla seeds. They then proceeded to begin the compilation of compost of mount, sand, and sawdust to prepare the substrate where the seeds would germinate. A process of transplanting, watering and fertilizing the seeds began.

The Yuku Savi Collective **also held workshops for the transmission of cultural knowledge** of the agave pulquero, the ticunchi agave, and the cucharilla plants. One workshop was held at the home of Teresa Hilario where Crisanto Santiago shared his knowledge about the infiltration of the pulquero maguey plant to obtain the natural agave juice. During the process, community members were able to observe the way in which he cut the stalks to gain access to the center of the maguey plant with a machete that his father left him as an inheritance to carry out this work. Santiago removed the maguey pieces to form a small opening where the honey

water was concentrated and able to be collected. Finally, he leaves two small crosses engraved with his machete as a sign of blessing.

After information of cultural importance was shared through multiple workshops, **the Yuku Savi Collective reflected all the practices learned in a magazine that was distributed to people in the community and to the libraries of neighboring communities.** A total of 90 magazines were printed.

'With the support from a grant from Cultural Survival's Keepers of the Earth Fund, the Yuku Savi Collective was able to collect 4,800 seeds and germinate 2,110 seeds by the end of the project. This project was important for creating a more sustainable means of production for plants of cultural importance, which allows for the creation of more jobs that have the potential to decrease Mixtec migration and strengthen the connection between Mixtec Indigenous Peoples and their culture.'

"A Call to Action to Stop Repression against Q'eqchi Peoples in Guatemala," Cultural Survival, October 26, 2021, <https://www.culturalsurvival.org/news/call-action-stop-repression-against-qeqchi-peoples-guatemala>, reported, "On October 24, 2021, **Guatemala's President Alejandro Giammattei declared a state of siege (martial law) in the town of El Estor, Izabal, in response to clashes between Indigenous Q'eqchi land defenders and the State police. For 21 days prior, Q'eqchi community members had been protesting to demand that the Fénix Nickel Mine, currently owned by Swiss company Solway Group and operated by its Guatemalan subsidiary Compania Guatemalteca de Níquel, pause work until a consultation has taken place. The State of Guatemala manifested a disproportionate use of force, violated the right to freedom of expression, and ignored domestic and international court orders to respect the self-determination of the Maya Q'eqchi Peoples in El Estor. The restrictions imposed by the state of siege will be in effect for the next 30 days.**

On October 25, 2021, **an attempted raid on community radio station Xyaab' Tzuultaq'a**, located in El Estor, a Cultural Survival Indigenous Community Media Fund grant partner, also occurred. According to local informants, members of the National Civil Police and the Army arrived at the offices of Asociación Estoreña para el Desarrollo Integral (AEPDI) asking where the community radio station operates.

**Radio Xyaab' Tzuultaq'a has been providing crucial on-the-ground coverage over the last two weeks, informing the local community of events in the area and of the demands of the ancestral authorities. For 17 days, Indigenous land defenders have held a blockade of the entrance to the municipality, demanding the government comply with the resolution by the Constitutional Court (file 697-2019 of June 18, 2020) in relation to Free, Prior and Informed Consent of Indigenous Peoples regarding the cessation of exploitation at the Fénix Mine, now operated by the Swiss company Solway Group and its subsidiary, Compañía Guatemalteca de Níquel, in El Estor, Izabal. Mining at this site has been going on for more than 60 years.**

The communicators of Radio Xyaab 'Tzuultaq'a Station are outraged because it is **not the first time that the national police have harassed the radio station.** They express a feeling of powerlessness in knowing that state institutions and politicians are heavily influenced by elite business owners and that any formal complaint to their elected officials leads to inaction. They stated, 'as community communicators, we run the risk of being arrested for reporting what is happening in the region.' On October 22, tear gas was used by the State police, during the

eviction of the peaceful resistance of the Q'eqchi people, injuring Q'eqchi men, women, children, and several journalists.

On October 26, **military forces targeted two journalists from independent media platform Prensa Comunitaria who have been covering the siege and activities in the area.** Juan Bautista Xol, a correspondent for Prensa Comunitaria was arrested at his home in El Estor, by the National Civil Police and the Public Ministry. Journalist Carlos Ernesto Choc Chub's home in El Estor was raided at 7:00 am on the same day. He had previously been targeted in April of 2020.

**Faced with these events that violate the exercise of freedom of expression and endanger the lives of communicators, Cultural Survival expresses its solidarity with the volunteers of the Radio Xyaab 'Tzuultaq'a and other alternative media, condemning these events that threaten life, peace, and democracy in Guatemala. For decades Indigenous communicators have been advocating for freedom of expression in the country.**

**Cultural Survival urges the State of Guatemala to address the following: Guarantee the right to freedom of expression, crucial for the exercise of other rights, but also for the full development of civic participation. Freedom of expression is the cornerstone of any free, democratic and participatory society as stated by international standards on freedom of expression.**

**This right is guaranteed in Article 13 of the American Convention on Human Rights, as it clearly states, “1) Everyone has the right to freedom of thought and expression. This right includes the Freedom to seek, receive and disseminate information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of borders either orally, in writing or in printed or artistic form or by any other procedure of your choice. 2) The freedom of speech cannot be restricted by indirect means or means, such as the abuse of official or private controls of (...) radio frequencies (...) aimed at preventing the communication and circulation of ideas and opinions.”**

**It is also guaranteed in Article 16 of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples which states: '1. Indigenous Peoples have the right to establish their own media in their own languages and to have access to all forms of non-Indigenous media without discrimination. 2. States shall take effective measures to ensure that State-owned media duly reflect Indigenous cultural diversity. States, without prejudice to ensuring full freedom of expression, should encourage privately owned media to adequately reflect Indigenous cultural diversity.'**

**Meet community demands to respect Q'eqchi Peoples' right to Free, Prior and Informed Consent as mandated by the Guatemalan Constitutional Court order to stop operations on the Fenix mine until consent has been achieved. Indigenous Peoples' right of self-determination and their ability to make decisions over their lands, territories, and Peoples is recognized by the ILO Convention 169, the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, all of which have been ratified and by Guatemala."**

Cesar Gomez, "Guatemala Is Far from Achieving the SDGs," Cultural Survival, August 25, 2021, <https://www.culturalsurvival.org/news/guatemala-far-achieving-sdgs>, reported, **"The big problem is that the Government insists on hiding and embellishing the information ..."**, responded Lesly Ramírez, of the Center for Studies for Equity and Governance in Health and the Network of Community Defenders for the Right to Health, about the presentation on July 12,

2021, **by the State of Guatemala** (<https://media.un.org/en/asset/k1e/k1e32i6lbo>) at this year's UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. The UN Forum is an opportunity for States to provide voluntary reports regarding their progress towards implementing the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, which States have committed to achieving within their countries by 2030. These reports are known as Voluntary National Reviews (VNR).

Presenting Guatemala's VNR was Ms. Luz Gramajo Vilches, of the Secretary of Planning and Programming of the Guatemalan President's Office (SEGEPLAN). She emphasized the immediate response to contain and mitigate the global crisis of COVID-19 and the impacts of hurricanes Eta and Iota, under the leadership of President Alejandro Giammattei.

Gramajo highlighted, 'Guatemala was one of the first countries to incorporate the Sustainable Development Goals into national planning instruments (...) 70 percent of the budget of all public institutions is linked to development goals, (...) as one example of the achievements of poverty reduction and social protection is the creation of the economic rescue program.'

**In contrast, the Coordinator of Non-Governmental Organizations and Cooperatives (CONGCOOP) in its 2021 report on the SDGs, reported** (<https://www.facebook.com/CONGCOOP/posts/335202124730845/>), **'The impunity generated by an absence of justice reveals that Guatemala is increasingly far from complying with the SDGs.'**

**'The State of Guatemala has not made efforts to overcome the serious situation of poverty in all its forms to combat hunger, food insecurity, malnutrition and the promotion of sustainable agriculture' (...) inequality gaps are widening among population sectors like rural farmers and Indigenous People, and poverty is reaching 70 percent.'**

In 2020, Peace Brigades International Guatemala published a statement by the Campesino Committee of the Altiplano (CCDA) and the Unión Verapacense (UVOC) in relation to the assistance of government entities during hurricanes Eta and Iota.

**'The Government has not provided a rapid response to the communities that are at risk and without food...The families who have not been affected by hurricanes(...) are the ones showing solidarity through donations (...) it is not an accident that the government's support does not reach the communities, it is a way of punishing us for the struggle we carry out in defense of the land and natural assets.'**

The topic of health was presented by the Guatemalan government as an area of progress, as the representative of SEGEPLAN affirmed: 'in a year and a half, we have exceeded the goal of building four hospitals; construction is about to be completed on the seventh. We have positioned ourselves as one of the countries which has best managed the pandemic.' He also highlighted, 'being part of the COVAX mechanism (...) we have negotiated the acquisition of 16 million vaccines' to prevent COVID-19.

Ramírez, from the Center for Studies for Equity and Governance in Health and the Network of Community Defenders for the Right to Health, contradicts what was reported in the government's presentation, stating, "In Guatemala, the health system has **been failing for many years ... the government's strategy ... is to build temporary hospitals and not strengthen the network of services...The government never managed to build hospitals up to standards to deal with COVID-19. There are continuous complaints from all of the hospital directors about not having enough resources, specialized personnel or equipment, etc.'**

Ramírez adds, **'If the government had properly managed the pandemic response, we would not have the scenario that [the country] now has, with a level of positive cases which in a few weeks has exceeded 40 percent. That tells you that the pandemic is totally**

uncontrolled. In order to say that a pandemic is controlled, it must be at least below 5 percent with positive cases.'

These points coincide with what was published by *Prensa Libre* on July 24, 2021. Guatemala has 250 municipalities under red alert, which represents 75 percent of the country's municipalities. Several sectors have pressed President Giammattei about why he has not acquired vaccines. In addition, inquiries are being made into the whereabouts of the money allocated for the purchase of vaccines as vaccines acquired by Guatemala so far have been donated by other countries.

At the High-Level Political Forum, Gramajo also highlighted sustained and inclusive economic growth, through the attraction of investments and new markets. **According to the International Monetary Fund, Guatemala's economic outlook is favorable with a contraction of only 1.5 percent in 2020 and projected economic growth of 4.5 percent by 2021, despite the pandemic.**

**'Although the economy continues to grow, that does not imply development for Guatemalans, due to the inequity by which growth is sustained,' indicated CONGCOOP. 'The State and international finance companies do not mention social inequality, poverty, and exclusion. In addition, these economic achievements are currently being sustained by the 11 million dollars that Guatemalan migrants who work in the United States send in remittances.'**

Another of the advances highlighted by Gramajo was the issue of meals in schools, covering 2.2 million students at the primary and pre-primary levels. Víctor Cristales from the Collective of Education for All in Guatemala acknowledged the program, however, **noted that regarding the education budget, the Guatemalan Congress has not fulfilled its constitutional duty to assign new and greater resources to education, which reflects a failure to meet the Sustainable Development goals for 2030.**

Furthermore, Cristales says, **'The privatization of education excludes and violates the human right to education.'** According to data from the Ministry of Education's yearly statistics report, each year more students are left out of the educational system, with **103,908 children currently lacking access to education**, according to *Prensa Libre* on July 12, 2021.

The Guatemalan State's Voluntary National Review presentation also highlighted the country's adaptation to and mitigation of climate change, the debt-for-carbon swap, the institutional strengthening of the State, and the fight against corruption. This last issue has received much coverage in recent days, as the **Guatemalan government has not been able to combat corruption or impunity and this discontent on the part of citizens is apparent by their massive strikes and protests across the country, demanding the resignation of the President and several top officials."**

"Guatemalan President Suspends Civil Rights to Facilitate Nickel Mine as Demand for Battery Minerals Skyrockets," Cultural Survival, October 29, 2021, <https://www.culturalsurvival.org/news/guatemalan-president-suspends-civil-rights-facilitate-nickel-mine-demand-battery-minerals>, reported, "[Warning. This article mentions sexual violence]

Since October 4, 2021, **Indigenous Q'eqchi community members in the municipality of El Estor, Izabal, in eastern Guatemala have been peacefully blockading a road to prevent ongoing activities of the Fenix Nickel Mine, currently owned by Swiss**



company Solway Group, operated by Guatemalan subsidiary Compania Guatemalteco de Niquel, with processing by subsidiary Pronico. On June 18, 2020, Guatemala's highest court ordered the mine to close. The court found that the 2006 license under which it is currently operating failed to consult Indigenous communities and ordered that the mining license be suspended until a consultation takes place within 18 months. Despite this ruling, and a previous temporary injunction to suspend operations in place since 2019, the mine has continued to operate illegally.

The blockade, led by traditional Q'eqchi authorities of the Ancestral Council, has allowed the free movement and passage of all people and vehicles, except cargo trucks belonging to, or contracted by the Fenix Nickel Mine. In response to the blockade, on October 24, President of Guatemala, Alejandro Giammattei, declared a State of Siege, or Martial Law, that will last for at least the next 30 days. This action suspends civil rights, including freedom of expression and action, freedom of movement, right to assembly and demonstration, carrying of arms, and supports legal detention without a judge's warrant and interrogations of detainees and prisoners. In addition, there will be a curfew that will take effect from 6:00 pm until 6:00 am of the next day. Restrictions apply to all those living in El Estor, Izabal.

According to local news, Prensa Libre, in the morning of October 24, a contingent of 500 soldiers and 350 people arrived in El Estor while agents of the Public Ministry carried out searches and issued warrants. Since the declaration of the State of Siege, local journalists, activists, organizations have been harassed and their homes raided by the military. Many of those who have been targeted are people outspoken against the Fenix mine. This includes independent journalists who have covered opposition to the mine, the offices of the Defensoria Q'eqchi/ AEPDI who have helped bring a lawsuit against the mine to international courts, and Q'eqchi community radio station Radio Xyaab 'Tzuultaq'a. Radio Xyaab 'Tzuultaq'a is a Cultural Survival grant partner which has provided in-depth media coverage of the peaceful protests. The radio station has already been raided once before by national police during a similar state of siege enacted two years ago. At the time, the station director shared, 'We fear that the harassment will continue against AEPDI due to our advocacy work with communities fighting for the protection of their territories and due to the demands they have made to definitively close the CGN-PRONICO mining company.'

In an official press release, the Chamber of Industry of Guatemala declared that the State of Siege was imposed because 'There are individuals and armed groups in the area who have committed acts of violence against the security forces and the freedom of movement of the inhabitants, governance and security', and that 'measures taken by the governments were necessary to re-establish the order.' In a press release, Solway stated that their subsidiary GCN is bound by rulings from Guatemalan courts and that the Ministry of Energy and Mines (MEM) is responsible for carrying out consultations, which they say have been taking place since September 28, 2021, in full compliance with the provisions of the Court.

However, the September 28 consultation violated international standards because it excluded the community's self-determined governance structure, the Ancestral Council of Q'eqchi Peoples. Instead, the MEM has been carrying out consultation with a newly appointed third party, named the "Council of Maya Q'eqchi Indigenous Communities" who, during the June court case, submitted an Amicus Curiae brief in favor of the Fenix mining project. On June 30, 2021, the Ancestral Council of Q'eqchi' Peoples sent a message to the Guatemalan government asking that it respect the self-determination of Q'eqchi' Peoples to

elect their own legitimate authorities named through general assembly to represent in the pre-consultation and consultation processes, but they were ignored.

### **A History of Violence**

The Fenix mine is Guatemala's only active metal mine, and extracts 120,000 tons of nickel per month, making it the biggest in Central America. It is located on the shores of the Izabal lake, Guatemala's largest, a crucially important resource for fishing and fresh water for the local communities, but which has been contaminated over the years. Nickel from Guatemala is highly valued. Solway describes the mineral they extract from the Fenix mining project (CGN) as one of the 10 richest and purest in the world, and as a deposit of great potential in size and quality it represents 'an important milestone.'

**The Fenix project has been mired in violent conflict since its installation on Indigenous land without consent in 1960 during Guatemala's civil war.** Between 2005-2011 it was operated by Canadian company Hudbay Minerals/Skye Resources. During this time, Q'eqchi community members were violently evicted from their homes. A precedent-setting case is still pending in Canadian courts from an incident in 2007 in which uniformed mine personnel allegedly gang-raped at least 11 Q'eqchi women after burning their homes to evict them from their ancestral lands. Breaking new legal grounds to bring accountability to transnational companies operating abroad, the women are suing the Canadian company in Canadian courts for the actions of employees of their subsidiary. In 2009, HudBay security opened fire on Q'eqchi land defenders protesting their eviction, and one community leader, Adolfo Ich, was killed. Only in 2021 was the former security chief, Mynor Padilla, convicted for the murder. He served four years in prison during an appeals process and has now been released for time served. At the time of the incident, HudBay denied responsibility, claiming members of his own community attacked him with a machete. One Q'eqchi man, Germán Chub, who survived the attacks but has remained paralyzed from the waist down from bullet wounds, has remained a vocal opponent of the mine's operation. His home was raided by the military on October 27, 2021.

### **Contamination of Waterways**

In 2017, an **Indigenous fisherman's guild in El Estor denounced the Fenix Mine for contamination of Lake Izabal.** That year, a giant red stain appeared on the surface of the lake emanating from where the mine ejects water. Solway denies that the Fenix mine is a major factor in the lake's contamination, placing the blame on local residents. Although local authorities took samples to do lab testing of the water quality, data of the results were never released publicly. Meanwhile, according to the Fisherman's Guild, independent testing in Germany and Mexico determined the water to have heavy metal contamination. On 27 May 2017, during peaceful demonstrations calling on authorities to resolve contamination in the lake, a member of the Fisherman's Guild, Carlos Maaz Coc, was killed. During the protest, Q'eqchi journalist Carlos Ernesto Choc Chub, of Prensa Comunitaria, recorded video of bullets fired at Choc by agents of the National Police. Choc Chub subsequently received death threats and six criminal charges were brought against him, later dismissed as false. On October 27, during the State of Siege, Choc Chub's home was also raided by police.

### **Violations of Domestic and International Law**

**In addition to the 2021 decision from Guatemala's Constitutional Court requiring consultation to be carried out, in February 2011, the Court also ruled in favor of a local Indigenous community, the Q'eqchi Peoples of Agua Caliente, whose ancestral land holds the highest concentration of nickel reserves in the area.** The case was brought by Rodrigo Tot, president of the Agua Caliente community in El Estor, who later went on to win

the Goldman Environmental Prize. The court ruled in their favor, recognizing their collective property rights and questioning the legality of the mining permits and activities on their traditional lands. Later in 2011, when that decision failed to be implemented, with the help of the legal defense organization the Defensoria Q'eqchi and the Indian Law Resource Center, the community filed a case with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. In 2020, the Commission sided with the community and referred the case to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, where it is currently pending.

#### **A Growing Dependence on Transitional Minerals and Its Impacts on Indigenous Communities**

In 2014, ownership of the mine was transferred to the Solway Group. At that time, the Russian Foreign Ministry announced this nickel project in Guatemala as a Russian investment project. The company was later incorporated in Switzerland.

**Global demand for nickel is skyrocketing alongside exponential growth in the electric vehicle sector as governments across the globe are aiming to meet goals to make a majority of new vehicles sold by 2030 be zero-emissions vehicles, including electric vehicles. Nickel is a key source material in the production of batteries used to power electric and hybrid vehicles.**

**Mining for battery minerals such as cobalt, lithium, and nickel has been shown to cause disproportionate harm to Indigenous Peoples. Metal mining is one of the world's dirtiest industries, responsible for at least 10 percent of anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions. Like at the Fenix Mine in El Estor, globally, mining is linked to environmental destruction, freshwater contamination and depletion, human rights abuses, forced displacement, loss of livelihood, violent conflict, unsafe working conditions, and illicit financial flows in many parts of the world. It increasingly poses threats to ocean health through the risky practice of mine waste dumping and deep-sea mining.**

**In Papua New Guinea, the Ramu Nickel Mine has forcibly displaced Indigenous Kurumbukari Peoples from their ancestral homeland. For over a decade, the plant has been routinely dumping millions of tons of toxic waste into Basamuk Bay, which is regularly fished by 30,000 people to support their livelihoods, families, and local economy. The Bay feeds into the Coral Triangle biodiversity hotspot, relied on by half a million people in the region, and has the highest diversity of marine species in the world.**

**In Russia, the largest nickel producer in the world, Nor Nickel, hosts smelting sites on the Indigenous lands in the Russian Arctic. Nor Nickel operates on and has caused extensive environmental damage to the territories of the Sámi, Nentsy, Nganasan, Entsy, Dolgan, and Evenki communities who have suffered from Nor Nickel's negative impacts on their herding, hunting, fishing, and overall economic and subsistence activities. On May 29, 2020, a Nor Nickel power plant failed and released 21,000 tons of diesel oil into the local rivers. In 2016, a suspected break in a Norilsk Nickel slurry pipe caused the Daldykan river to turn bright red, just as Lake Izabal did at the site of the Fenix Mine in 2017. Nor Nickel claimed it was due to heavy rains.**

#### **Indigenous Communities Are Joining Together to Demand a Just Transition**

**Indigenous Peoples globally are working to ensure that a transition to a green economy does so while respecting Indigenous lands, livelihoods, and basic human rights. In 2020, after Elon Musk, CEO of Tesla, put out a call on Twitter announcing his search for more nickel to expand production of Tesla electric cars, Indigenous communities in the Arctic joined together with dozens of other organizations to send an open letter to Musk**

**urging Tesla not to purchase from Nornickel until they demonstrate a real commitment to consultation with affected Indigenous Peoples.**

On October 28, 2021, Cultural Survival along with 140 other organizations issued a joint statement in advance of the climate negotiations at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of Parties (COP 26) in Glasgow, Scotland, expressing concern about the impacts of extracting minerals, such as lithium, cobalt, nickel, and copper for renewable energy technologies on communities, workers and ecosystems around the world. The letter calls on climate negotiators at the COP26 to make a binding commitment to source transition minerals responsibly.

The letter states, 'Our transition to renewable energy sources must be just and equitable and accompanied by a simultaneous transformation away from irresponsible mining.' It calls for the centering of the human rights of Indigenous and frontline communities and workers at mining, recycling, reclamation, manufacturing, and renewable energy projects. It also calls for the prioritizing of low-impact circular economy solutions that reduce the overall demand for primary metals, and for ensuring responsible minerals sourcing at existing mining operations. 'A truly clean, just and equitable energy economy will require not just a transition to cleaner sources of energy, but transformation on an individual and collective level.' Read the declaration here.

Rebecca Kirkpatrick, "Falsely Imprisoned for Defending Sacred Waters: Bernardo Caal," Cultural Survival, August 11, 2021, <https://www.culturalsurvival.org/news/falsely-imprisoned-defending-sacred-waters-bernardo-caal>, reported, **"Bernardo Caal is a well-known Q'eqchi' Maya leader and land and human rights defender in Guatemala who has been falsely imprisoned for three years. In 2020, he was officially declared a prisoner of conscience by Amnesty International. Caal is currently serving a seven-year sentence for crimes he did not commit. He is sometimes referred to as "Guardian of the River" for the work he has done to protect the Cahabón River from the effects of the OXEC hydroelectric plant in Alta Verapaz, Guatemala.**

Caal's case was recently presented at the 14th session of the United Nations Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which took place on July 12-16, 2021. His defense lawyer, Edgar De León, called on the Mechanism to make a public statement about Caal's situation, emphasizing that he **'symbolically embodies the Indigenous Peoples exercising the right to self-determination in the face of the voracity of corporate power and the lack of State will to fulfill its duty to respect, protect and guarantee our rights.'**

In 2015, Caal organized peaceful opposition against the construction of two hydroelectric projects, citing issues and irregularities with the projects and their detrimental effects on the Cahabón River, considered sacred by the local community. Caal pursued legal action against the hydroelectric company, and the Guatemalan Supreme Court ruled in his favor, agreeing that OXEC had failed to obtain the Free, Prior and Informed Consent of the Indigenous Peoples living in the area before starting the project. The company appealed this decision and the case was then taken to the Constitutional Court, which also ruled in Caal's favor and suspended the project.

The Constitutional Court later reversed this decision, however, and allowed the company to continue operating, bowing to pressure from both business and political sectors. Reversals of major high court decisions such as in Caal's case have been often characterized as a result of threats and corruption from powerful interests in Guatemala, as was the case in the infamous reversal of the decision to convict former president Rios Montt of genocide in 2013. Soon after

the reversal of the case Caal brought against OXEC in January 2018, Caal was summoned to a court hearing, detained, and accused of aggravated robbery and illegal detention of employees of the hydroelectric plant that allegedly occurred in 2015. In November 2018, based on very little evidence, he was sentenced to seven years in prison and continues to serve his community while he serves time.

Caal writes letters to his partner and his community from prison, encouraging them to keep fighting peacefully for their land and rights, as well as maintaining his innocence. 'I have been imprisoned for 1,273 days,' he writes. **'The hydroelectric plants on the Cahabón River have manipulated justice. They accused me of crimes that I have not committed, just to scare the people and take away our sacred river.'**

In another of his recent letters, he states, 'The Guatemalan people will continue fighting, because we are a brave people.' In his letters he rallies his community with the chant, 'El pueblo unido, jamás será vencido,' meaning "The people united will never be defeated." From the four walls of his prison cell, he calls on his community to come together and protect their land and their rights, refusing to let his sentence deter him from his battle to save the sacred river. They continue to do so, staging protests and carrying signs mounted with pictures of Caal and phrases such as 'the search for truth and justice means persecution and death' and 'your indifference and your silence reinforce the corruption.'" Many of the signs also feature the hashtag #LibertadParaBernardoCaal, or 'Freedom for Bernardo Caal.' In a 2018 interview with PBI Guatemala, Caal stated, 'Being in jail does not discourage me. Together with my colleagues, we are touching on core elements of co-optation and corruption which prevail in Guatemala and we are defending ourselves against the plundering.'

Caal has filed an appeal with the Guatemala Supreme Court, but repeated delays and suspended hearings meant that his arguments, including three amicus curiae briefs, were only recently heard on June 21 and a ruling has yet to be issued. In addition to the unnecessarily long pre-trial detention time, UN rights experts are also concerned about Caal's health, given the poor infrastructure, health services, and overcrowding at Cobán Prison, all of which have been made worse by the COVID-19 pandemic.

**The case of Bernardo Caal is, unfortunately, just one example of many Indigenous leaders throughout Latin America who are criminalized, attacked or killed, for taking a stand against powerful companies and governments and speaking out against the violation of Indigenous rights."**

Sandra Cuffe, "Guatemala's growing palm oil industry fuels Indigenous land fight: The Guatemalan palm oil industry, world's six largest, faces resistance from Indigenous people demanding land rights," Al Jazeera, October 15, 2021, <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/10/15/guatemala-growing-palm-oil-industry-fuels-indigenous-land-fight>, **"Community members accuse a Guatemalan company of planting oil palm on their traditional lands, and they have built homes to reclaim the disputed tract – spurring an eviction notice, several police operations, and a day of deadly violence that remains ever-present in the memory of the settlement's more than 500 residents."**

**"Guatemala's expanding palm oil industry faces resistance from Indigenous people fighting for land rights.** Oil palm plantations have nearly doubled in area over the past decade, sparking agrarian conflicts between companies and communities."

Por Cesar Gomez, "Guatemala Discriminates against Indigenous Peoples, Denying Access to Radio Frequencies," Cultural Survival, June 29, 2021, <https://www.culturalsurvival.org/news/guatemala-discriminates-against-indigenous-peoples-denying-access-radio-frequencies>, reported, "On June 9-10, 2021, **the Inter-American Court of Human Rights heard the historic case of *Indigenous Maya Kaqchikel Peoples of Sumpango vs. Guatemala*** (<https://www.culturalsurvival.org/news/freedom-expression-indigenous-peoples-guatemala-case-be-decided-inter-american-court-human>). **This hearing comes after decades of activism by Indigenous community radio stations in Guatemala fighting for their freedom to exist and broadcast information in Indigenous languages to their communities.** The Court listened to testimonies from representatives of **Indigenous community radio stations, Anselmo Xunic (Maya Kaqchikel), Robin Sicajan (Maya Kaqchikel), Olga Ajcalon (Maya Kaqchikel), Maria Pedro (Maya Q'anjob'al) and Alfredo Baltazar (Maya Q'anjob'al), Rosendo Pablo (Maya Mam), Victor Angel (Maya Mam) and Antonio Pérez (Maya Mam), Ana Chen (Maya Q'eqchi '), Raúl Tacaj (Maya Q'eqchi ') and Alfredo Rax Coc (Q'eqchi '), as well as, Concepción Ajanel (Maya K'iche')**; experts on the right to freedom of expression and Indigenous rights, Jose Francisco Calí, current UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and Dr. Sofía Labardini Inzulza, invited by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, as well as representatives of the State of Guatemala.

The **historical discrimination of the States towards the Indigenous Peoples is summarized in the denial of their human and collective rights. In Guatemala, these violations are evident through exclusive laws such as the General Telecommunications Law decree 94-96, making the country's multilingual and multicultural multiethnic character invisible, granting privileges only to a small group of businessmen.** The auction process is the only mechanism currently available to obtain radio frequencies for broadcast from Indigenous community radio stations.

**'This system violates international law, [such as Article 16 of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which state that states must consult and cooperate with Indigenous Peoples and obtain their Free, Prior and Informed Consent before adopting and applying legislative or administrative measures that may affect them, such as the General Telecommunications Law of Guatemala,'** highlighted Jose Francisco Calí (Maya Kaqchikel), UN Special Rapporteur of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, during the June 9-10, 2021 public hearing at the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

Anselmo Xunic, a volunteer for the Indigenous community radio station, Radio Ixchel, mentioned before the High Court that the stations are criminalized and raided. In 2006, **Radio Ixchel was raided by the Public Ministry and their transmission equipment was confiscated. The station was charged with the crime of theft of radio frequencies.** Although Xunic was not in the booth when the incident happened, he was summoned to court, a year later, for being one of the leaders of the organization that supported the station. When Xunic appeared in court, the Public Ministry requested to link him to the crime, however lacking evidence, the judge did not find any crime, ruling a lack of merit.

**'The work of Indigenous community radio is to bring information, education, health programs, citizen participation, art promotion, educational programs, women's leadership,'** relayed Maria Pedro from Radio Jolom Konob in Huehuetenango. Pedro has **worked on the drafting of initiative 4087 to legalize community radio in Guatemala, which still has not been passed as law.** She is a member of the Association of Eulalia Women for the Development of Santa Eulalia and shared what they do, 'we develop content on the importance of the

participation of women at the community level, decision-making, care for the environment and food sovereignty.'

Rosendo Pablo from Radio Xobil Yol kman Xum in Todos Santos Huehuetenango, emphasized that 'Community radio is the means that links the community with migrants located in the United States, by also transmitting on the internet, the programs that are broadcast are of interest of the population, and as the majority is monolingual.' Ninety percent of their transmission is carried out in the Mam language.

The witnesses agreed that although State institutions such as health, justice, and education centers, among others, all utilize community radio to reach local populations, the State through the Public Ministry, violates Indigenous Peoples' right to freedom of expression, by raiding, confiscating equipment, and jailing communicators who volunteer at the stations. They also denounced before the Inter-American Court of Human Rights the fears of community journalists being criminalized after the hearing, for calling out the State of Guatemala on the multiple violations of freedom of expression, requesting that their integrity, respect for their human rights and Indigenous Peoples be safeguarded.

The expert opinions presented before the Court gave evidence how the States in the world, for decades, have supported an oligopolistic patronage regime, concentrating radio frequencies in a small group of businessmen who control the media, justifying the artificial scarcity to limit this right. Guatemala is no exception, as could be seen during the hearing where Guatemala justifies privatization as a democratic way of granting access to frequencies to all the population based on capacity to pay.

State representative Lilian Najera pointed out that there are no violations to the right to freedom of expression, equality, cultural identity within the telecommunications law and that the government should not be held responsible for alleged violations of human rights. Other State representatives indicated that the government follows international recommendations on telecommunications, which stipulate the use of the spectrum in a rational and effective way, and according to their interpretation it is by limiting the number of the frequencies and the space of the spectrum to a minimum.

Likewise, State representatives repeatedly justified that the General Telecommunications Law 'at no time intends to discriminate or exclude Indigenous Peoples or a specific group,' and that the law grants the right to any person to participate in public auctions promoting free competition. The fact that 'an economic criteria does not justify classifying any discrimination, since the fact that some have more or less possibilities to enter a contest is a circumstantial, eventual, or unpredictable issue, which does not discriminate, therefore, the opportunity to participate is for all that have the interest.'

**In light of the commitments undertaken by Guatemala in the 1996 Peace Accords, international human rights conventions and treaties, the American Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, as well as international standards on freedom of expression, it is inconceivable that the country keeps avoiding from their responsibilities. The American Convention on Human Rights makes it clear in its articles 1, 2, 13, 24 that the State is obligated to respect rights, pass legislation in accordance with international law, respect, protect and fulfill the right to freedom of thought and expression, and the right to equal protection.**

'The commitments assumed in the 1996 Peace Accords became law when the Framework Law 52-2005 was approved,' emphasized Jose Francisco Cali. 'Guatemala has legal obligations, by virtue of the numerous international instruments that it has ratified, the American Declaration

on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples which states that Indigenous Peoples have the right to establish their own communication media in their own languages.' He also stressed that community radios are essential in promoting Indigenous languages, cultures, education, and information.

Ancestral authorities, represented by Julian Bal, emphasized, 'We support and take care of community radio stations with our lives if necessary,' and requested that the honorable Inter-American Court, 'intervene so that the State recognizes our rights within the legal framework and respects and promotes community radio stations so that nothing and no one can disturb our peace and harmony and our self-determination.'

According to the Guatemalan Constitution, the State is the one that administers the frequencies, therefore it must be the one to distribute radio frequencies equitably and adopt legislation to recognize the operation of Indigenous community radio in the country. One of the proposals that has advanced to its second reading is Initiative 4087 Law on Community Communication Media, which must be approved. Expert statements exemplify how several Latin American countries have updated their regulations and granted frequencies for community use, including Uruguay, Bolivia, Colombia, Mexico, which at the same time have divided the radioelectric spectrum in equal parts, 33 percent for commercial use, 33 percent for state use and 33 percent for community use.

This distribution is adapted to the needs of the country, with a population of more than 18 million inhabitants and 25 linguistic communities. When the State of Guatemala distributes the spectrum in three sectors, commercial, state and indigenous community, in an equitable way, it will guarantee the plurality of voices and the democratization of the radioelectric spectrum, in addition, it would comply with Article 9 of the Inter-American Democratic Charter, which emphasizes that the "elimination of all forms of discrimination, especially gender, ethnic and racial, and the various forms of intolerance, as well as the promotion and protection of the human rights of Indigenous Peoples, which contribute to the strengthening of democracy and participation citizen."

It will take the Inter-American Court of Human Rights several months to rule on this case. Community radio stations will continue advocating for their freedom of expression rights in Guatemala by raising awareness on this historic case among Indigenous communities and government representatives while waiting for the final decision."

"Two Offices Focused on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Will Open in Guatemala on July 23, 2021," International Treaty Council, July 16, 2021, <http://hosted.verticalresponse.com/1383891/24f7d76684/545546365/aa063f1824/>, reported, "Guatemala City: On July 23, 2021, **the International Indian Treaty Council will participate in the opening event for two offices in Guatemala**, hosted by the Mayan Kaqchikel University in Santo Domingo Xenacoj in the department of Sacatepéquez. **The office of the United Nations Special Rapporteur Jose Francisco Cali Tzay, who began his three-year term on May 1, 2020, will be located at the Maya Kaqchikel University and will provide a base for his work in his home country of Guatemala.** The Special Rapporteur's primary office will remain at the University of Arizona in Tucson Arizona, USA.

**IITC is also pleased to announce that on the same day it will officially reopen its Latin America/Caribbean regional office hosted by IITC's affiliate CONAVIGUA (the National Coordination of Indigenous Widows of Guatemala) in Guatemala City, focused on human rights advocacy.** It will also provide capacity building, training, and technical assistance



to assist Indigenous Peoples and organizations to present submissions and urgent action filings to human rights mechanisms including the UN Special Rapporteurs on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and Human Rights Defenders, and Treaty bodies such as the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

The IITC Guatemala Office will coordinate and collaborate with the office of Special Rapporteur Cali Tzay, and provide support for his work upon request.

The events at the Mayan University will take place over two days. On July 23rd the IITC, the Mayan University, and the office of the Special Rapporteur will host a capacity building and training workshop for Indigenous organizations, attorneys, and educational institutions. The inaugural event for the two offices will take place on July 23rd, with participation of Indigenous leaders, Mayan authorities, dignitaries, and national and municipal officials, as well as spiritual ceremonies to bring blessings and unity for the work ahead. Both events will be webcast in Guatemala.

IITC operated an office in Guatemala from 1993 to 2002. During this period, important results were achieved in the areas of food sovereignty, education and training on Indigenous Peoples' Rights, cooperation among Indigenous Peoples and organizations of Latin America, and increased participation of Indigenous Peoples of the region in the drafting of the UN and OAS Declarations on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The IITC office was hosted by Defensoria Maya in Guatemala City and its then-Director Juan Leon Alvarado, Maya K'iche, served as IITC's Office Coordinator. Juan is returning to his position as IITC's Guatemala Office Coordinator after serving for several years as Guatemala's Ambassador to Norway, Cuba, Ecuador, and the Organization of American States where he chaired the OAS working group for development of the America Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

IITC President Ronald Lameman, Beaver Lake Cree Nation, represents over 240 Indigenous Nations that are members of Treaties 1-11 in Canada on IITC's Board of Directors. He will attend and present at the events organized to inaugurate the IITC and Special Rapporteur's offices along with IITC Executive Director Andrea Carmen and other IITC representatives from in and outside Guatemala. Ron affirmed the importance of these events and the reopening of IITC's Guatemala office: "IITC remains committed to defend the rights of Indigenous Peoples in Guatemala, Central America and around the world. We look forward to working with our affiliates and other Indigenous organizations in Guatemala as well as UN Special Rapporteur to strengthen our collective voices for the well-being and survival of our Peoples.

IITC also maintains offices in San Francisco California and Tucson Arizona in the United States.

For additional information regarding these events or the work of IITC's Guatemala office, contact IITC's Guatemala Office Coordinator Juan León Alvarado at +502-42102584, or email to: [juanleon@treatycouncil.org](mailto:juanleon@treatycouncil.org).

To contact the UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, email to: [indigenous@ohchr.org](mailto:indigenous@ohchr.org) or [FranciscoCaliRelatorEspecial@gmail.com](mailto:FranciscoCaliRelatorEspecial@gmail.com)."

Red Mesoamericana de Radios Indigenas, Garifunas y Feministas, "Indigenous, Garifuna, and Feminist Community Correspondents Push for a More Inclusive Democracy in Honduras and Guatemala," June 29, 2021, <https://www.culturalsurvival.org/news/indigenous-garifuna-and-feminist-community-correspondents-push-more-inclusive-democracy>, reported, **"In Guatemala and Honduras, the commercial media wall prevents communities from fully exercising**

their right to information and freedom of expression. Despite advances in recent years, the technological gap continues to separate rural from urban environments. Faced with this situation, community media is an important tool to inform and organize communities, to create and disseminate information on the defense of their human and collective rights.

Despite the growing criminalization and persecution of Indigenous, Garífuna, and feminist community resistance and alternative media through State institutions, community media continues to grow and on a daily basis counteracts misinformation of commercial media, breaking the media wall.

The Mesoamerican Network of Community, Indigenous, Garífuna and Feminist Radio Stations is a strategic network of organic alliances, which brings together various community radios and organizations born to strengthen the struggles of social organizations and the peoples to which they belong. The member organizations and radio stations are defined as "community media that disseminate, contribute and promote social and cultural awareness, guiding and educating our peoples, and breaking the media fence that keeps our peoples uninformed." The main methodology of the Mesoamerican Network is popular education, an inclusive practice that promotes the exchange of knowledge, respecting the ancestral knowledge and knowledge of Indigenous and peasant communities, integrating them with the new possibilities provided by technological advances and with critical reflection on the current context of globalization.

**Comunicadores y Comunicadoras Populares Por la Autonomía (COMPPA)** is an organization that accompanies Indigenous and civic organizations in capacity building, training, and technical support in exercising their rights to communication. COMPPA has accompanied the founding and strengthening of the Mesoamerican Network since its creation with training in community communication.

In previous years, organizations that are part of the Mesoamerican Network analyzed possible actions to break down the restrictive media wall and to generate more information from the communities themselves. In 2020, based on analysis and collective dialogue, the Mesoamerican Network and COMPPA decided to start a network of community correspondents by training people to be communication links to and from their communities and by strengthening the structure and effective coordination to improve the exchange of information. This initiative is coordinated by several radio stations and organizations in Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico and is supported by the Cultural Survival's Indigenous Community Media Fund.

The project entitled '**Solidarity Communication and Communication without Borders**' is building the network of community correspondents selected by the same organizations and radios to support their communities. The project also includes the installation of equipment in three local media centers, a production booth, additions to the Mesoamerican Network's website of an audio library of productions, and the launch of a new collective online radio station which is sourcing programs from stations in the Mesoamerican Network. In addition, the project includes national meetings in Guatemala and Honduras to strengthen the work in the region. The Peoples who will benefit include Q'eqchi ', K'iche ', Ixil, Mam and Poqomchi' Peoples in Guatemala, and Garífuna and Lenca Peoples in Honduras. The majority are rural communities that have organized to exercise their right to communicate. Sixty-nine communicators from 17 radio stations belonging to 9 organizations are directly benefiting, in addition to 20 communicators from partner organizations.

In the case of the training of community correspondents, the process for 24 Lenca women and 17 men, and Maya people in Guatemala and Honduras began during the COVID-19 pandemic facing many challenges. First, the facilitators had to adapt to online modalities and digital tools after many years of experience in face-to-face facilitation. Internet connectivity is a major obstacle in rural communities where the community reporters and the lack of adequate computer equipment to receive trainings excluded many of the participants at first. The Council of Popular and Indigenous Organizations of Honduras (COPINH), a grassroots organization with a long history in the protection of Mother Earth and water in Honduras and a member of the Mesoamerican Network, analyzed these new challenges and presented a new proposal to recover radio as a training and education medium for participants, instead of using the internet.

Training through radio had been used in past decades as educational tools for rural communities by programs such as the Guatemalan Institute of Radio Education (IGER). Many participants of the radio trainings indicated that they value the process as it opened opportunities to more participants than originally expected. The trainings were combined with hands-on activities in the field and interviews with people about issues of local relevance.

According to María Lopez, facilitator of the training in Honduras, correspondent training expanded participants' knowledge to regular listeners of the COPINH community radio stations. It strengthened the radio monitoring and correspondents network. For example, compañeras from the community of Roruca denounced on the radio illegal canteens in their community and sexual abuse by some residents in the area, making radio be a space for reporting as well as serving as a mediator on these issues.

With these activities of the Mesoamerican Network, it is expected that the collection and dissemination of information from and for the communities in marginalized areas will continue to increase, strengthening mutual support and solidarity between radio stations and organizations.

More diverse, participatory, and inclusive democratic participation and true community media will increase the advocacy capacity of organizations and aid in the defense of Indigenous rights, cultures, and territories, towards true social change.

Read more about the training programs for Honduran community correspondents on the website of the Mesoamerican Network:

<https://www.radiocomunitarias.info/corresponsales-comunitarios-redmeso-honduras/>  
<https://www.radiocomunitarias.info/red-de-corresponsales-comunitarios-guatemala/>  
<https://www.radiocomunitarias.info/copinh-escuelita-radial-justicia-para-berta-mujeres-hablando/>

The Mesoamerican Network of Community, Indigenous, Garifuna, and Feminist Radios received a grant from Cultural Survival's Indigenous Community Media Fund in 2020. The Indigenous Community Media Fund provides opportunities for international Indigenous radio stations to strengthen their broadcast infrastructure and systems and creates training opportunities in journalism, broadcasting, audio editing, technical skills, and more to Indigenous community radio journalists around the world. In 2020, the Indigenous Community Media Fund supported 35 media projects in 8 countries, totaling \$214,000."

**The presidential election win in Honduras of Xiomara Castro may bring about major changes that will help Indigenous peoples in the country who have suffered under, and been at odds with, the government of the just defeated former president** (Anatoly Kurmanayev and Joan Suazo, "Honduras Election Front-Runner Vows New Era but Is Tied to

Past: Xiomara Castro, headed toward becoming her country's next president, promises to expunge its legacy of corruption, but change may be tempered by her establishment ties and conservative opposition," *The New York Times*, November 29, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/11/29/world/americas/honduras-election-xiomara-castro.html>).

Maxwell Radwin, "Environmental defenders in Nicaragua denounce government crackdown as elections loom," *Mongabay*, 13 October 2021, <https://news.mongabay.com/2021/10/environmental-defenders-in-nicaragua-denounce-government-crackdown-as-elections-loom/>, reported, **"More than a dozen Mayangna and Miskito had gathered on the [sacred] hill [Kiwakumbaih] one afternoon when a group of armed men approached with guns and machetes. They raped several of the women, according to community members who asked to remain anonymous. The armed men put their gun barrels in people's mouths and fired, execution-style, and hanged others from trees.**

Between nine and 13 people were killed in what the government has called an 'inter-ethnic' conflict between Indigenous communities, but which **residents say was actually carried out by colonos, or colonists, who have been forcing their way onto protected territory for years.** The country's media noted this was not the first time that colonos had killed locals at Kiwakumbaih, although it had never been on this scale."

"FRENAPI Defines 2021 Agenda for the Autonomy of Indigenous Peoples in Costa Rica," Cultural Survival, August 25, 2021, <https://www.culturalsurvival.org/news/frenapi-defines-2021-agenda-autonomy-indigenous-peoples-costa-rica>, reported, **"The umbrella Indigenous organization in Costa Rica, El Frente Nacional de Pueblos Indígenas (FRENAPI-The National Front of Indigenous Peoples) met in February 2021 with its National Council to analyze the current situations of their communities and to strategize for the upcoming year.** With the support of the Keepers of the Earth Fund, 20 representatives of the Chorotega, Maleku, Bribri, Cabécar, Boruca, Bröran and Ngöbe Peoples gathered in the Térraba Indigenous territory to discuss agenda setting and action steps.

For more than 20 years, FRENAPI has been working for the respect and recognition of Indigenous Peoples' rights in Costa Rica. They have advanced activities at the national level on Indigenous legislation, human rights, the Indigenous agenda, land reclamation, non-violent actions, environmental issues, among others. In 2019, also with support from the Keepers of the Earth Fund, FRENAPI held their first National Indigenous Congress to define their collective actions after the assassination of land rights activist Sergio Rojas Ortiz, Bribri leader of the Uniwak clan of Salitre and Jerhy Rivera Rivera, of the Bröran Peoples.

**The Indigenous Peoples that make up FRENAPI live in constant struggles to maintain or reclaim their territories, threatened by livestock interests, by the intervention of the Costa Rican State and its complicity with the Integral Development Associations (ADI). FRENAPI has expressed its refusal to dialogue with the intermediation of the ADIs, considering them 'an imposed structure.'**

**The COVID-19 pandemic has complicated matters and worsened conditions for many Indigenous communities. Both economic threats and human rights violations have increased.** For this reason, FRENAPI considered it urgent to meet in person to analyze the current situation of their communities, assess the state of the land reclamation movement, and based on their findings define an agenda for action for 2021. Symbolically, the 2021 meeting

took place at the Crun Shurin Farm which was reclaimed three years ago from non-Indigenous usurpers.

**As a result of the meeting, FRENAPI agreed to strengthen their land reclamation activities, the Indigenous movement for autonomy and self-determination, and to create strategic alliances, recognizing that in this movement 'women lead through courageous leadership following the strength of their hearts and ancestral teachings. [...] The benefits are for the communities as collectives, due to the spirituality and the organizational forms of Indigenous Peoples.'**"

"Nainu Agriculture Combats a Food Crisis During COVID-19 in Panama," September 27, 2021, <https://www.culturalsurvival.org/news/nainu-agriculture-combats-food-crisis-during-covid-19-panama>, reported, **"Faced with an acute food crisis due to the impacts of forced isolation during the COVID-19 pandemic, the response of the Nalunega and Wissubwala communities in the Gunayala region, in eastern Panama, was to turn to their traditional, sustainable, Gunadule agricultural practices.** In 2020, the Center of Environmental and Human Development (Centro de Desarrollo Ambiental y Humano, CENDAH) implemented an agriculture project rooted in their Gunadule needs and values.

**The nainu system ('own land' in Guna) is an alternative for the management of natural forests and consists of natural methods of reusing land, either through crop rotation or by reusing the same layer of organic material that remains after harvest. With this cultivation technique, it is not necessary to plow or till the land and it also avoids deforestation, because the Guna use wooded, coastal, and alluvial zones.**

When the COVID-19 pandemic isolated the Gunadule communities established on coral islands in the Caribbean Sea, the food crisis was serious, since the crops are on land and community members must travel by sea to reach their nainus. Although some farmers continued to work under uncertain health conditions, their produce was not enough to ensure food security for the community. Moreover, the lack of supplies in local stores and mobility restrictions which prevented them from exchanging products with neighboring communities exacerbated the situation. In those days, CENDAH described the situation as "chaotic."

CENDAH is a nonprofit community-based organization that supports Gunadule communities. CENDAH's activities include research, education, and development projects and in their agricultural project they worked closely with a technician who has experience in the nainu food systems. CENDAH also adapted training workshops to the context and availability of the farmers. With a grant from Cultural Survival's Keepers of the Earth Fund, they expanded their nainu agroforestry production; grew plantains/bananas, yuca and maize along with medicinal plants; held training workshops related to cultivating crops; distributed harvested foods among the communities; and received training on COVID-19 prevention and care.

CENDAH faced various difficulties due to the pandemic and was forced to adapt its project to the changing circumstances, including addressing connectivity problems to communicate with communities and access to many places was restricted due to fear of contagion.

However, the need prevailed and CENDAH was able to deliver the seeds to farmers and also managed to successfully complete the entire project for the benefit of Gunadule communities. "The days of seed deliveries were exciting for the farmers, because it was just at the moment when they did not have access to seeds to continue their agricultural practices. It was a breath of hope" CENDAH says in their report. Also, trainings were held on improving plantain and yam cultivation, and workshops on COVID-19 and dulein (dule botanical medicine). In

December of 2020, half a year before the harvest, CENDAH presented the results and completion of the initiative to their leadership. The six Sagladummagan (leaders), their secretaries, technicians, and directors of the two executive directors of the Guna People's Cultural Heritage Institute and the Kuna Yala Research and Development Institute attended the presentations.

Faced with the food crisis, Gunadule leaders responded with commitment and focused work. We selected two communities or groups of producers dedicated to working the fields because the truth is that organized groups work the land," says CENDAH. Farmers were the ones who led the initiative to overcome the obstacles of the pandemic. Despite fears and anxiety, they said that "if you stay still and do nothing, you become fragile and the virus attacks you. But when you work and eat, the virus does not reach you. Fear the man of the field."

**Keepers of the Earth Fund (KOEf:** <https://www.culturalsurvival.org/news/www.cs.org/koef>) is an Indigenous Led Fund designed to support Indigenous Peoples' community development and advocacy projects. Since 2017, KOEF has supported 177 projects in 35 countries totaling \$764,317. KOEF provides small grants to grassroots Indigenous-led communities, organizations, and traditional governments to support their self-determined development projects based on their Indigenous values. Predicated on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Cultural Survival uses a rights-based approach in our grantmaking strategies to support grassroots Indigenous solutions through the equitable distribution of resources to Indigenous communities."

Rebecca Kirkpatrick, "Violence Against Human Rights Defenders in Colombia Continues with Attack on Beatriz Cano and César Galarza," Cultural Survival, September 27, 2021, <https://www.culturalsurvival.org/news/violence-against-human-rights-defenders-colombia-continues-attack-beatriz-cano-and-cesar>, reported, **"More than 26 human rights defenders have been murdered in Cauca, Colombia, since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. According to Reporters Without Borders, Colombia currently ranks 134 out of 180 countries on the 2021 World Press Freedom Index. Violence against Indigenous leaders and activists in Latin America, as well as against the non-Indigenous activists who work with them is, unfortunately, neither new nor unusual.** Cultural Survival's Indigenous Rights Radio recently spoke with Vilma Rocío Almendra (Nasa and Misak), a member of the Pueblos en Camino initiative, and Diana Puyazos, a newscaster with the Asociación de Cabildos Indígenas del Norte del Cauca (Association of Indigenous Councils of Northern Cauca), to discuss this **ongoing violence and to specifically address the murder of Beatriz Cano, a communicator with the Asociación Cabildos Indígenas del Norte del Cauca.**

On June 4, 2021, Cano, a fierce defender of the rights and territories of the Nasa people, along with her five-year-old daughter, her partner, César Galarza, and community member Floresmino Tróchez, who are also members of the Asociación de Cabildos Indígenas del Norte del Cauca, was attacked in her car by a group of armed men at a routine checkpoint in the town of Santander de Quilichao. The men opened fire first on police officers who had just granted Cano and her companions passage through the checkpoint. 'When they were about to give us passage so that we could continue in the car, the sound of gunshots began to ring out. At first I thought it was gunpowder, until I felt that my feet were wounded,' said Galarza. Everyone in the car was seriously injured, and Cano succumbed to her injuries in hospital three days later, on June 7, 2021. The two police officers, Carlos Delgado Jiménez and María Isabel Angulo Rivera,

as well as two other civilians and members of the Asociación Cabildos Indígenas del Norte del Cauca, Aleida Perafán and Juan David Guegue, were also killed in the attack.

'The war situation we are living in this territory called Colombia is not new, is it?' Almendra said on the Indigenous Rights Radio Program. '...This so-called Colombia was established with very serious forms of domination that we are still experiencing, such as armies, right? How armies defend power and what they do is they subjugate with force those who oppose the interests of a so-called nation state.' The Nasa people have experienced a great deal of violence at the hands of the State over the years. Encounters with state aggressors have led to the deaths of many Indigenous community members, including José Abelardo Liz—a Nasa Indigenous communicator killed in a military attack on August 13, 2020—and Eider Campo Hurtado, a Nasa journalist who was killed by four heavily armed men in a raid on his house on March 4, 2018.

**'And it is not only happening in Colombia, Mexico, Guatemala, Venezuela, but all over the world,'** Almendra stated. **'In other words, it is a new world order that puts the States, public policies, territories and everything that can dominate, usurp and commercialize in a position where a few can accumulate profits, which are the transnational and corporate elites.'** According to the Human Rights Watch, **over 400 human rights defenders have been killed in Colombia since 2016, when the Colombian government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) signed a landmark Peace Agreement to demobilize the country's then-largest armed group and prevent the murder of human rights defenders. Killings of human rights defenders in Colombia have increased, however, as a result of paramilitary groups fighting for control of territory for illegal activities such as coca production. 'Another thing that happened at the same time as the failure to comply with everything that was proposed...was that the number of assassinations of social leaders in this country increased,'** stated Almendra. **'So here there has always been death, here there have always been selective assassinations, but after the signing of the agreements we have already had almost 300 signatories of peace assassinated.'**

**The work that the human rights defenders in Colombia do has made them targets for violence and intimidation. Almendra explained, 'Because the majority of social leaders that have been killed in this country are [killed] because they have opposed fracking, they have opposed oil exploitation, they have imposed themselves, they have rejected hydroelectric plants, they have rejected mining, they have rejected monocultures.'** Human rights defenders like Beatriz Cano put their lives on the line on a daily basis, going up against big corporations and government entities to ensure their land and their communities are protected. **'Over the course of almost five years, that is to say the last five years, they have murdered around 67 communicators and all of them have been fighting in defense or for control of territory,'** Diana Puyazos told Indigenous Rights Radio. **'For example, in the case of what happened with César Galarza,'** she said, **'who apart from leaving this space as a communicator, is an artist, he is also a musician. So, since through his lyrics he had been denouncing different situations that occur within our territories and since, let us say, there is this persecution, this persecution for those who raise their voice or for those who denounce everything that is occurring within our territories, then there is a total risk from the public forces, by, let's say, the legal and illegal armed groups that exist within the territories in these scenarios.'**

**Ofentimes, no one is held accountable for the deaths of Indigenous human rights defenders,** Puyazos explained. **'At the moment no one is being held responsible for these deaths, nor are there any suspects, or the murders are just attributed to armed groups or**

**the state itself ignores its own involvement in these events,' she stated. 'Here in Colombia, there is no access to justice.'**

Puyazos's respect for her late colleague, Cano, is clear. 'So she kind of embodied the whole issue of commitment. I believe that if there is something she taught us, it was that, the issue of commitment, but also the issue of the meetings. She made the communicators a family. I think she was a woman with a lot of initiative, with strong opinions, with a lot of dignity, with a lot of commitment even within our communication spaces, because it was not only us here as a network, but also the coordination of other communication collectives at a zonal and regional level.'

The deaths of Beatriz Cano and César Galarza, as well as many other leaders and activists like them, weigh heavy in the hearts of those who knew them and worked with them. Puyazos told Indigenous Rights Radio, '...it has also cost us a lot to recover from all that, precisely because of the type of woman she is. The pain that all this has caused and also the pain of not knowing who did it and not knowing exactly what happened. Why did it happen? It hurts us and it tears us apart, no? But I think that also the legacy that in some way she has left to us...is quite strong...we must also learn not to be afraid and to have the hope intact that someday these things will stop happening...I believe that this is the legacy that she leaves us. To remain steadfast in our work, to commit ourselves more, because if not, then everything would have been in vain.'

**In Memoriam: Colombian Indigenous Rights Defenders:**

<https://www.culturalsurvival.org/news/memoriam-colombian-indigenous-rights-defenders>

This digital report provides a brief overview of the devastating situation in Colombia, based on the names of Indigenous defenders included in Cultural Survival's widely read 2019 "In Memoriam" report profiling 28 Indigenous defenders. This addendum report provides an update to a section of that 2019 report on Colombian defenders, expanding on their important contributions for justice. We honor the legacies of these Colombian defenders and add our voice to the global calls to hold perpetrators accountable for their tragic deaths.

The report was compiled by The Human Rights Investigations Lab for the Americas is housed at the Research Center for the Americas (RCA) at the University of California, Santa Cruz. The RCA co-published this report with Cultural Survival.

**In Memoriam: Indigenous Human Rights Defenders Murdered in 2020 in Latin America:**  
<https://www.culturalsurvival.org/news/memoriam-indigenous-human-rights-defenders-murdered-2020-latin-america>

**In Memoriam: 28 Indigenous Rights Defenders Murdered in Latin America in 2019:**  
<https://www.culturalsurvival.org/news/memoriam-28-indigenous-rights-defenders-murdered-latin-america-2019>."

"Maya Peoples Win Lawsuit against Belize Government for Violating Land Rights," Cultural Survival, June 23, 2021, <https://www.culturalsurvival.org/news/maya-peoples-win-lawsuit-against-belize-government-violating-land-rights>, reported, "On June 16, 2021, **the Supreme Court of Belize ruled in favor of Maya land rights, upholding the community of Jalacte's right to Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) on their customary lands. The court issued a decision in the case, *Jalacte Village vs. the Attorney General*, ruling that the government breached the Maya Peoples' constitutional rights, obligating the government of Belize to return the lands that had been taken without the community's consent and ordering compensation of the equivalent of \$3.12 million USD.**



The court also found that the government was in breach of a consent order of the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ), the highest international appellate court to which Belize is party. In 2015, the Maya people won an unprecedented victory at that court, in a decision which held that the Maya Peoples of Belize hold customary land rights over the land that they occupy, which is equal to any other form of land ownership in Belize and is constitutionally protected.

'This is very important for all Maya communities. We have a duty to ensure that we protect the rights that we fought for in the court of Belize,' shared the President of the Toledo Alcaldes Association, Domingo Ba, in a press conference following the court decision. Cristina Coc, spokesperson for the Maya Leaders Alliance and the Toledo Alcaldes Association, continued, "One more time, the court of Belize have agreed that the Maya people, have agreed with us, that we own our lands, through our customary use and that we can manage our lands through our customary decision making processes.'

**The land in question included 31.36 acres near the Guatemalan border of Southern Belize, where the government had usurped land to expand a road leading to the Guatemalan border and build a border checkpoint.** This land is under customary use, and therefore ownership, of the Maya village of Jalacte. The case was originally filed in 2016 by the traditionally elected representative of the village, "First Alcalde" Jose Ical on behalf of the village and by a second claimant, Estevan Caal, on whose land an agricultural border checkpoint was constructed.

The evidence presented to the court is that Caal held 'individual customary proprietary right' to parcels of village land used by him based on Jalacte's collective property rights. **At no time were the villagers consulted nor compensated for the taking of the customary land.**

In the court's decision, Chief Justice Arana wrote: 'This case should never have arisen. The defendants, that is the government of Belize, were aware of Maya customary land tenure along the route of the road in Jalacte. They were aware that agricultural lands would be damaged and compensation would be needed. They were aware of the Maya fears that the new road would increase pressure on their land tenure by outsiders. And they were aware that it was a constitutional violation to ignore Maya customary rights of Jalacte.'

Since the Caribbean Court of Justice's 2015 decision, the traditional governance structure of the Maya people, the Toledo Alcaldes Association, with technical support by the Maya Leaders Alliance and Julian Cho Society, have been working with the government, with varying degrees of success, to negotiate an implementation plan for the decision and put it into practice.

'The Toledo Alcaldes Association (TAA) and the Maya Leaders Alliance (MLA) congratulate the village of Jalacte on their resilience and unity as they awaited a decision in their case in the Belize Supreme Court concerning the compulsory acquisition and use of their lands by the Government. One more time, the courts of Belize sided with the Maya People that they are owners of the land they live on. The TAA and the MLA remain committed to a swift and meaningful implementation of the CCJ Consent Order,' the Maya Leaders Alliance shared on social media.

**Part of that implementation order is the development of a Free, Prior and Informed Consent protocol.** This has been in progress since 2018, when the government of Belize and the Maya people entered into the December 2018 Agreement, considered a roadmap for implementing Maya land rights in accordance with the Caribbean Court of Justice decision was finally reached. This FPIC protocol is based on a previously established consultation framework established by Maya traditional leadership, which has set an example for many Indigenous

communities around the world. Although now in a final draft, the FPIC protocol has been unable to advance due to objections by the Belizean government denying the authority of the traditional governance structure of the Toledo Alcaldes Association, although this violates Indigenous Peoples' established right to self-determine their own forms of governance. The Toledo Alcaldes Association is the traditional form of governance of the Maya people that has evolved over time, uniting the elected and customary leaders of the Maya communities to represent the interest of Maya Peoples.

Spokesperson Cristina Coc notes that cases like Jalacte vs. Attorney General will continue to arise in the absence of an established and agreed upon policy around the protocols for obtaining the community's Free, Prior and Informed Consent, according to their traditional decision making protocols and governance structures, before development or infrastructure projects are undertaken on their lands.

'Many of the complaints from our villages fundamentally rest on the absence of an FPIC protocol. Many of these incursions by third parties... of the government itself, is because there is an absence of an FPIC protocol that could guide how they should engage with the Maya communities, consult them, seek their Free, Prior and Informed Consent, how that will result in benefit sharing agreements that would be important to preserve the livelihood, health, and enjoyment of the Maya Peoples' lands,' Coc declared.

**Coc emphasized that Maya Peoples continue to seek dialogue and cooperation with the government:** 'We, the Maya people, the customary leaders, continue to be open to dialogue and good faith relations with the government of Belize. We call on the government to come to the table with us and to meaningfully implement the affirmed rights of the Maya people of southern Belize.'

"Major victory for Peru's indigenous peoples: new uncontacted reserve created," Survival International, July 23, 2021, <https://www.survivalinternational.org/news/12619>, reported, **"A long-awaited reserve to protect the lands of uncontacted members of Peru's Kakataibo tribe has just been created after years of campaigning.**

**The Kakataibo Indigenous Reserve covers almost 150,000 hectares, and was formally requested by Peru's Amazon indigenous organization AIDESEP in 1993.**

The local indigenous organizations FENACOKA (Federación Nativa de Comunidades Kakataibo), ORPIO and ORAU, together with AIDESEP, and Survival supporters around the world, had lobbied Peruvian ministers and officials to finally establish the reserve, which is vital to safeguard the Kakataibo's lives, and forest. Survival supporters sent 7,000 emails to Peruvian ministers.

The news comes just a few months after the creation of another uncontacted reserve, known as Yavari-Tapiche, in the NE of the country.

Peru is home to more uncontacted tribes than any other country besides Brazil. Four more reserves still await legal protection. Throughout the Amazon Uncontacted Frontier, violence, land invasions by settlers, and logging and gold mining are increasing at an alarming rate.

Just a few weeks ago indigenous organization ORPIO denounced the continued presence of logging concessions inside the newly-created Yavari-Tapiche reserve.

Survival's Peru campaigner Teresa Mayo said today: 'This is a major victory for the indigenous movement in Peru and their supporters worldwide. The Kakataibo territory had already been cut in half by a highway, and there's been increasing invasion and destruction of their rainforest.'

"This is a vital milestone to prevent the Kakataibo from being wiped out: now the government must properly protect the reserve, and remove outsiders from the territory. Creating the reserve is only the first official step – its borders must be properly enforced, and logging concessions inside the area must be cancelled."

**Bolivia has 75% of the world's lithium that numerous nations want to mine for batteries and the national government wants to see the mining go foreword, while local communities want a share. But the big deposits are on land the Quechua people deem sacred, and they want a say in any development** (Clifford Krauss, "Green-Energy Race Draws an American Underdog to Bolivia's Lithium: Chinese and Russian industrial giants seek to tap mineral deposits vital to electric cars. A Texas entrepreneur has his own strategy: the long game," *The New York Times*, December 16, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/12/16/business/energy-environment/bolivia-lithium-electric-cars.html>).

**Indigenous Peoples in Ecuador filed suit against the government to stop a huge expansion of oil extraction in the Amazon** which would be terribly destructive of their homelands and livelihood ("Ecuador: Indigenous Peoples Sue to Halt Oil Development," *Cultural Survival Quarterly*, December 2021).

Krenak Naknanuk, "Repression by the Police in Brazil, as Bill PL 490 Threatens Indigenous Rights," *Cultural Survival*, June 24, 2021, <https://www.culturalsurvival.org/news/repression-police-brazil-bill-pl-490-threatens-indigenous-rights>, reported, "Since June 8, 2021, **Indigenous Peoples and Indigenous organizations in Brazil have been in Brasilia, the capital, with the Levante pela Terra (Standing up for the Land) camp, protesting against Bill PL 490, which passed the technical juridical board of the legislative house to be approved on June 24, 2021. Bill PL 490 aims to make the demarcation of Indigenous lands in the country unfeasible and to set the year of the Constitution of 1988 as an arbitrary cut-off date for recognizing Indigenous land rights. If the Bill passes, Indigenous Peoples who were not on their land before 1988, due to various factors including forced removal and lack of legal recognition, would no longer have rights to their traditional territories.**

In an anti-democratic response to these protests, the police in the capital, at the direction of the federal government, have used excessive force with Indigenous defenders in an effort to quell the protests.

Bill PL 490 is dangerous and represents an end to several Indigenous rights protections also Brazil's president's interest in withdrawing from the International Labour Organization Convention 169. It presents serious problems for Indigenous rights in the country. Surprisingly, the Bill is supported by the National Indian Foundation (FUNAI), a federal agency that is supposed to defend and guarantee the interests of the Indigenous Peoples in the country. FUNAI has promoted the bill as a 'gold pot' for the country and Indigenous populations, saying that the construction of hydroelectric dams, vast monoculture farms, mining operations, and deforestation is to bring wealth to the country and Indigenous communities.

The Bill opens the gate for development on Indigenous lands, including deforestation for large scale cattle farming, mining leases, the regularization of illegal

subdivisions in the territories in favor of land grabbers, and all kinds of large scale infrastructure such as hydroelectric plants, ports, roads, military bases etc. It would legalize operations that greatly impact Indigenous territories without their Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) nor benefit-sharing, and represents a new wave of colonization.

The Bill strengthens the thesis of the “time frame”, an interpretation defended by ruralists and sectors interested in the exploitation of Indigenous lands, which restricts the constitutional rights of Indigenous Peoples. According to the text of that law, Indigenous Peoples would only have the right to land if they were in legal possession of it by October 5, 1988, the date of promulgation of the Constitution.

The Bill also denies the right of Free, Prior and Informed Consent of Indigenous communities affected by large projects, a right guaranteed by ILO Convention 169, ratified by Brazil on July 25, 2002.

The Bill opens a loophole for the end of the policy of 'no contact' with Indigenous Peoples living in voluntary isolation. These Peoples are extremely vulnerable to unforeseen contacts and conflicts because they do not have immunological resistance to contagious diseases common among non-Indigenous populations, such as influenza and tuberculosis.

Bill PL 490 also establishes a long series of other barriers to ongoing demarcations. The main one being the possibility of filing disputes at all stages of the complex and lengthy demarcation procedure. Reports and questions could be presented by representatives of municipalities, farmers' associations, rural producers, and invaders in general - a clear replacement of the collective right for an individual right.

Cultural Survival expresses our solidarity with and support of APIB, APOINME, and other Indigenous partner organizations, as well as communities that cannot go to Brasilia physically to protest. We urge the Commission's parliamentarians to archive and not approve the Bill 490/2007."

Edson Krenak Naknanuk (Krenak, CS Staff), "Amazonian Indigenous Peoples Face Human Rights Violations, Climate Change, and a Nutrition Crisis," Cultural Survival, November 22, 2021, <https://www.culturalsurvival.org/news/amazonian-indigenous-peoples-face-human-rights-violations-climate-change-and-nutrition-crisis>, reported, "According to the Articulation of Indigenous Peoples of Brazil (APIB), **8 out of 10 Yanomami children in the northern Amazon rainforest are chronically malnourished**. The FIOCRUZ Institute, one of the most respected health and research institutions in Latin America, recently warned that **6 out of 10 Munduruku people in the Amazon have high levels of mercury and malnutrition**.

In the Alto Catrimani community, on Yanomami Indigenous Territory and the lands of other non-contacted groups in Roraima, a 10-year-old boy weighs just 8 kg when the ideal for his age is around 32 kg. The image of a boy with his frail body, with bones visible, in the amazon forest is startling. **While he comes from one of the richest biomes in the world, he still faces poor access to food**. The photo was taken on February 9, 2021, when he was diagnosed with severe malnutrition. Taken to the state capital, Boa Vista, he underwent treatment at the Santo Antônio Children's Hospital, recovered in a state shelter, and has since returned home. However, the factors that cause malnutrition have not changed, but have worsened.

Another example of malnutrition amongst Indigenous children is with the Suruí Peoples, aggravated by the historical cases of garimpo (mining) and precarious income

distribution in the region. The issue is only alleviated when, due to the assistance of some organizations, access to food is improved.

The sequelae left by malnutrition are not only physical, neurological and psychological, but impacts culture, food habits, physical activities, and overall quality of life. The northern region of Brazil, the Amazon region, is where the highest rate of malnutrition among Indigenous Peoples is concentrated. There is an epidemic of diabetes, heart disease, and hypertension among these communities. A Munduruku source stated, 'We can no longer hunt animals, fruits and other forest foods are scarce. When we go out to get food, we don't know if we're going to come back, because the illegal miners in the region are armed and hunt Indians, scare our children and women, kill, and victimize our men and young people.' Even in regions where there are Basic Indigenous Health Units (DESEIs), the structure of health posts is precarious, lacking everything including medical staff, medicines, and food.

#### **The Link between Climate Change, Nutrition, and Indigenous Rights Violations**

Climate change plays an increasing and frightening role in the well being and health of Indigenous communities because it not only aggravates the situation, but can irreversibly impact the entire environment where Indigenous Peoples live for generations, including the reciprocal and interdependent relationship they hold with their lands, territories, and natural resources. Floods, droughts, more intense hurricanes, heat waves and wildfires, for example, can drive animals away and destroy plants, ecosystems, crop yields, destroy livestock, and interfere with the transport and trade of food and supplies. It is known that rising carbon dioxide levels from human activity can make staple crops, gardens like rice, wheat, lettuce, vegetables less nutritious and scarce.

Another worrying example, cited many times by Indigenous committees at this year's United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of Parties (COP 26) in Glasgow, Scotland, is that climate change is bringing massive and unexpected problems such as desertification of traditional areas for bathing and water use in communities in the north and northeast of Brazil. Many communities have faced problems in planning, planting, reduced crop productivity, and food quality.

Related to the previous problems, in recent years the area of large-scale agriculture has substantially increased in the country, especially around the Amazon forest. Agriculture is considered one of the major sources of greenhouse gas emissions in Brazil. Oxen are carbon dioxide emitters because, after eating the grass, they degrade the organic matter inside the stomach and end up generating methane, which is released into the atmosphere by its burping. An example of these emissions, in practice, is the municipality of São Félix do Xingu, Para - near Munduruku and Yanomami lands, which has the largest cattle herd in the country and is the city with the highest rate of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, even ahead of São Paulo, according to data of the Climate Observatory.

Indigenous Peoples in Brazil are not responsible for the climate change challenges as their ways of life never threatened the environment. However, they are on the frontlines of climate change and are experiencing the impacts of climate chaos in very unique ways. Extractive industries cause the contamination of rivers, deforestation, and ecosystem disruption facilitates the transmission of diseases, including COVID-19. They also cause the disappearance of animals, fish, fruits, and other important traditional sources of nutrition for Indigenous Peoples.

**The absence and complicity of the State have also contributed to the decline of Indigenous health, well being, and livelihoods. The Brazilian State has been lenient and absent, failing to serve Indigenous health centers, which in many regions are precarious without medication or food. Malaria and other diseases are out of control.**

**On May 14, 2021, President Bolsonaro affirmed on News TV show: 'It is not fair, today, to want to criminalize the garimpeiro (independent prospectors for minerals) in Brazil. It's not because my dad panned for a while. Those problems have nothing to do with these activities.' Days earlier, on May 10, the Palimiu community in the Yanomami Indigenous Land (TI) was attacked by miners.**

**In addition to the negligence of the State and the anti-Indigenous agenda, there is a growing presence of illegal miners in Yanomami territory – periodically encouraged by the President of the Republic. 'Garimpo is the source of all the ills there. In Roraima, at least. If you take out the mining there, look, health, I won't say it would be wonderful, but it would improve a lot,' says Prosecutor Alisson Marugal from the Federal Public Ministry in Roraima (MPF-RR). He is the author of a lawsuit, filed in March of this year, which calls for the restoration of the supply of food in the Basic Indigenous Health Units (UBSIs) to Yanomami Indigenous land.**

**According to the report, “Scars of the Forest”, produced by Hutukara Associação Yanomami and Associação Wanasseduume Ye'kwana, there are three macroregions most affected by mining in the Amazon, all of them are wetlands by rivers: the Uraricoera, which includes the base centers of Waikás, Palimiu and Uraricoera; and the Parima River, where the Polo-Base de Aratháú is located; and Mucajaí and Couto Magalhães Rivers, where the base centers of Kayanau, Maloca Paapiu, and Homoxi are located. At least nine other base centers in the Roraima, part of the Yanomami Yanomami Indigenous Land, have areas degraded by miners, which also affect nearby regions.**

**The COVID-19 pandemic represented a deepening of the abyss between the State and Indigenous communities. In addition, the engagement and support by traditional allies of Indigenous Peoples have also been impacted due to the inability of accessing Indigenous lands in a pandemic. Programs, such as Cultural Survival's Keepers of the Earth Fund, though continue to support Indigenous Peoples on the ground in Brazil because awarding grants does not require travel to those territories to support local, Indigenous communities.**

**Indigenous Peoples at the COP 26, shared some of the solutions to stop the "colonial systems and structures that impede on our ability to govern ourselves," as Cultural Survival's Executive Director Galina Angarova (Buryat) points out and to provide proper food supplies for our communities. Some solutions that can address the problem of malnutrition, and combat global warming includes the need to address the following: Protect forests and rivers. Completely stopping mining, gold, oil, and metal mines not only stops greenhouse gas emission but also improves the quality of food and life on the planet.**

**Regenerate plants, trees, and soil in a holistic, non-extractive way. Indigenous communities are working to not only help the environment but also to protect plants from frost and heat waves.**

**Implement more balanced Indigenous production systems that remove CO<sup>2</sup> from the atmosphere.**

**Guarantee the rights of Indigenous Peoples to live safely in their territories. Monica Coc Magnusson (Q'eqchi Maya), Cultural Survival Director of Advocacy, stresses that “Securing land tenure for Indigenous Peoples directly combats climate change and**

empowering forest Peoples to continue their historical role as stewards of the environment is essential for stabilizing Earth's climate. When Indigenous Peoples have rights to their lands, they are able to steward these lands in ways that prevent fossil fuel extraction, maintain carbon-capturing forests, ensure soil regeneration and carbon capture through traditional agriculture and agroecology, and protect biodiversity. The gap between recognized and unrecognized land rights points to significant opportunities to scale-up the protection of Indigenous lands...The science is clear—Indigenous communities are critical in reversing the climate crisis.”

Protect biocultural diversity. Indigenous Peoples' well being are inextricably linked to the well being of the land. Without biodiversity, human life will cease to exist, and vice versa. For example, the Tremembe Peoples in northern Brazil, after securing their territory, realized that the land was poor and empty. To solve that they are working to renew the local flora with the help of bees - a project supported by KOEF. Bees are essential in the production of food and products linked to basic needs. They account for two-thirds of the food cultures humans eat daily. One in three spoons of food we eat comes from food produced thanks to the contribution of bees, our most important partners. However, large-scale monoculture and the use of insecticides are killing bees worldwide at alarming rates. Supporting place-based, culturally-centered, and traditional agricultural and harvesting practices strengthens, protects, and sustains the interdependent relationships between peoples, place, culture, and ecology.

Moreover, in addition to bees, birds are also suffering. A recent study, “Morphological consequences of climate change for resident birds in intact Amazonian rainforest”, detected that 77 species of birds had their body structure altered over 40 years in an area of untouched forest in the Central Amazon. Despite all the accumulated knowledge, all the scientific, economic, and ecological data observed, we are not managing to apply this knowledge to the conservation and protection of the planet.

Indigenous Peoples denounce that during COP26, the commitments made by member states so far are insufficient to maintain global warming at 1.5 degrees Celsius by 2100, and especially ineffective if they continue to exclude Indigenous Peoples from the policies, practices, and finance mechanisms that are aimed to address climate change. We must center and support those on the frontlines of climate change, like Indigenous communities in Brazil who defend their lands from extractive industry and battle issues like malnutrition. Indigenous Peoples' leadership and rights must be centered, operationalized and resources to truly address climate change."

Shanna Hanbury, "50 Years Later, Finally Justice for Brazil's Indigenous Krenak People: 'Justice, however slow, is being served,'" said Indigenous chief Geovani Krenak. "The spirit of our assassinated warriors, like my grandfather, welcomes this decision," *Common Dreams*, October 3, 2021, [https://www.commondreams.org/views/2021/10/03/50-years-later-finally-justice-brazils-indigenous-krenak-people?utm\\_term=AO&utm\\_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_content=email&utm\\_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_medium=Email](https://www.commondreams.org/views/2021/10/03/50-years-later-finally-justice-brazils-indigenous-krenak-people?utm_term=AO&utm_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_content=email&utm_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_medium=Email), reported, "Half a century after Indigenous elder Jacó Krenak and dozens of fellow natives were bound and forcibly taken to concentration camps run by Brazil's military dictatorship, a federal court has ordered the government to apologize and deliver reparations to the Krenak people.

'This decision works as a barrier. It affirms that this can never happen again in Brazil.'

**Judge Anna Cristina Rocha**  
**Gonçalves charged** (<https://portal.trf1.jus.br/sjmg/comunicacao-social/imprensa/noticias/sentenca-da-juiza-federal-da-14-vara-da-justica-federal-de-minas-gerais-em-favor-do-povo-indigena-krenak.htm>) **the federal government, the Minas Gerais state government and the country's Indigenous affairs agency, Funai, for the crimes committed against the Krenak people in southeastern Minas Gerais during the dictatorship that ran from 1964 to 1985. She ordered the federal government to organize an official ceremony for a public apology with national coverage."**

In ruling on September 13, 2021, Judge Anna Cristina Rocha Gonçalves ordered Funai to complete the demarcation process of the Sete Salões Indigenous Reserve, as well as several measures to rehabilitate the Krenak language and culture.

**National Truth Commission** ([http://cnv.memoriasreveladas.gov.br/images/pdf/relatorio/volume\\_2\\_digital.pdf](http://cnv.memoriasreveladas.gov.br/images/pdf/relatorio/volume_2_digital.pdf)) Report found that during Brazil's military dictatorship, at least 8,350 Indigenous people were killed, while many more lost their land and/or were tortured.

Edson Krenak, "The New Form of Colonization of Indigenous Lands in Brazil: Drug Cartels and Militias," Cultural Survival, June 17, 2021, <https://www.culturalsurvival.org/news/new-form-colonization-indigenous-lands-brazil-drug-cartels-and-militias>, reported, "In this text in which I make use of a third-person journalistic voice, of denunciation, of a witness, I also change to a first plural voice, because it is not only a people there in another country that is being attacked but my people, my, our relatives and partners in defending human rights, the rights of Indigenous Peoples and partners in protecting the forest.

**Yanomami and Munduruku Peoples in the north of Brazil experienced a terrifying attack in May 2021. Men linked to mining activities and armed with firearms shot at Yanomami and Munduruku houses, set fire to their villages, and tried to expel Indigenous Peoples from their lands using homemade bombs. The federal police were called in and local actions were taken, but State officials failed to make a statement condemning the violence. For decades, the Guaraní in the State of Mato Grosso, the same region where Xavante Peoples live, have suffered from the pernicious power of agribusiness that has violated their human rights and led to conditions of poverty. This attack is but one illustration of the three enemies facing Indigenous Peoples in Brazil: the leniency and negligence of an anti-Indigenous State, monocultural enterprises, and illegal mining operations.**

**The Brazilian State is not only lenient and negligent due to its lack of resources or technical capacity—it is part of a capitalist and colonial development project that prioritizes profit over human beings. This system attacks the rights of Indigenous Peoples, threatening the lives of dozens of species in various biomes, such as animals, forests, rivers, and insects by allowing and encouraging operations that destroy the environment.**

**In May 2021, the Federal Public Prosecutor in Mato Grosso State requested that the National Indian Foundation (FUNAI) and the Brazilian Institute for the Environment and of Natural Resources (IBAMA), a State agency, remove the following phrase from the legally binding policy document, Normative nº 01/2021, 'mixed composition of Indigenous and non-Indigenous organizations.' The implication of this phrase violates the constitutional principle of exclusive usufruct (the right to use and derive income or benefit**



from someone else's property with the basic obligation of preserving its form and substance and returning it at a designated time), guaranteed to Indigenous Peoples in the 1988 Federal Constitution. The consequence of this change is the handing over of Indigenous lands to non-Indigenous organizations and corporations, allowing them to operate freely in their territories: an indisputable undermining of the territorial and environmental rights of Indigenous communities. Having been co-issued by FUNAI, it is a clear attack on the very groups that the State and FUNAI are supposed to protect—and an open door to massive deforestation and mining operations. The strategy, defended by President Bolsonaro and implemented by his ministers, is already in operation in several Indigenous territories via land leasing and agribusiness operations.

The monoculture of soy, rice, and eucalyptus have devastated some of the country's biomes. Furthermore, mining in general on Indigenous lands is illegal and dangerous. Recently it became even more perilous, as it has been linked to new militias, organized crime, and Brazilian drug cartels, which have recently invaded Indigenous lands in search of gold and other precious metals. Mercury contamination of rivers and forests is only the tip of the iceberg, as criminal groups bring with them a path of violence, drugs, and other threats to Indigenous lands.

The worrying increase of the presence in Indigenous lands of drug cartels and militias, armed groups that illegally sell and privatize public security based on corrupted means, is, according to Indigenous journalist and activist Ailton Krenak, a direct consequence of the strange and obscure relationship between Minister of Environment Ricardo de Aquino Salles and those groups. He adds, 'It is difficult to imagine that the Yanomami people, for example, who live inside the forest have to deal with organized crime...and the violent reality of the slums extended into the forest. **The Brazilian state is again waging war against the native peoples.** The guy remains a minister, and nothing happens to him, even under investigation. Here, in Brazil, this denunciation is not having an effect, we need an international denunciation.'

This form of favelization of the Indigenous land represents for Indigenous Peoples a new and highly dangerous form of colonization. It is not only that the State that makes these actions possible, but it supports them. The favelization operated by criminal groups brings dire violence onto Indigenous territories, but the Government does nothing to contain them.

(NOTE: After finishing this article, I had to change it, as **the Munduruku suffered another attack and their leaders had to be escorted out of the villages by the local police and protected in a secret place**, due to the gravity of the most recent attacks).

For Indigenous Peoples in Brazil, mining in any form and monoculture are illegal actions that disrespect and defile Mother Earth, compromising the balance of nature and life itself. As the Yanomami leader Davi Kopenawa Yanomami, in his book, *The Falling Sky*, asserts, "When all these thick white smoke plumes rise up to the chest of heaven and the thunder begins to die, what will become of the forest? That's why we get restless. There are no medicines to heal the Earth and make it well again. If you white people kill the forest, you won't be able to make another, new one. When all these shiny things that you pull out of the earth, the gold, the diamonds, the ores, and also the fire-making things and all the trees, when all that is gone, the Earth will be dead."

### **Indigenous Houses Attacked**

'Please come, they are going to burn my house... They are shooting, please help me!' shouted Maria Leusa Munduruku in an audio message recorded around 1:00 p.m. on May 26,

2021, in Tapajos village near Jacareacanga city in southwestern Pará, northern Brazil. **Invasions have multiplied thanks to the hatred and anti-Indigenous speech of President Bolsonaro. Because Indigenous communities are isolated in the territory, the federal government is co-opting many individuals through corruption, dividing communities, and causing internal conflicts. Scarcity of resources, social problems, and escalating violence cause enormous cultural and social pressure on countless Indigenous Peoples, generating division, weakening legal protections, and fragmenting the social fabric. Particularly impacted are the Guaraní and Xavante in the Cerrado region and the Yanomami and Munduruku in the Amazonas.**

**On Munduruku and Yanomami lands, mining has destroyed tens of kilometers of rivers, contaminating the water with mercury and bringing diseases to their lands. The government has caused internal divisions and countless episodes of violence, and the Xavante people are also suffering from the unprecedented destruction and degradation of the biome, the cerrado, caused by the large-scale monoculture of soy and cattle raising. The National Congress has supported coordinated actions of government ministries in the Bolsonaro administration and criminal groups encroaching on Indigenous lands.**

#### **Withdrawing from the ILO Convention 169**

**In addition to undermining the rights of Indigenous Peoples and the escalating violence, the Brazilian House of Representatives wants to legalize crimes committed against the environment. Bolsonaro's political alliance in the National Congress, the Ruralist Party (Bancada Ruralista), has been discussing Legislative Project No. 177/2021, which would authorize Bolsonaro to denounce and reject ILO Convention 169, the oldest binding international instrument that specifically deals with the rights of Indigenous and Tribal peoples in the world, to which Brazil has been a party since 2002. In theory, every 10 years, member countries of the treaty can request the unbinding of the text through the complaint procedure.**

Since the beginning of the current government, there have been hundreds of initiatives in the National Congress aimed at weakening legal protections for Indigenous Peoples and their territorial rights. These measures are weakening Brazilian legislation and the Constitution instead of protecting those who are most vulnerable. The government wants to approve projects on the territories of Indigenous and Quilombola Peoples regardless of whether they are unconstitutional, violate rights, or destroy protected areas of biomes.

Under a public inquiry related to COVID-19, Bolsonaro, who refuses to fight the pandemic in the country, so far has not commented on environmental crimes and human rights violations on federal and Indigenous territories. Nor 'did he even mention the fight against illegal mining, drug trafficking, and other serious issues that plague Indigenous lands elsewhere and especially in the triple border region with Venezuela and Colombia,' said Marivelton Barroso (Baré), President of the Association of Indigenous Peoples of the Rio Negro in Amazonia.

**Bolsonaro did visit those areas, but not without the protest of Indigenous communities who felt indignation that the President visited Indigenous areas without wearing a mask or following COVID-19 protocols.** He also used names of non-existent ethnic groups to refer to Indigenous Peoples, creating at his pleasure a new ethnic group, that of the 'Balaio' Peoples, which does not exist in Brazil. 'The country's President has had this shameful, mocking, and affronting stance against traditional communities since his election campaign,' says Marivelton Barroso (Bare).

#### **Armed and Dangerous Prospectors**

Another case in May 2021 that frightened several Indigenous communities was **the attack on small Yanomami communities by armed miners**. A shocking video was published online by Correio Braziliense, a newspaper with wide circulation in the country. The Hutukara Associação Yanomami informed authorities and Indigenous communities in the region that a group of sevangarimpeiro (illegal miners) vessels would be attacking Indigenous communities in the region, mainly Palimiú, located in Alto Alegre in the north of the country near the border with Venezuela. Since April, this is the third conflict between miners and Indigenous Peoples in less than 15 days, according to the Hutukara Associação Yanomami.

**These attacks come as a form of retaliation after the Yanomami and Munduruku Indigenous Peoples seized materials from the miners and denounced government-backed criminal groups operating in the region. The Uraricoera and Tapajos Rivers, important water sources for those communities, are the most affected by illegal gold mining, uncontrolled use of mercury, and rising violence brought by more than 25,000 illegal miners within their territories.** The national Indigenous community has called on authorities to act urgently to prevent the continued spiral of violence in the area and to ensure security for the Yanomami communities in Palimiu, and others like Munduruku.

#### **Supporting Indigenous-Led Forms of Resistance**

**We, Indigenous Peoples in Brazil, are fighting these enemies in many ways, but we need support, visibility, and actions by people, organizations, and governments. We have found some forms of resistance.** The Munduruku has been organized through the Women's Association Munduruku, led by Maria Leusa Munduruku, whose house was burned down. Currently, Cultural Survival's Keepers of the Earth Fund is supporting one of the Munduruku communities in order to aid the vulnerable villages. Such an organization shifts the attention and balances the power in and out of their communities. The Xavante, also a 2021 Keepers of the Earth Fund grant partner, through advocacy and restorative agriculture projects, have been trying to defend their lands facing the growing number of monocultural enterprises.

Our Indigenous lands before Bolsonaro's arrival were poorly protected by FUNAI, but there was at least some protection and we were gaining terrain. But now our rights and communities are being massacred and our lands stolen by miners, ranchers, and soy and eucalyptus planters, within a plan to hand the Amazon over to a timber trader by the current environment minister, Ricardo Salles.

Given the economic weight of agricultural groups linked to deforestation and the massive invasion of miners motivated by the end of the demarcation of Indigenous lands, we need strategic actions and more partners in our cause. **We need assistance in the following areas:**

**Raising awareness to the international community about violations of human and Indigenous rights in Brazil**

**Education within communities on the root causes of issues we are facing**

**Pressure from countries and international allies for Brazil to respect Indigenous rights**

**Joint and widespread advocacy actions**

**Support of Indigenous Peoples and their heroic projects for the protection of Mother Earth**

**In the context of climate change, it is frightening to imagine the lack of State response to address illegal mining and criminal activity on Indigenous lands, while these communities are stewarding forests and rivers that protect biodiversity and mitigate**

against climate change. Meanwhile, these communities are also continuing to confront the COVID-19 Pandemic.

**At this moment, dozens of Indigenous activists, men, women, and even children are marching to Brasilia, the country's capital, to protest and denounce these abuses and threats.** Protestors are demanding audiences with authorities, seeking action from the state and the application of the law.

At the same time, other organizations and allies have been helping to spread the news about this difficult situation. We believe that with information, international pressure, and public awareness of what is happening, a difference can be made."

"Ayoreo appeal to Inter-American Commission to save their forest from destruction," Survival International, October 5, 2021, <https://www.survivalinternational.org/news/12664>, reported, **"The survival of the last uncontacted tribe in South America outside the Amazon is at stake.**

**Indigenous people living in a South American forest with one of the world's highest rates of deforestation have appealed to the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to save it from total destruction. Their uncontacted relatives are fleeing from one corner of the remaining forest to another, seeking refuge from ever-present bulldozers.**

**The Ayoreo-Totobiegosode of Paraguay's Chaco forest have been trying since 1993 – when they submitted a formal land claim – to protect their forest in the face of a rapidly expanding agricultural frontier.**

In 2013, given a total lack of political will in Paraguay to uphold the law and stop the destruction of their lands, they requested that the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights intervene.

In 2016, at the government's request, they agreed to enter formal negotiations with the government for their land titles, but for 5 years, and despite 42 meetings, the destruction of their forest has continued unabated. Satellite photos reveal that the Ayoreo now live in an island of forest surrounded by monocultures and beef production.

The Ayoreo have now announced they are pulling out of the negotiations, and have written again to the Inter-American Commission, asking it to order the Paraguayan authorities to finally return their land to them, and expel the agribusiness corporations that have taken it over.

Although most Ayoreo-Totobiegosode were forcibly contacted by American evangelical missionaries some years ago, an unknown number remain uncontacted in the last island of their forest, which is now being cut down around them.

Earlier this year one uncontacted group made contact with a settled community of their relatives, to express their fear at the destruction of their forest refuge, before returning to the forest.

The Ayoreo-Totobiegosode leader Porai Picanerai, who was forcibly contacted by the American New Tribes Mission in 1986, said: 'My uncontacted relatives are suffering and in danger because they barely have any space now to live in. There are many outsiders occupying our land and burning the forest for beef production.'

Porai also said: **'After having participated in most of the 42 meetings, I can confirm that the government doesn't keep its word, that it lies and doesn't want to protect my people or return the lands that we've always lived in and cared for. We'll only get the government to act by going to outside bodies like the Commission.'**

**Survival Researcher Teresa Mayo said today: 'The Ayoreo-Totobiegosode have called a halt to the negotiation process as the government was just dragging it out while allowing the rampant destruction of the Ayoreo's forest to continue. The state knows that it simply has to do nothing to effectively condemn the uncontacted Ayoreo to death – and if a government sees the solution to its “problem” as the extermination of a people, we're talking about genocide.'**

"Serious risk of attack by miners on uncontacted Yanomami in Brazil," *Survival International*, September 30, 2021, <https://www.survivalinternational.org/news/12655>, report3d, **"A community of around 100 uncontacted Yanomami is at serious risk of attack from goldminers who are working only 12km from their yano (communal house). Another larger mining camp is operating 42 km away.**

The danger is graphically illustrated by a series of satellite images taken between 2020 and 2021, which reveal the air strips supplying the illegal mining camps, and increased deforestation due to mining operations.

**The proximity of the nearest mining camp means a dangerous encounter between Yanomami and miners is imminent and will expose this vulnerable community to diseases like Covid-19, flu and malaria against which they have no immunity. Many are likely to die as a result.**

Networks of trails radiate from Yanomami communities into the forest and are used daily by families to access streams for fishing, and forest gardens to gather fruit and vegetables. Yanomami hunters can easily travel more than 12 km along the forest trails on hunting trips which sometimes last days.

**The goldminers are likely to be armed so there is a high chance that an encounter could turn violent.** Last year, Davi Kopenawa, President of Hutukara Yanomami Association warned that the uncontacted Yanomami, known as Moxihatetea, could “soon be exterminated” and “have fled so many times that now they have nowhere else to flee.”

**In 2020 miners killed two Yanomami and throughout this year heavily armed miners have launched numerous armed attacks on Yanomami communities.**

**FUNAI, the government's indigenous affairs department, has known that miners are working dangerously near the uncontacted Yanomami for several years. In an act of criminal negligence, it closed down its protection post in 2017 leaving the community totally exposed. A year later, Hutukara reported that miners were suspected of killing two uncontacted Moxihatetea.**

**The protection post only reopened at the end of 2020 and FUNAI says it has taken measures to close down the mining operations. However, these have not been effective and the uncontacted Yanomami continue to be perilously exposed.**

**The Yanomami Territory is overrun by 20,000 miners who use powerful dredges and are rapidly destroying river beds and large tracts of forest. They separate the gold with mercury, which contaminate the fish and water consumed by the Yanomami – some communities now have lethal levels of mercury in their bodies. Malaria-carrying mosquitoes are breeding rapidly in the pools of water formed by the mining pits, and many miners are infected with malaria and spreading the disease among the Yanomami.**

**Mining operations are well-funded, and there is evidence that criminal gangs such as the Primeiro Comando da Capital (PCC) and drug traffickers have penetrated the territory. Some recently posted a video online boasting of their exploits.**

**'Operação Omama'— a joint operation by the federal police, army, FUNAI and other government agencies was launched on 29 June. Some planes, dredges and fuel have been seized. However, this is the tip of the iceberg.** Earlier this month Yanomami protested in the state capital of Boa Vista and demanded the government fund long term operations to close down all mining operations, expel all miners from their territory and commit to a viable protection plan.

Congresswoman Joenia Wapichana, Dario Kopenawa Yanomami and other indigenous leaders from Brazil met with Michelle Bachelet the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to discuss the government's failure to uphold their constitutional rights. In her report to the UN Human Rights Council, she said: 'In Brazil, I am alarmed by recent attacks against members of the Yanomami and Mundurucu peoples by illegal miners in the Amazon.'

Scars in the Forest – a report by Hutukara Yanomami Association and Wanasseduume Ye'kwana Association (Seduume) revealed the area of forest destroyed by the miners increased by 30% in 2020 and warned of the impending genocide of the uncontacted Moxihatetea.

Survival has written to the Brazilian authorities about the safety of the uncontacted Moxihatetea, urging them to expel the miners before it is too late."

Kenny Stancil, "Draft Report Accuses Bolsonaro of Crimes Against Humanity for Covid-19 Recklessness: 'Many of these deaths were preventable,' said one Brazilian senator. 'I am personally convinced that he is responsible for escalating the slaughter,'" *Common Dreams*, October 20, 2021, [https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/10/20/draft-report-accuses-bolsonaro-crimes-against-humanity-covid-19-recklessness?utm\\_term=AO&utm\\_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_content=email&utm\\_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_medium=Email](https://www.commondreams.org/news/2021/10/20/draft-report-accuses-bolsonaro-crimes-against-humanity-covid-19-recklessness?utm_term=AO&utm_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_content=email&utm_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_medium=Email), reported, **"A Brazilian congressional probe of President Jair Bolsonaro's handling of the Covid-19 pandemic attributes more than 300,000 deaths—half of the nation's coronavirus death toll—to the far-right leader's policies, and although its initial recommendation to charge him with mass homicide and genocide has been jettisoned, the draft report still accuses him of crimes against humanity.**

The 1,000-plus page document, the product of a six-month investigation led by a special Covid-19 Senate committee, asserts that Bolsonaro "intentionally let the coronavirus rip through the country and kill hundreds of thousands in a failed bid to achieve herd immunity and revive Latin America's largest economy," the *New York Times* reported Tuesday (<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/10/19/world/americas/bolsonaro-covid-19-brazil.html>).

**In Chile, Elisa Loncon (Mapuche), an Indigenous peoples' representative, was elected President of the Commission rewriting the country's constitution,"** *Cultural Survival Quarterly*, September 2021).

**Harvard University complied, in June 2021, with the Sami Council of northern Scandinavia and northwest Russia requested that the University stop its Stratospheric Controlled Perturbation Experiment in their area that attempts to counter climate change by artificially blocking the sun's rays, because the Sami believed the experiment would damage their natural environment ("U.S.: Sami Council Blocks Controversial Harvard Engineering Project,"** *Cultural Survival Quarterly*, September 2021).

**The Norwegian Supreme Court held, in December 2021, that traditional Sami reindeer herding is a protected cultural practice, and that two wind farms in western Norway are harming Sami herders by encroaching on their pastures** ("Norway: Court Rules Wind Farms Harmful to Sami," *Cultural Survival Quarterly*, September 2021).

"Sámi people ask Danish queen to return sacred witchcraft trial drum: Norwegian indigenous minority seek permanent ownership of artefact seized after 17th-century trial," *The Guardian*, October 13, 2021, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/oct/13/sami-people-norway-ask-danish-queen-to-return-sacred-witchcraft-trial-drum>, reported, **"Norway's Sámi people are asking for a sacred drum confiscated by Denmark after a witchcraft trial in 1691 to be returned to them permanently, and they have asked the Danish queen for help."**

**Nanets nomadic reindeer herders in distant and isolate areas of the Yamal Peninsula in Russian Siberia, after the COVID-19 pandemic reached them, began receiving COVID vaccinations from government mobile clinics that follow the Indigenous people's migration route along a nearby highway** (Maxine Babenko, "Vaccinating Nomadic Reindeer herders on the Tundra," *The New York Times*, September 21, 2021).

New report reveals widespread human rights abuses behind wildlife conservancies in Kenya, *Survival International*, November 17, 2021, <https://www.survivalinternational.org/news/12697>, reported, **"Wildlife 'conservancies' in Kenya whose visitors include Britain's Royals are implicated in the eviction, torture and murder of local Indigenous people,** according to a devastating new report (<https://www.oaklandinstitute.org/stealth-game-community-conservancies-devastate-northern-kenya>) by the US-based Oakland Institute. Survival has been **pointing to horrific abuse of this kind in conservation projects in Kenya for 10 years.**

The new report investigates the notorious Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT), an organization of 39 "community conservancies" that now cover 42,000 sq km – nearly 8% of Kenya. These were formerly pastoralist communities' grazing areas, but they have been turned into "conservation areas," controlled by NRT, from which Indigenous people are violently excluded, and which then draw in massive funding from carbon trading, donor country grants, and from luxury safari camps and lodges.

The NRT was the initiative of Ian Craig, whose family owned a 62,000 acre cattle ranch, which was transformed into the Lewa Wildlife Conservancy. Lewa was where Prince William and Kate Middleton became engaged, and Craig remains the NRT's 'Chief of Conservation and Development.'

**In the report, 'Stealth Game: 'community' conservancies devastate land and lives in northern Kenya,' investigators detail shocking revelations about the operation of these so-called 'conservancies,' including:**

- the dispossession of Indigenous and other local people of their land;
- multiple allegations of abuse and torture including extrajudicial killings and disappearances;
- the use of militarized security forces, some trained by a company run by Ian Craig's son;
- the massive takeover of land by a few wealthy individuals, driving pastoralists off their lands;

- intimidation, including arrests and interrogation of local community members and leaders.

The areas now under 'conservancies' are the ancestral grazing lands of pastoralist peoples such as the Samburu and Maasai, who have been managing these lands since time immemorial.

Many of the conservancies, including the private ones such as Ol Jogi (owned by the billionaire Wildenstein family) now host luxury safari camps. Ol Jogi reportedly costs \$210,000 to rent for a week; another, Sarara lodge, is described by one of its tour operators as 'a mission of salvation, not only for the wildlife and grasslands, but also for the Samburu people.'

The report also reveals that the NRT receives millions of dollars in government grants – from the EU, US government agencies, Denmark's Danida, France's AFD and others – as well as vast sums from the big conservation agencies, including The Nature Conservancy, Conservation International, WWF, Fauna & Flora International, March to the Top, Space for Giants, Save the Elephants, Rhino Ark, Tusk, and International Elephant Foundation.

Fiore Longo, head of Survival's Decolonize Conservation campaign, said today: 'Disturbingly, the NRT is increasingly moving into the opaque and dodgy carbon trading and carbon offsetting as another source of income, and this is being held up as a model by the EU in their new NaturAfrica project, despite the abundant evidence of human rights abuses.'

Kenyan ecologist and conservation expert Dr. Mordecai Ogada said today: 'NRT is an idea that started small (and perhaps with good intentions) but it has now become a massive financially and socially unsustainable bubble, straddling northern Kenya with quasi-governmental power. Through manipulation of cultural structures, they have trapped communities into their contrived 'conservation' model and donors into their Byzantine financial web. The longer this edifice persists, the more perilous its inevitable unraveling will be.'

Survival International's Executive Director Caroline Pearce said today: 'Kenya's 'conservancies' have long cultivated an image of luxury in harmony with nature, of untouched African landscapes and happy locals, often in picturesque attire. But – as Survival has long argued and the Oakland Institute's researchers amply demonstrate – **this is simply a veneer for exploitation and abuse of power at the expense of Indigenous and other local people.**

'Survival has collected testimonies from all around the world, detailing how this model of fortress conservation leads to Indigenous Peoples being evicted from their own lands, and being abused and terrorized by those who dispossess them. **This is yet another example of why mainstream conservation practices must change at a fundamental level, and why the world's tolerance for appalling abuse masked as friendly 'conservation' must cease. The NRT must be held to account.**'"

"HD brokers landmark social media peace agreement in central Nigeria," Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue (HD), July 19, 2021, <https://centreforhumanitariananddialogue.s2.mp-stats.com/View/?s=DFWLhuOCBfnKJWYJZSGyTa8PvpETbSm6t774ypw9wjCcwZuEAvJh6tSi8%2BYYRCtw%2FM1OQLYDFGpGvmI0KsT9JtWnuSJ7JhL9W3LiOAYm4YQDMkXPhDSBbcmMAGc7aBLGWQ1NS%2BpBIFTqnMB1Zxbi1nQkn6xftXo6ZormusGU317PwxIN51Evo rJiPxAMckG3Plt7dmbXUQeybGp8v9ZZJHwNoY5gFYQqcdy%2Fmba3jRjo60oBbM6Z6aaBbmNTAAavoXwILq8c6aVdM%2BcCR3EGB%2Bz8MsPV4cqFOSMnFtj4HJbTNZGaBoQYvms>



PzcXHOQL%2F&e=wPznF%2B04b%2F%2FBht%2B7gkGcjQ%3D%3D&useContacts=True, reported, "As part its growing efforts to limit hostile social media use in conflict zones around the world, **the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue (HD) has brokered a landmark accord among three ethnic communities in central Nigeria to tackle online hate speech, images of violence and misinformation at their source.**

**The social media peace agreement – signed on July 19 by youth representatives of the Bache, Fulani and Irigwe ethnic groups in the Bassa local government area of Plateau state – commits the delegates to taking concrete actions to reduce harmful behaviour online and to serving as ambassadors to promote better online conduct, peaceful co-existence and tolerance among the three communities.**

'Social media has become a potent and corrosive weapon in many conflicts but, until now, most peace accords have focused on ending physical violence without covering aggression or manipulation of information in the digital world,' said David Harland, HD's executive director. 'This innovative agreement is an important step in curtailing online harm and reducing tensions in Bassa and elsewhere in Nigeria while also serving as a model for similar accords in other parts of the world.'

HD's mediation and peacemaking work in various areas of Nigeria – Africa's largest economy and most populous country – includes major intercommunal agreements signed in 2014, 2015 and 2016.

Building on that experience and leveraging HD's digital conflict programme, the social media accord followed three months of dialogue with 36 youth representatives from the Bache, Fulani and Irigwe groups in Bassa led by HD and supported by funding from the European Union.

'The reality is young people are at the forefront of perpetuating violent conflict, whether it's physical or virtual,' Joseph Lengmang, director general of the state government's Plateau Peace Building Agency, said at the signing ceremony in Jos. 'That they are here underscores something very, very important – that there is commitment, determination and resolve to be transformed into ambassadors of peace.'

**As part of the dialogue process, the representatives raised awareness within their communities about the role of social media in conflict, formed a network that identified the risks of social media misuse in Bassa and developed commitments to encourage young social media users to be promoters of peace to others in the area.**

**'These communities have suffered from the online spread of rumours and misinformation, derogatory language against each other and graphic images of violence that inflamed existing tensions,'** said Zigwai Ayuba, national advisor at HD Nigeria. 'By working together on an extensive agreement that reflects their realities, they are moving towards a better and more peaceful future.'

At the ceremony, signatories shared in the optimism about greater tolerance.

This is a step forward for our communities,' said Rebecca Ughili from the Bache delegation. **'What we signed here today does not end with a piece of paper. It is the start of a commitment. We are so happy with that.'**

**'We have been able to identify our differences, our problems and bring out solutions,'** said Aliyu Yusuf from the Fulani delegation. 'We agree on particular solutions that we are going to abide by and we also agree that we are going to make the future brighter for our own generation.'

'With the coming of HD and this programme, it has drastically reduced the violent content in our social media space,' said Haggai Phillip Sorongu from the Irigwe delegation. "It has also united us as people to work to achieve a common purpose, which is peace."

HD's digital conflict programme is part of the Swiss-based independent organisation's private diplomacy, mediation and peacemaking initiatives in more than 50 conflict areas around the world."

**More than 3000 known, and possibly thousands more, traditional items, considered art in the west, stolen by invading British soldiers in Nigeria in 1897, have been held by Museums around Europe. Some of the European institutions have begun to respond to the calls to return these items, but many Nigerians complain that a huge number, including some particularly important artifacts, have yet to be even considered for repatriation** (Ruth MacLean and Alex Marshall, "Stolen Art and a Shredded Cultural Fabric," *The New York Times*, June 24, 2021).

The Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue reported, September 22, 2021, <https://centreforhumanitariananddialogue.s2.mp-stats.com/View/?s=DFWLhuOCBfnKJWYJZSGyTTX8et1fLqfNjoBYUG4vH4c9epk9A8DIo5t3F1SYgFuZ1wKI8A8oLqQnnRiLrfW%2FC2EOUSuNME9ioquSuwcz7LQkTqCzkon5R4zY5zZyeij9DWhqd1BKv4PQAwdUUIBzdssiGWk1cIOoUDCJxlNn6W%2FvTIXRIj90%2B3GRICSeE06OfCw1u%2F4NSuOGBz0wtTRecXDD%2BnMXt1ckokl5R2DQ5ahwZjIlV1JtxgAjPwmhQVyHz9jYajfX%2FaQ62aYcLcLaRfH12b7rCg5WTT1yQO9nhsaSHvpfMJLSniqGIpQxgyV5&e=wPznF%2B04b%2F%2FBht%2B7gkGcjQ%3D%3D&useContacts=True>, **"Agro-pastoral mediation in the Sahel**

**Across the Sahel region, conflicts are growing more frequent and volatile along seasonal grazing routes between nomadic groups and farming communities. As demographic pressure, climate change and armed conflicts intensify the scarcity of natural resources, the micro-conflicts over transhumance are in danger of becoming militarised as inter-community and political tensions rise.**

**To reduce the risks, the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue (HD) has been convening mediation processes in various parts in the Sahel region between herder and farmer communities since 2015 to prevent and peacefully manage disputes over natural resources. Over the last six years, HD has led conflict resolution training for 2,000 agropastoral mediators who have fanned out across 129 border communities in Mali, Mauritania, Burkina Faso, Niger and Chad.**

**This on-the-ground approach has proved its worth. The network of mediators has resolved 1,100 micro-conflicts over access to natural resources and transhumance, while more than 8,000 stolen or lost cattle have been returned to their owners.**

**The community mediators are also at the heart of mediation of local frameworks to sustainably improve the management mechanisms of disputed natural resources. Based on their experiences, the mediators engage with local and national authorities and the G5 Sahel framework on regional cooperation to outline structural reforms rooted in agropastoral realities and practices.**

**HD's efforts are contributing to stability in the Sahel by re-establishing traditional mechanisms of mediation among communities and addressing the drivers of conflict – from**

population and climate issues to governance of rural areas, management of nomadism and the need for cultural, gender and socio-economic inclusion in dialogue and resolution processes.

We hope you find the report and video interesting and informative as HD works to reduce tensions, increase understanding and promote peaceful settlements of agro-pastoral conflicts in the Sahel.

[Overview of the project

Watch the video at: <https://centreforhumanitariandialogue.s2.mp-stats.com/redirect/Contact/?s=HjOtGc3GpYAFL%2b3znrPvdD9Ix49Y5aEI6NdA30D19J9UKImCae8XdiZNETbvDxZEenkNhp76YVI2z4QvpvNY8lape3KqKi0BoUQjZ0eMFs%2bW3o5ex0Nu5%2fXfxmdp6hOYvZ6M1pqatTG4bZcPqgHulkKWFSwHFIGHixNUGqkwPbo%3d&e=wPznF+04b//Bht+7gkGcjQ==>, and related publications are at: <https://centreforhumanitariandialogue.s2.mp-stats.com/redirect/Contact/?s=HjOtGc3GpYAFL%2b3znrPvdKlgJvbZEzfn2n0qt0IVwPjQa9QuNKKu1BNNodAMuLVrJUkcVtwhXQfq6z0r9a%2fY%2fjPIwdJB9nZunvfyEFsRhiQJa%2fz9XrGC%2f2G0ERLs0Izr0sgHMKnNwRnjrtM2sSVc9tyzWXGZdh%2bLASr726WSwvI%3d&e=wPznF+04b//Bht+7gkGcjQ==>. Reports and testimonies about the Centre's work in Burkina Faso: <https://centreforhumanitariandialogue.s2.mp-stats.com/redirect/Contact/?s=HjOtGc3GpYAFL%2b3znrPvdOpXAtU7zrGMg5pAlsOE6UuY2t0MkeVQWWXXDqkLFnAcraw0DgN8ggrrtSIgk1kAIAfE%2fzykMaIn66AK8BWlodRC%2frQb5W7liDMBqSvLdCGSdig7xF7G3TFYQpSK62muA2QBBjYQNYHYcJKuqzgwFf7E%3d&e=wPznF+04b//Bht+7gkGcjQ==>, - Mali: <https://centreforhumanitariandialogue.s2.mp-stats.com/redirect/Contact/?s=HjOtGc3GpYAFL%2b3znrPvdDfA7qhXf2B6ATKuadwdhG5mj8qW54B8I3%2fH57v%2bJRjI1k49UiGel5pRek3srWsQJTdQHqyqwe4D4OAs6KNR888Zx6n7RKezZuwG2HfpUrBqTpA%2fXd3w42MoSFUDPr5ddrX3j51tJcBzkXNnwra9xmo%3d&e=wPznF+04b//Bht+7gkGcjQ==>, Mauritania: <https://centreforhumanitariandialogue.s2.mp-stats.com/redirect/Contact/?s=HjOtGc3GpYAFL%2b3znrPvdNFUCjsyfqI8OyFH%2fdgazGBQfznX4XQiTxi0C4uvWu2bhsKMtIHUICctniGjJHCweeiMS%2fEzUli7S0JFnWVf65GcPfESMDHZCNpnfWmSeb3NHKFoi3ywdKySVQEAGhzobs1pf%2b77C%2fCVQakb2h2gBI%3d&e=wPznF+04b//Bht+7gkGcjQ==>, Niger: <https://centreforhumanitariandialogue.s2.mp-stats.com/redirect/Contact/?s=HjOtGc3GpYAFL%2b3znrPvdI%2fRwXSJtL5nOq0fXb%2fb0EUSxtIEUej%2byvCcQQ%2fTUNVvTIDyLfAihaDcf38ZcaefGJDS0FLOwhG3zoIMK%2b%2bTww0WxigCD%2f4ndoPH6utstKQnL7RcUforJoOuvzFxxg7Hg03BvmIW8%2bZKsxP1IPyayvVbcA%3d&e=wPznF+04b//Bht+7gkGcjQ==>, Tchad: <https://centreforhumanitariandialogue.s2.mp-stats.com/redirect/Contact/?s=HjOtGc3GpYAFL%2b3znrPvdGCDnziMRxKYYpkIC0H4alYWHOAj6fykRUyq27K%2bbxA1Y%2fkakGBZVMN0BxBu636mv%2fJFrQ7XPHqqJ1fmoVClkxBHe%2bq%2bSprbSLaGqXk9r%2fivoT1LoDEBezQq20g%2fpoDHqscAYjFAiL2VWa%2b1FaUd5Fw%3d&e=wPznF+04b//Bht+7gkGcjQ==>].

Thank you and best regards,

Alexander Liebeskind, Regional director - Francophone Africa

For more information : <https://www.hdcentre.org/>."

**The government of Ethiopia in its civil war appears to be committing what in effect may be an ethnic genocide.** Declan Walsh and Rick Gladstone, "Ethiopia Plans to Expel U.N. Officials Leading Aid Response in Tigray: The move came days after the U.N. aid chief accused Ethiopia of mounting an aid blockade that is pushing the region into famine," *The New York*

*Times*, September 30, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/09/30/world/africa/ethiopia-expels-un-officials.html>, " reported, **"Ethiopia ordered the expulsion of seven senior United Nations officials on Thursday, two days after the U.N.'s aid chief warned that northern Ethiopia is sliding into famine because the government is blocking aid deliveries to the region."**

**"At least five million people in Tigray urgently need help, but just 606 trucks have been allowed to enter the region since July 12, bringing barely one-tenth of the supplies needed to avert a catastrophic famine, U.N. officials said. Aid workers accuse Ethiopian officials of using harassment and obstruction to constrict the flow of aid into a region controlled by Tigrayan rebel forces."**

**Unfortunately, the atrocities appear to be being committed by both sides.** Abdi Latif Dahir, *"Tigray Rebels Executed Dozens of Civilians, Report Says: The report from Human Rights Watch adds to the mounting violations committed by the warring parties since the conflict in Ethiopia's northern Tigray region began over a year ago,"* *The New York Times*, December 10, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/12/10/world/africa/ethiopia-executions-rebels.html>, reported, **"The Tigrayan rebels fighting Ethiopia's government carried out dozens of executions against civilians in two towns they controlled in August and September, Human Rights Watch said in a report on Friday, adding to the list of alleged violations committed by the forces since the civil war in Ethiopia began 14 months ago."**

Declan Walsh, "Ethiopia Launches New Offensive on Tigray Rebels as Famine Looms: Western officials confirmed Tigrayan reports of an assault on several fronts. Aid workers said it will intensify a dire humanitarian crisis," *The New York Times*, October 12, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/10/12/world/africa/ethiopia-tigray-offensive.html>, reported, **"The conflict in northern Ethiopia has escalated sharply in recent days, as Ethiopian forces began a sweeping offensive in a bid to reverse recent gains by Tigrayan rebels, Western officials and Tigrayan leaders said."**

**U.N. officials said the attack will deepen the humanitarian crisis in a region that is plunging into the world's worst famine in a decade. With the Ethiopian government blocking aid shipments, some starving Tigrayans are eating leaves to survive."**

**In what is in essence an interethnic struggle, the government has cut off all food and other essential shipments into the embattled province.**

**The civil and inter-ethnic group war in Ethiopia has shifted, with additional ethnic groups joining the Tigrayans in their fight with the country's government.** Abdi Latif Dahir and Lara Jakes, "Eight Groups Join Tigray Rebels Vowing to Oust Ethiopia's Leader: The government calls the new coalition, announced in Washington, a 'publicity stunt,' as intermediaries try to negotiate a peaceful solution to a year of conflict," *The New York Times*, November 6, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/11/05/world/africa/ethiopia-tigray-eight-groups.html>, reported, **"For a year now, fighters from Ethiopia's northern region of Tigray have faced off against Ethiopia's army largely alone, repulsing their attacks, capturing towns and, this week, advancing on the capital, Addis Ababa."**

**But on Friday, the Tigrayans announced that they were banding together with eight other opposition groups to oust Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed — through political negotiation or military force if necessary — and install a transitional government."**

In early December 2021, **the civil war in Ethiopia - largely a struggle between Indigenous groups - shifted again and may long continue.** Abdi Latif Dahir, "Ethiopia Says It Recaptured Strategic Towns From Rebels: The government said it took back the towns of Dessie and Kombolcha, the latest in a string of wins Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed has claimed in recent days," *The New York Times*, December 7, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/12/07/world/africa/ethiopia-tigray-civil-war.html>, reported, **"Ethiopian forces recaptured two strategic towns from rebel fighters, the government said late Monday, the latest in a string of victories that signaled the government was regaining its footing on the battlefield after months of major defeats in the yearlong civil war."**

"Ethnic Groups Fear More Repression After Chinese President's Speech on Minorities," GlobalSecurity.org, September 3, 2021, [https://www.globalsecurity.org/wmd/library/news/china/2021/09/china-210903-rfa03.htm?\\_m=3n%2e002a%2e3143%2exk0ao00c41%2e2wtk](https://www.globalsecurity.org/wmd/library/news/china/2021/09/china-210903-rfa03.htm?_m=3n%2e002a%2e3143%2exk0ao00c41%2e2wtk), reported, **"Chinese President Xi Jinping's call for ethnic minority groups to put the interests of the nation first has fueled concerns that the government will double down on up its repressive policies against them, analysts said.**

Xi's speech at the two-day Central Conference on Ethnic Affairs in Beijing late last month focused on guiding ethnic groups to put the interests of China above all else and to share a sense of community with the Chinese nation."

**Chinese authorities were reported to be forcing Muslim Women in the Xinjiang Province to be fitted with birth control devices, sometimes painfully** (Amy Qin, "China Is Forcing Birth Control On Muslim Women in Xinjiang," *The New York Times*, May 11, 2021).

**Muslim Uyghurs living outside of China who have spoken out about Chinese repression of their people have been having the Chinese government take reprisals against their families in Xinjiang and thereby attempting to silence them** (Austen Ramzy, "As Muslim Uyghurs Speak Out, China Takes Aim at their Families," *The New York Times*, July 28, 2021).

"Coal mine plans spark huge protest from India's tribal people," Survival International, October 1, 2021, <https://www.survivalinternational.org/news/12656>, reported, **"Hundreds of tribal villagers from India's Hasdeo Forest begin a rally and march tomorrow in protest at the government's plans for a massive expansion of coal mining on their lands.**

**People from Adivasi (Indigenous) communities who live in the forest – which, at 170,000 hectares, is one of the largest intact areas of forest in the country – will rally on Gandhi's birthday (October 2), then march 300km to the capital of Chhattisgarh state from October 4-13.**

**The Hasdeo Forest is the ancestral home of approximately 10,000 Adivasis belonging to the Gond, Oraon, Lohar, Kunwar and other peoples. It is also one of India's richest and most biodiverse regions.**

**Indian Prime Minister Modi's government is aggressively promoting a plan to open new coal mines in the area. The forest and its peoples would be destroyed if the mines go ahead.**

**Across India Modi intends to open 55 new coal mines and expand 193 existing ones, to increase coal production to 1 billion tonnes a year.** Coalfields are being auctioned off to some of India's biggest mining corporations, including Adani, Vedanta and Aditya Birla.

**Much of the existing government plan is illegal, as mining in Adivasi land should not proceed without their consent. Across India Adivasis are deeply opposed to the mines, having seen first-hand how existing mines have destroyed forests and the communities that lived in them.**

Adivasi people across India have been resisting mining for decades, including by blocking bulldozers and peacefully protesting. Many have been arrested, beaten and even murdered in response.

In a public declaration from the 'Resistance Committee to Save Hasdeo Forest' (Hasdeo Aranya Bachao Sangharsh Samiti) the Adivasis said: 'The federal and the state government, instead of protecting the rights of us tribal and other traditional forest dwellers have joined hands with mining companies and have been working towards devastating our forest and land.

'We are bound to resist and [march] to safeguard our water, forest, land and our livelihoods and culture that are dependent on them. We appeal to all citizens who love the Constitution and Democracy, all who are committed to safeguard the waters, forests, land and environment and all sentient citizens to join us in this gathering and the march.'

Survival International Director Caroline Pearce said today: 'The extent of the coal mining now planned will not only destroy Indigenous homes, lands and livelihoods on an unimaginable scale, it also makes a mockery of Modi's claim to be at the forefront of addressing the climate crisis. Supporting the Adivasi resistance to coal mining should be a global priority.'

"UN experts slam Modi's government for incarceration of indigenous rights defender," Survival International, June 16, 2021, <https://www.survivalinternational.org/news/12604>, reported, **"A group of seven UN experts\* have written to the government of Indian Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, to raise the case of Hidme Markam, an Adivasi (indigenous) woman who was bundled away by police at an International Women's Day event and has been held in custody ever since.**

**Ms Markam and hundreds of women in central India's Bastar region were commemorating the death of two Adivasi women who were victims of sexual assault by security forces. One, a sixteen-year-old girl, had taken her own life after being raped. The women were rallying against the extrajudicial killings, sexual abuse, and arrests that have become daily realities for many Adivasi people – especially women.**

In April, the seven UN experts wrote to the Indian government to highlight Ms Markam's case and the Modi government's 'misuse of the counter-terrorism legislation to criminalize human rights defenders and conflate their legitimate peaceful work with terrorism'. They received no answer so went public with their letter this week.

Bhupesh Baghel, the Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh state, where Ms Markam was arrested, has promised to address the filing of false cases against Adivasis. This month, charges against 726 people were dropped. But Ms Markam and thousands of other Adivasi land defenders remain imprisoned under draconian laws aimed at suppressing dissent. Violent abuses of Adivasis by the authorities and law enforcement continue: on May 17 police fired at a crowd. Four people died.

As the Adivasi poet, Jacinta Kerketta said, 'Hidme's arrest and the manner in which it was done reiterates for us Adivasis that governments cannot tolerate anyone among us who speak up against the takeover of our resources.'

Shortly before her arrest, Hidme Markam said, 'We can no longer go to the forests freely to gather forest produce, or farm on our lands where [paramilitary] camps have come up. No matter which party is in power, they support big companies and do not care for us common Adivasis. Villagers who protest against the government handing over these lands to corporations are being jailed. We have lost faith in the government but will continue to fight to save our sacred lands and our forests.'

Sophie Grig, Senior Research and Advocacy Officer, said today: **'Modi's India is a dangerous place to stand up for your human rights, to seek to protect your land, or simply to be an Adivasi person – even in states where his party is not in power.'** The international community must join the UN experts in speaking out against these abuses and demand that the persecution of Adivasis like Hidme Markam, and the destruction of their sacred land, must stop."

Noes to Editors:

\*The seven UN experts are:

Mary Lawlor – Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders

Elina Steinerte – Vice-Chair of the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention

Irene Khan – Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right of freedom of opinion and expression

Clement Nyaletsossi Voule – Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association

Fionnuala Ní Aoláin – Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism

Dubravka Šimonovic – Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences

Elizabeth Broderick – Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group on discrimination against women and girls."

**In Northeastern India violence has increased where the army has been in conflict with insurgents, many of them members of Indigenous peoples.** Sameer Yasir and Hari Kumar, "Anger Spreads in Northeastern India After Security Forces Kill 14 Civilians: Eight mine workers were shot in a mistaken ambush by soldiers seeking insurgents, and six protesters died later in clashes with government forces, stoking fears of further violence in the restive region," *The New York Times*, December 5, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/12/05/world/asia/india-northeast-nagaland-civilians.html>, reported, **"Protests and clashes raged on Sunday in northeastern India after 14 civilians were killed by soldiers, one of the deadliest outbursts of violence in recent years in a region long torn by insurgency and ethnic divisions."**

The initial dead were miners returning from work mistaken by soldiers for insurgents.

**"News about the killings spread quickly on social media and prompted residents in the area to attack troops and set two military vehicles on fire.** After an Indian soldier was killed during the protests and street fighting, security forces opened fire on crowds, resulting in the killing of five more people on Saturday night. On Sunday afternoon, another civilian was killed by government forces after protesters entered an Indian Army camp."

Dev Kumar Sunuwar, "Indigenous Women and Girls Disproportionately Trafficked in Nepal," Cultural Survival, July 21, 2021, <https://www.culturalsurvival.org/news/indigenous-women-and-girls-disproportionately-trafficked-nepal>, reported, **"Human trafficking is one of the most difficult issues to address in Nepal. It is a purposefully hidden practice, affecting and exploiting thousands of women, adolescent girls, and children. But despite its invisible nature, it abundantly shows that Indigenous women and girls are disproportionately affected by human trafficking and represent almost 70 percent of the cases."**

According to Nepal Tamang Mahila Ghedung, an umbrella organization of Tamang Indigenous women, and partner organization of Cultural Survival, there is no exact figure on the ethnic and caste composition of women and girls trafficked to India and other countries. The percentage of caste and ethnicities of women and girls rescued by the Nepali government and civil society is the only statistic available to go by, and Indigenous women and girls make up the majority of the people trafficked and exploited. Citing the internal assessment of caste and ethnic-wise survivors, two NGOs, Shakti Samuha (an organization of survivors of women trafficked) and Maiti Nepal (an NGO long fighting against trafficking), showed that 70 percent of those rescued were from Indigenous communities.

In July 2011, the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women issued a concluding observation raising concerns about the lack of specific data on trafficking of women and girls, the lack of effective implementation of the Human Trafficking and Transportation Act of 2007, the persistence of sexual exploitation and persistence of the root causes of trafficking and prostitution, including poverty in Nepal. The Committee also urged the Nepali government to fully implement Article 6 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) through collecting and analyzing data on all aspects of trafficking and prostitution disaggregated by age, sex, and country of origin in order to identify the trends, to implement the Human Trafficking and Transportation Act of 2007 to ensure that perpetrators are punished and victims adequately protected, assisted and provided shelter, to strengthen preventive measures aimed at improving the economic situation of girls and women, to provide gainful employment and other resources to eliminate their vulnerability to traffickers including strengthening efforts at international, regional and bilateral cooperation with countries of origin and transit to address more effectively the causes of trafficking and improve prevention of trafficking through information exchange.

Disaggregated data gathered on caste and ethnicity was released in 2019 by the National Human Rights Commission, a national Nepali human rights body, which shows **that 49 percent, a majority of trafficked women survivors are Indigenous nationalities**, followed by Dalit at 15 percent. Madhesis account for 6 percent and other ethnicities constitute the remaining 29 percent. Indigenous Peoples, Dalits, and Madhesis are the most socially, politically, and economically marginalized and excluded communities in Nepal. Traffickers intentionally do not target one particular social group. But women and girls from minority groups including Indigenous Peoples are vulnerable to trafficking as they belong to socially, politically, and economically marginalized communities."

Hannah Beech, "Mohib Ullah, 46, Dies; Documented Ethnic Cleansing of Rohingya: Shot dead by gunmen, he had compiled a list of those who perished in the hope that the data could be used as evidence in international courts," The New York Times, October 2, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/10/02/world/asia/mohib-ullah-dead.html>, reported, **"Mohib**



**Ullah, a Rohingya community leader who believed in the power of data to confront the brutality of ethnic cleansing, died on Wednesday, shot by gunmen in a bamboo and tarp shelter in Kutupalong, Bangladesh, the world's biggest refugee camp. He was 46.**

The gunmen had burst into his shack before opening fire, according to his brother, Habib Ullah, who was with Mr. Mohib Ullah at the time. The shack was stacked high with papers documenting massacres of Rohingya, the Muslim minority native to neighboring Myanmar."

Sui-Lee Wee, "Thousands Flee Myanmar for India Amid Fears of a Growing Refugee Crisis: For decades, armed conflict, political repression and targeted campaigns against minorities have forced hundreds of thousands of people to leave the country. Now many more are expected to follow," *The New York Times*, October 20, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/10/19/world/asia/myanmar-refugees-india.html>, reported, **"Terrified farmers and families with children [mostly of the Chin ethnic group] in Myanmar are fleeing into India as the military junta that seized power in a February coup continues to seek out and eliminate resistance along the country's border.**

"The Tatmadaw, as the Myanmar military is known, has targeted areas that are home to thousands of armed civilians who call themselves the People's Defense Force. Soldiers have fired rocket launchers into residential neighborhoods, burned down homes, cut off internet access and food supplies, and even shot at fleeing civilians, according to residents."

Hannah Beech, "They Warned Their Names Were on a Hit List. They Were Killed: In less than a month, assassins have killed at least eight people in the Rohingya refugee camps of Bangladesh, silencing those who have dared to speak out against the violent gangs," *The New York Times*, November 15, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/11/14/world/asia/rohingya-refugees-bangladesh.html>, reported, **"In less than a month, assassins have killed at least eight people in the Rohingya refugee settlements of southeastern Bangladesh, silencing those who have dared to speak out against the violent gangs that plague the camps.** As with Mr. Mohammed, the militants threatened their victims before they killed, leaving their targets in a perpetual panic."

**"The militant group, which staged a series of attacks against Myanmar security forces to protest the decades of persecution faced by the Rohingya, is trying to impose its own order on the camps.** ARSA fighters say they, and not human rights workers or other civilians, have spiritual and political authority over the nearly one million refugees. But they also profit from the illicit trades that are thriving in the camps and have clashed with other criminal gangs, heightening the sense of lawlessness each time a body is found."

Bong S. Sarmiento, "Illegal mining threatens Indigenous land at foot of Philippines' tallest peak," Mongabay, 30 November 2021, <https://news.mongabay.com/2021/11/illegal-mining-threatens-indigenous-land-at-foot-of-philippines-tallest-peak/>, reported, "A declared protected area, Mount Apo on the southern Philippine island of Mindanao is a major ecotourism site, with much of the protected area overlapping with Indigenous land.

The area also has rich mineral reserves, but tribal leaders say they have rejected requests to mine their land because of the adverse effects on the ecosystem and watershed their people depend on.

In late 2020, an illegal gold mine on tribal land within the protected area was closed down after unpaid mine workers tipped off the authorities.

**Mount Apo, a protected area on the southern Philippine island of Mindanao, is threatened by small-scale illegal mining, which remains a lingering problem elsewhere in the resource-rich Southeast Asian nation."**

Dera Menra Sijabat and Richard C. Paddock, "Will an Island in Indonesia Become a New Frontier in the Space Race? An Indigenous clan fears it will lose its place in the world as the government pursues a quest to open a spaceport and lure the billionaire SpaceX founder Elon Musk," *The New York Times*, November 17, 2021, <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/11/16/business/indonesia-spaceport-elon-musk.html>, reported, **"For 15 generations, members of the [Biak] Abrauwan clan have lived much like their ancestors.** They farm with wooden plows in patches of the rainforest, gather medicinal plants and set traps to catch snakes and wild boar."

**"The Indonesian government claims to have acquired 250 acres of the clan's ancestral land decades ago and has planned since 2017 to build a small-scale spaceport there to launch rockets. Clan leaders say the project would force them from their homes."**

Olivia Tasevski, an international relations tutor at the University of Melbourne in Australia, "Indonesia Can't Quell West Papua's Growing Independence Movement: Jokowi's approach to the restive province is fundamentally flawed," *FP*, October 18, 2021, [https://foreignpolicy.com/2021/10/18/west-papua-indonesia-jokowi-independence-movement-human-rights/?utm\\_source=postup&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=36948&utm\\_term=editors%20picks%20oc&tpcc=36948](https://foreignpolicy.com/2021/10/18/west-papua-indonesia-jokowi-independence-movement-human-rights/?utm_source=postup&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=36948&utm_term=editors%20picks%20oc&tpcc=36948), reported, **"When Joko Widodo, better known as Jokowi, became Indonesia's president in 2014, he pledged to improve social services in the restive Indonesian province of West Papua, where a pro-independence movement has been brewing since the 1960s. At the time, Jokowi claimed that once these improvements occurred, "the political tension [in West Papua] will drop."**

**That did not happen. In reality, tensions have only escalated since Jokowi's election, particularly after his reelection in 2019. Papuan pro-independence and anti-racism activism has grown, deepening rifts between the government and Papuans, along with their Indonesian allies."**

**Australia has returned ownership of the Daintree Rain Forest, a UNESCO World Heritage site on Queensland's northeast coast to the Eastern Kuku Yalanji Peoples ("Australia: Land Returned to Eastern Kuku Yalanji People" *Cultural Survival Quarterly*, December 2021).**

Nick Perry, "First Indigenous woman appointed New Zealand governor-general: Cindy Kiro has a long career advocating for children." *ICT*. October 24, 2021, <https://indiancountrytoday.com/news/first-indigenous-woman-appointed-new-zealand-governor-general>, reported, **"New Zealand's new governor-general** said Thursday she plans to reach out to people marginalized by issues like homelessness, addiction and discrimination.

**Cindy Kiro, Maori, is the first Indigenous woman appointed to the role as the representative of Queen Elizabeth II in the South Pacific nation.** She took her oath in both Maori and English when she was sworn in to a five-year term."

Siobhán O'Grady, "New Zealand's Ardern names 'incredibly diverse' cabinet, including

first Indigenous woman as top diplomat," *The Washington Post*, November 2, 2020, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2020/11/02/new-zealand-ardern-cabinet-diversity/>, reported, **"New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern announced a new cabinet** Monday, describing her ministers as an 'incredibly diverse' group who are highly qualified for their positions and reflective of 'the New Zealand that elected them.'

"Her **cabinet**, set to be sworn in Friday, will focus on helping the nation recover from the coronavirus pandemic. **It is made up of 20 people, five of whom are Maori**, the Indigenous people of New Zealand who make up more than 16 percent of the nation's population. Eight cabinet members are women.

**They include Nanaia Mahuta [Maori], who will serve as foreign minister, becoming the first woman to do so in New Zealand's history."**

"Healing and pride': Woppaburra Native Title rights recognised over Keppel Islands ," NITV, December 4, 2021, <https://www.sbs.com.au/nitv/article/2021/12/03/healing-and-pride-woppaburra-native-title-rights-recognised-over-keppel-islands>, reported that in New Zealand, **"Woppaburra people are celebrating the recognition of their Native Title rights over Konomie (North Keppel Island) and Woppa (Great Keppel Island).**

In a Native Title hearing on Konomie, **Justice Darryl Rangiah recognised Woppaburra Traditional Owners native title rights over 567 square kilometres of Country off the coast of Yeppoon, Queensland" on 13 islands.**

Deusdedit Ruhangariyo, "Global Indigenous: Poison, Politics And Petroleum," *ICT*, October 28, 2021, [https://mcusercontent.com/ee83519a17075b9d5a2c44042/files/9da0d13b-7dc4-e89b-3ac9-925da70a7469/10.28.21\\_The\\_Weekly.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/ee83519a17075b9d5a2c44042/files/9da0d13b-7dc4-e89b-3ac9-925da70a7469/10.28.21_The_Weekly.pdf), reported, **"Western Australia got its first Indigenous woman representative in the federal Senate**, Australia's National Indigenous Television reported on Oct. 18.

**Dorinda Cox**, who hails from the Yamatji and Noonger, was sworn in wearing an Aboriginal kangaroo robe, known as a buka or booka. **She become the seventh current Indigenous representative in the federal parliament.**

Sarah Collard, "The federal government is trying to overturn a landmark High Court ruling which found that Indigenous people could not be deported," NITV News, October 14, 2021, <https://www.sbs.com.au/nitv/article/2021/10/14/govt-pushes-overturn-high-court-ruling-deporting-indigenous-aliens>, reported from Australia, **"The federal government is trying to overturn a landmark High Court ruling which found that Indigenous people could not be deported.**

The 2020 decision ruled that Aboriginal people are not subject to the 'alien' powers in the constitution, and cannot be deported under immigration law regardless of citizenship status.

The federal government is now seeking to have that decision overturned, launching legal action in the same court after claimants' Daniel Love and Brendan Thoms narrow victory."

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## DIALOGUING

### GREED AND CONSUMPTION: WHY THE WORLD IS BURNING

Ramzy Baroud\*

Republished from *Common Dreams* under a Creative Commons license (CC BY-NC-ND 3.0), August 13, 2021, [https://www.commondreams.org/views/2021/08/13/greed-and-consumption-why-world-burning?utm\\_term=AO&utm\\_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_content=email&utm\\_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_medium=Email](https://www.commondreams.org/views/2021/08/13/greed-and-consumption-why-world-burning?utm_term=AO&utm_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_content=email&utm_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_medium=Email).

If we continue to talk about global warming without confronting the capitalist menace that generated much of the crisis in the first place, the conversation will continue to amount to nil.

**Rome is scorching hot.** This beautiful city is becoming unbearable for other reasons, too. Though every corner of the beaming metropolis is a monument to historical grandeur, from the Colosseum in Rione Monti to the Basilica of Saint John Lateran in San Giovanni, it is now struggling under the weight of its own contradictions.

In Via Appia, bins are **overflowing** with garbage, often spilling over into the streets. The smell, especially during Italy's increasingly sweltering summers, is suffocating.

Meanwhile, many parts of the country are literally on fire. Since June 15, firefighters have reportedly **responded** to 37,000 fire-related emergencies, 1,500 of them on July 18 alone. A week later, I drove between Campania, in southern Italy, and Abruzzo, in the center. Throughout the journey, I was accompanied by fire and smoke. On that day, many towns were **evacuated**, and thousands of acres of forests were destroyed. It will take months to assess the cost of the ongoing destruction, but it will certainly be measured in hundreds of millions of euros.

Additionally, the entire southern Europe is ablaze, as the region is experiencing its worst heat waves in many years. Greece, Spain, Turkey, and the Balkans are **fighting** fires that continue to rage on.

Across the Atlantic, the US and Canada, too, are desperately trying to battle their own wildfires, mostly direct outcomes of unprecedented heat waves that struck North America from Vancouver to California, along with the whole of the American northwest region. In June, Vancouver, Portland and Seattle all set new heat records, 118, 116 and 108 Fahrenheit, respectively.

While it is true that not all fires are a direct result of global warming—many in Italy, for example, are **man-made**—unprecedented increases in temperature, coupled with changes in weather patterns, are the main culprits of these unmitigated disasters.

The solution is more complex than simply having the resources and proper equipment to contain these fires. The impact of the crises continues to be felt for years, even if temperatures somehow stabilize. In California, for example, which is bracing for another horrific season, the devastation of the previous years can still be felt.

"After two years of drought, the soil moisture is depleted, drying out vegetation and making it more prone to combustion," *The New York Times* **reported** (<https://www.nytimes.com/article/why-does-california-have-wildfires.html>) on July 16. The problem, then, is neither temporary nor can be dealt with through easy fixes.

As I sat with my large bottle of water outside Caffettiamo Cafe, struggling with heat, humidity and the pungent smell of garbage, I thought about who is truly responsible for what seems to be our new, irreversible reality. Here in Italy, the conversation is often streamlined through the same, predictable and polarized political discourse. Each party points finger at the others, in the hope of gaining some capital prior to the upcoming October **municipal elections**.

Again, Italy is not the exception. Political polarization in Europe and the US constantly steers the conversation somewhere else entirely. Rarely is the problem addressed at a macro-level, independent from political calculations. The impact of global warming cannot and must not be held hostage to the ambitions of politicians. Millions of people are suffering, livelihoods are destroyed, the fate of future generations is at risk. In the grand scheme of things, whether the current mayor of Rome, Virginia Raggi, is **elected** for another term or not, is insignificant.

Writing in the Columbia Climate School website, Renee Cho **highlights** the obvious, the relationship between our insatiable appetite for consumption and climate change. "Did you know that Americans produce 25 percent more waste than usual between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day, sending an additional one million tons a week to landfills?," Cho asks.

This leads us to think about the existential relationship between our insatiable consumption habits and the irreparable damage we have inflicted upon mother earth.

Here in Via Appia, the contradictions are unmistakable. This is the summer sales season in Italy. Signs reading "Saldi"—or "Sale"—are everywhere. For many shoppers, it is impossible to fight the temptation. This unhinged consumerism—the backbone and the fault line of capitalism—comes at a high price. People are encouraged to consume more, as if such consumption has no repercussions for the environment whatsoever. Indeed, Via Appia is the perfect microcosm of this global schizophrenia: people complaining about the heat and the garbage, while simultaneously consuming beyond their need, thus creating yet more garbage and, eventually, worsening the plight of the environment.

Collective problems require collective solutions. Italy's heat cannot be pinned down on a few arsonists and California's wildfires are not simply the fault of an ineffectual mayor. Global warming is, in large part, the outcome of a destructive pattern instigated and sustained by capitalism. The latter can only survive through unhindered consumption, inequality, greed and, when necessary, war. If we continue to talk about global warming without confronting the

capitalist menace that generated much of the crisis in the first place, the conversation will continue to amount to nil.

In the final analysis, all the conferences, pledges and politicking will not put out a single fire, neither in Italy nor anywhere else in the world.

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### **CALIFORNIA OIL SPILL EXPOSES NEWSOM-BIDEN FAILURES ON DRILLING**

It's long past time for our leaders—in Washington and in Sacramento—to act as though we are facing an existential crisis.

Joe Sanberg\*

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Everybody knows Orange County by its postcard-perfect beaches. Those of us born and raised in the OC, take immense pride in—and feel intensely protective of—the natural beauty of our shores. As a kid, I didn't have much, but I had the beach.

So, when more than 400,000 gallons of crude oil is spilled in our ocean, our coastline is strewn with the bodies of fish and birds, and the health of our wetlands is put in mortal jeopardy ... we get mad.

A spill like that shouldn't surprise anyone. It's not as if Amplify Energy Corp.—the owner of the oil operation responsible for the spill—was a rogue actor. Despite its long record of compliance warnings and recent bankruptcy filings, the company operated with the full, permitted approval of the government.

It's nice that Gavin Newsom conceded this week that he will not support new offshore oil drilling in California. But where was he the last few years, when environmental advocates sounded the alarm about the practice? The sad answer: he was issuing a whopping 138 offshore permits.

Gov. Newsom said that the spill was "a reminder of the enormous cost fossil fuels have on our communities and the environment." But we didn't need that reminder. We've all watched the degradation of our coastline, the pollution of our water, the clouding of our skies with smog.

My current home, Los Angeles, hosts the largest urban oil field in the country. Thousands of active oil wells operate throughout the landscape—including in working class communities of color that disproportionately bear the burden of environmental injustice. These wells are often directly next to homes, uncovered, and lack reinforcement of city oil regulations.

The result? Kids get cancer, expectant mothers have preterm births, seniors choke every time they take a breath.

There is no safe way to drill for oil. Not in our oceans and not in our neighborhoods. We don't need a new study to tell us that.

One of the worst oil spills in history occurred in California in 1969, when a drilling rig platform blew out, depositing 4.2 million gallons of crude, and killing thousands of birds, fish and sea mammals. That spill helped galvanize the modern environmental movement, when the entire country said "never again." But it did happen again, and again.

So we should have known better. Inevitably, where we drill, oil will spill. It is only a matter of time. On top of that, after years of devastating fires, heat waves, and droughts throttling our state, climate change is a terrifying reality bearing down on us. There is no longer any doubt: our communities are in a war for survival with the fossil fuel industry.

It's long past time for our leaders—in Washington and in Sacramento—to act as though we are facing an existential crisis.

First, Joe Biden must keep his promise to the American people on offshore oil drilling. On the campaign trail, he pledged to end new oil and gas leasing on our public lands and waters. But this Monday—just two days after the oil spill off Huntington Beach was discovered—President Biden ploughed ahead with a Trump administration plan to put more than 80 million acres of the Gulf of Mexico up for auction for oil and gas drilling. Hurricane Ida created 55 separate spills near existing drilling rigs in the Gulf, but so far the administration has not reversed course on this disastrous plan for new drilling.

The president should pull all planned oil and gas leases on federal lands and waters, as he promised. While much attention is currently being paid to Biden's infrastructure plan in Congress, a plan which includes many commendable climate proposals, we cannot lose sight of the fact that Biden alone holds the power to end federal oil and gas leasing immediately. Anything less is an abdication of his historic responsibility to act on climate.

At the state level, we've heard plenty of rhetoric from Governor Gavin Newsom about the urgency of fighting climate change. But in reality, he has approved 9,014 separate oil and gas permits. That number should have been zero. Newsom has complete authority as the state's executive to stop issuing fossil fuel permits, and commit to a timeline for phasing out all drilling.

Newsom must also heed calls of environmental justice advocates, who are demanding a bare minimum of 2500 foot setbacks of oil and gas drilling from people's homes. Polls show that **79% of Californians** approve of oil and gas setbacks. There is no reason for Newsom to keep dragging his feet, unless he considers the interests of Big Oil greater than the public good.

The sad truth is, even these seismic shifts in climate policy won't undo the warming that's already baked into our climate, or all the contamination of our skies and seas.

How many more California treasures must be destroyed for us to finally understand: there are no safe pipelines.

\*Joe Sanberg is a progressive entrepreneur, business leader, and policymaker on a mission to end poverty. He founded CalEIT4Me, which helps millions of low-income California families claim the state and federal Earned Income Tax Credits, putting more than \$4 billion back in their pockets. He is the co-founder of Aspiration, an online provider of socially conscious financial services.

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**WHY WE URGENTLY NEED A CIVILIAN CLIMATE CORPS  
LIKE THE DEPRESSION-ERA CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS,  
A 21ST CENTURY CCC COULD CREATE MILLIONS OF JOBS WHILE REPAIRING  
OUR ENVIRONMENT.**

Isabella Devaan\*

Republished under a Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 License from *Common Dreams*, August 26, 2021, [https://www.commondreams.org/views/2021/08/26/why-we-urgently-need-civilian-climate-corps?utm\\_term=AO&utm\\_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_content=email&utm\\_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_medium=Email](https://www.commondreams.org/views/2021/08/26/why-we-urgently-need-civilian-climate-corps?utm_term=AO&utm_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_content=email&utm_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_medium=Email), originally by OtherWords.

**When you think of** the New Deal, what comes to mind? For many Americans, the era has an enduring physical legacy in our parks, tree lines, and trails.

On Orcas Island in Washington, hundreds of young men with the **Civilian Conservation Corps built Moran State Park's** idyllic trails, campgrounds, and watchtower. Ninety years later, recreationists still benefit from their labor as they hike towards sweeping views and splash in crystalline mountain lakes.

From 1933 to 1942, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) **enlisted** over 3 million men between 18 and 25, planted 3 billion trees, fortified over 700 parks, and forged countless trails.

**FDR touted the program's multiple benefits.** By participating in the "Nation's fight against the Depression," he said, corps members were creating "future national wealth" and "moral and spiritual value."

Back then, policymakers were primarily motivated by sky-high unemployment. But they were also moved to action by the Dust Bowl, a human-created environmental disaster that destroyed livestock and crops across the central United States.

Today, we are once again facing severe and inter-connected economic and environmental crises. While streets flood and skies burn orange across the country, **wealth inequality has skyrocketed**—and young people confront a labor market with few good jobs.

To face these challenges, climate advocates are pushing to revitalize the Civilian Conservation Corps as a **Civilian Climate Corps**. They envision a program that not only meets the staggering scale of our problems, but is also more deeply rooted in justice and equity.



The Green New Deal Network's **THRIVE Agenda** proposes investing \$1 trillion per year over the next decade to create 15 million "**Green New Careers**," over half of which would originate in underserved communities.

This would address serious flaws in the original CCC, which barred women, segregated **Black** and **Indigenous** workers from their white counterparts, and often **developed land** stolen from Native Americans. (Orcas Island's Moran State Park, for example, was built atop Lummi and Salish indigenous land "owned" by wealthy local leader Robert Moran.)

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) **has promised** to "fight to get the biggest, boldest CCC possible," but views on the issue vary widely.

President Biden has supported a more modest **\$10 billion investment** in a new CCC over 10 years, which could create tens of thousands of jobs. Some moderates are focused on scaling up the existing AmeriCorps program, which offers small stipends to **75,000 people** per year for service projects.

On the bolder end, Senator Ed Markey (D-MA) and Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY) have proposed **investing \$130 billion** over five years, a sum they say could support 1.5 million jobs.

To inspire broader public support, the Sunrise Movement and the Green New Deal Network have just launched the **Green New Careers website** at [www.greennewcareers.org](http://www.greennewcareers.org). Visitors can answer questions to learn about green jobs that might be right for them.

"What if," **asked** Ocasio-Cortez at a recent rally, "in three months after the authorization, 250,000 young people were employed in a dignified job? What if this led to record performance in containing wildfires across our country and thousands of new trails?"

"The CCC under Roosevelt was the largest peacetime mobilization in American history," she recalled. "And that is what this moment requires."

Some communities are already building this better future. Last September, Orcas Island created its own CCC—complete with \$15 hourly wages, partnerships with Indigenous experts, and long-term career training to fight fires and plant trees.

**Funded by the local community foundation**, Orcas Island's CCC can employ eight people. Imagine how bright our future could be with programs like these on a national scale.

\*Isabella DeVaan is a Next Leader at the Institute for Policy Studies.

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## **G20 SUMMIT DEEMED 'ABYSMAL AND TOTAL FAILURE' ON VACCINE EQUITY, CLIMATE ACTION**

**The bottom line is that this summit failed to deliver much of anything for people, planet, or prosperity**

Jake Johnson

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Leaders of the world's richest nations wrapped up the Group of 20 Summit in Rome on Sunday after taking virtually no concrete action to tackle the coronavirus pandemic and the intensifying climate crisis, drawing condemnation from human rights advocates who deemed the gathering's outcome an "abysmal and total failure."

"G20 leaders could have taken urgent action to dramatically scale up manufacturing and access to Covid-19 vaccines around the world, promote a fair economic recovery, lower dangerous greenhouse gas emissions, and help the poorest countries adapt to the climate change already happening," Jörn Kalinski, senior adviser at Oxfam International, said in a statement. "The bottom line is that this summit failed to deliver much of anything for people, planet, or prosperity."

The weekend summit drew to a close as the official global death toll from Covid-19 topped a staggering 5 million, a figure that's likely to continue growing by thousands each day as billions of people worldwide are denied access to lifesaving vaccines.

G20 nations constitute 62% of the global population but have used 82% of the world's Covid-19 vaccines, according to the London-based advocacy group Global Justice Now. Just **3.6%** of people in low-income countries have received at least one coronavirus vaccine dose—inequity that threatens to prolong the pandemic and leave the door open to devastating new variants.

A recent analysis by the science data firm Airfinity showed that G20 countries have received 15 times more coronavirus vaccine doses per capita than countries in sub-Saharan Africa. The United States, the European Union, Britain, and Canada are currently hoarding roughly 240 million surplus Covid-19 vaccines as they begin offering booster shots to certain segments of their populations, ignoring the World Health Organization's **pleas** for a moratorium on boosters.

"It's an absolute scandal that the G20 has wasted a year ignoring a proposal, backed by the majority of its members, to break vaccine monopolies and ensure the lifesaving vaccines can be made around the world to save countless lives," said People's Vaccine Alliance policy lead Anna Marriot, referring to a **stalled patent waiver** at the World Trade Organization.

At the end of the two-day Rome summit, G20 leaders adopted a **declaration** pledging to "enhance our efforts to ensure the transparent, rapid, and predictable delivery and uptake of vaccines where they are needed" and endorsed the WHO's modest goal of "vaccinating at least 40% of the population in all countries by the end of 2021." The document does not mention vaccine-related intellectual property rules, which activists view as key barriers to ramping up **production**, closing distribution gaps, and ending the pandemic.

Tamaryn Nelson, a health adviser at Amnesty International, said Sunday that the "vague promises" issued by the heads of the richest countries in the world are "an affront to those who have died, and to everyone still living in fear, of Covid-19."

"With just two months left of this year, only a radical change in approach will close the shameful vaccine gap," Nelson argued. "If we continue down our current path, the end of the pandemic will remain a glimmer on the horizon."

Environmentalists offered similarly scathing rebukes of the climate rhetoric and commitments that emerged from the G20 gathering, which concluded just ahead of the pivotal **COP26 talks** in Glasgow, Scotland.

In their final communique, G20 leaders—whose countries are responsible for more than 75% of global greenhouse gas emissions—"acknowledge the close link between climate and energy and commit to reduce emission intensity, as part of mitigation efforts, in the energy sector to meet timeframes aligned with the Paris temperature goal."

The declaration also includes a vow to "put an end to the provision of international public finance for new unabated coal power generation abroad by the end of 2021." However, to the dismay of climate campaigners, G20 leaders did not agree to a specific target date to end the use of coal as Australia and other countries stood in the way.

"Heads of state from the world's richest—and therefore most powerful—countries had the opportunity to radically reset multilateral politics and generate the commitments necessary to keep global heating below 1.5°C," said Namrata Chowdhary, chief of public engagement at 350.org. "Instead, they've made a contradictory and empty statement on climate: they've restated their commitment to keeping global heating below 1.5°C, but failed to commit to any action themselves, not even agreeing that their national climate plans must be improved. Right now, they have us on a path to nearly 3 degrees of heating. These so-called leaders need to do better."

Jennifer Morgan, executive director of Greenpeace International, echoed that sentiment, saying in a statement that "if the G20 was a dress rehearsal for COP26, then world leaders fluffed their lines."

"Governments must respond to the deadly warnings the planet is giving us and cut emissions drastically right now to stay in line with 1.5°C, and that requires stopping any new fossil fuel development," said Morgan. "At COP26, we will not let up and continue to push for more climate ambition, as well as the rules and actions to back it up. We need to stop all new fossil fuel projects immediately."

## **THE UNITED STATES MUST REJOIN THE GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION COMMUNITY**

In recent decades, the U.S. federal government, growing more and more isolationist, has abandoned its role in global conservation of biodiversity.

Subhankar Banerjee\*

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After a long stretch of public inattention, biodiversity conservation is a hot topic again, as if we had suddenly been jolted into awareness that our survival as a species, too, depends on the flourishing of all the other nonhuman beings who inhabit this Earth. Articles and op-eds are now filling print and online spaces. This, of course, is very encouraging, but no one is speaking about the elephant in the room or, rather, not in the room: the United States federal government is missing from the global biodiversity conservation community.

The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is moving full speed ahead on the creation of a post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework that is expected to be finalized and adopted at the UN Biodiversity Conference COP15, scheduled to take place, in-person, in Kunming, China, next year. The first part of the negotiations started on Monday, with meetings to take place virtually through Friday of this week. The United States, however, is not at the table helping to shape that Framework as an official member. Why?

Check the "List of Parties" page on the CBD website, and you'll find a long, numbered list of nation states, 196 in total. But there are also two unnumbered entries at the very bottom: the "Holy See" and then, dead last, "United States of America." The U.S. did sign the agreement in 1993, a year after the CBD was established at the historic 1992 UN Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, but never ratified it. Hence the ignominious bottom-of-the-pile spot it occupies today. And not only is the U.S. not a party to the Convention on Biological Diversity, it hasn't joined the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) either.

This is embarrassing. More importantly, it is also sad.

It is sad because the United States was the first country in the world to establish a federal agency for biodiversity conservation, the first to establish a national wildlife refuge, the first to establish a transnational migratory species conservation treaty, the first to help steer a hemispheric treaty to protect wild animals and plants across the Americas, and the first to establish a legal framework to protect species that are in peril. One cringes to see the United States now hunkered on that last, unnumbered spot on the "List of Parties" committed to biological diversity. To understand our current disgrace, a quick look back might prove helpful.

## **A brief history of U.S. leadership in biodiversity conservation**

At the turn of the twentieth century, alarmed by decades of industrial-scale massacres of wild birds to support the demands in the cities for plumes for the fashion industry and wild meat for game markets, the U.S. federal government and conservation advocates took action. In 1896, the Division of Biological Survey was established within the U.S. Department of Agriculture, with a mandate to study the nation's birds and other wildlife. Five years later, President Theodore Roosevelt established the Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge on the ancestral lands of the Miccosukee Tribe along Florida's Atlantic coast. This action provided the foundation of a conservation system that today comprises more than 150 million acres with nearly 570 national wildlife refuges strewn across the nation, including the imperiled Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, which harbors a vibrant biological nursery of global significance.

In 1905, the Division of Biological Survey was renamed the Bureau of Biological Survey. The same year saw the creation of the National Association of Audubon Societies for the Protection of Wild Birds and Animals. Five years later, the Bureau of Biological Survey published a 100-page report by one of its ornithologists, Wells W. Cooke's "Distribution and Migration of North American Shorebirds." Cooke's report, not the kind one would expect from a government scientist, is a curious but effective mix of scientific facts and passionate appeals for conservation. In the end, the efforts of the Bureau of Biological Survey and the grassroots campaigns organized by members of the Audubon Society were successful: in 1916, the United States and Great Britain (representing Canada) signed a treaty to protect migratory birds. Two years later, the U.S. Congress passed the landmark Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) of 1918.

In 1940, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service emerged from a fusion of the Bureau of Biological Survey and the Bureau of Fisheries and was placed within the Department of the Interior. The same year, at a gathering in Washington, DC, the United States and other nations across the Americas drafted and adopted the Convention on Nature Protection and Wildlife Preservation in the Western Hemisphere. Initially signed by 18 nations, with four more to follow in later years, the hemispheric treaty aimed to protect all wild animals and plants across the Americas.

In 1962, *Silent Spring* by Rachel Carson, a former biologist and writer with the Fish and Wildlife Service, brought critical attention to industrial chemicals that threaten the survival of birds and animals. Carson's bestselling book marked a turning point and a watershed moment for species conservation, which now was about so much more than protecting land and water. The worldwide campaign for environmental justice had begun.

In 1966, catalyzed in part by Carson's writing, the U.S. Congress passed the Endangered Species Preservation Act. Three years later, the Act was expanded and renamed the Endangered Species Conservation Act of 1969, which in turn became the basis for the 1973 Endangered Species Act. It is widely recognized that the Endangered Species Act and its precursors have inspired other nations to establish similar frameworks for species conservation. In 1973, the United States also convened a conference in Washington, DC, during which eighty nations agreed on the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

Thus, from the early twentieth century through 1973, the United States federal government spearheaded many historic species conservation initiatives, in conversation and cooperation with other nations, which led to binational, hemispheric, and international treaties to protect wild animals and plants with whom we share this Earth.

And then the story changed, and not for the better.

### **The U.S. abandons its role in global biodiversity conservation**

In recent decades, the U.S. federal government, growing more and more isolationist, has abandoned its role in the global conservation about biodiversity. Yet the biodiversity crisis, which includes the extinction of species and rapid decline of populations, has not abated. It is just as severe, just as consequential, and just as difficult to mitigate as the climate crisis. Both are intensifying, and both are caused by human action (and, exacerbated by inaction).

On September 29, the U.S. Department of the Interior announced that the agency is proposing to remove 23 species from the Endangered Species list and preparing to declare those species extinct, a sad awakening. Nearly 3 billion birds have died in the U.S. since 1970, with a 53% decline in populations for grassland birds and 37% decline for shorebirds. What is not so widely known, however, is that the United States ranks #7 globally in terms of the number of threatened species, with 1,851 species currently in peril in the U.S., according to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

While the "America the Beautiful" conservation initiative of the Biden-Harris administration is certainly admirable, we can no longer afford to limit our efforts to what is happening within our boundaries. The United States must immediately end its isolationist approach and rejoin the global biodiversity conservation community.

If there is one lesson we have learned from the no-end-in-sight coronavirus pandemic, it is this: there must be cooperation among nations and with the United Nations. The climate crisis requires that we work together, and so does biodiversity.

### **The three turning points of modern biodiversity conservation**

As I see it, modern biodiversity conservation has three distinct turning points. The first two are marked not so much by the severity of the biodiversity crisis observed at the time but rather by the significant actions that conservation advocates and governments took to mitigate the loss of nonhuman lives. The first turn—the dawn of modern biodiversity conversation—happened at the turn of the twentieth century and remained focused primarily on protection of land and water and banned the massacre of wild birds for commercial purposes. The second turning point, the publication of *Silent Spring* in 1962, redirecting our attention to the impact of industrial chemicals on the biodiversity crisis, warned us that destroying the web of life would mean destroying ourselves, which provided a foundation for environmental justice.

We have now reached a third turning point. What makes this moment so distinctive, again, is not so much the intensifying biodiversity crisis itself and its drivers, including massive

habitat loss and climate change, which are very concerning of course, but rather the promise of a new model of biodiversity conservation.

The most spirited, and most acrimonious, global debates are being triggered by different approaches to biodiversity conservation. While western ecologists dream about setting aside "protected areas" (e.g. the Harvard entomologist E. O. Wilson's "Half-Earth" project), many Indigenous human rights activists and their allies denounce that approach as "fortress conservation" and illuminate its cruel history: the evictions of Indigenous and marginalized peoples from their homelands, the criminalization of their traditions, the destruction of their food security, the severing of sacred relations they enjoy with their nonhuman kin, and the extrajudicial murders of defenders of the environment and ancestral lands. These activists and human rights institutions now demand a new, rights-based approach to biodiversity conservation.

In August, the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment issued a policy brief, "Human rights-based approaches to conserving biodiversity: equitable, effective and imperative," which offers a thoughtful critique of the "fortress conservation" model. In light of this significant brief, it is imperative that the United States rejoin the UN Human Rights Council, from which the country withdrew three years ago.

We have a historic opportunity to turn a corner in the global biodiversity conversation and to develop a more just model that, while it takes what it can from western science, doesn't slight the voices of those who have been stewards of their environments for centuries.

Environmental organizations like Defenders of Wildlife in the United States are stepping up to meet this third turning point. As I write, Defenders is facilitating a national bi-lingual (English / Spanish) student letter campaign calling on President Biden to establish a National Biodiversity Strategy and a whole-of-government approach to mitigate the biodiversity crisis. Each nation that is a Party to the Convention on Biological Diversity develops a national biodiversity strategy. The youth-led letter campaign, then, is also, laying a foundation for the U.S. to ratify the Convention on Biological Diversity.

We should all be supporting these efforts and, the Biden administration should take heed of them and not only act but also build on them. Right now, the U.S. is uniquely positioned to reclaim its leadership role in biodiversity conservation, with Madame Secretary Deb Haaland, the first Indigenous cabinet secretary, at the helm of the U.S. Department of the Interior. Hailing from Pueblo of Laguna in New Mexico, Secretary Haaland cares deeply about biodiversity conservation, and environmental equity and justice. Occupying such an influential post, she can aid President Biden and provide the necessary leadership to bring the United States back into the global biodiversity conservation community. At the same time, she may also act as a bridge builder between the two models of biodiversity conservation: the rights-based approach to conservation of Indigenous activists and the protected area model proposed by western ecologists.

Three decades ago this month, the first National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit was held in Washington, DC. At that gathering, the participants drafted and adopted the "Principles of Environmental Justice". I foresee that before long there will be a

similar but expanded gathering where the participants would draft and adopt a "Principles of Multispecies Justice" to mitigate the intensifying biodiversity crisis—a set of principles to protect our nonhuman relatives and also the relations the Indigenous and other ecosystem peoples have built with their nonhuman kin.

In summary, to advance a more just biodiversity conservation agenda at this third turning point, at a minimum, four actions need to be taken, three by the United States government and one by the global community. The United States needs to ratify the Convention on Biological Diversity; needs to join the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals; and needs to rejoin the UN Human Rights Council. And the global community, with the U.S. included, need to come together and draft and adopt a Principles of Multispecies Justice, which could then shape a more just Global Biodiversity Framework. The process that the UN Convention on Biological Diversity has so far followed, to develop the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework draft, appears to have been largely top-down and rushed and adopted a "conservation as usual" model. The CBD needs to slow down and make a "dramatic departure" from its current path and expand its model of biodiversity conservation to also include rights-based approaches (and, not merely as token for the sake of inclusion but as equal to the other approaches), as has been urged by the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment in the recent policy brief.

This is truly an auspicious moment for biodiversity conservation. Madame Secretary Haaland, please don't miss this opportunity.

\*Subhankar Banerjee works closely with Indigenous Gwich'in and Iñupiat community members and environmental organizations to protect significant biological nurseries in Arctic Alaska. Author of *"Arctic National Wildlife Refuge: Seasons of Life and Land"* (Mountaineers Books, 2003), and editor of *"Arctic Voices: Resistance at the Tipping Point"* (Seven Stories Press, 2013), Subhankar is currently completing two books: coeditor (with T.J. Demos and Emily Eliza Scott) of *"Routledge Companion to Contemporary Art, Visual Culture and Climate Change"* (Routledge, Spring 2021), and coauthor (with Ananda Banerjee) of *"Biological Annihilation"* (Seven Stories Press, Spring 2022). Subhankar serves as the founding Director of

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## **SECURING LAND TENURE FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DIRECTLY COMBATS CLIMATE CHANGE**

Monica Coc Magnusson\*

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As world leaders head to Glasgow, Scotland, for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of Parties 26 (COP26), the global community turns its attention to climate change, potential solutions, and how to financially resource these efforts. However, for efforts to be meaningful and effective, a true and authentic



analysis of actions taken in the last decade or more, what works, what doesn't, is imperative. Governments and citizens alike must do a self-analysis – we must ask the difficult questions such as - have we truly changed our reckless ways towards Mother Nature, and are we listening and taking into consideration the input of those communities that are most affected by climate change?

Indigenous Peoples make up 6.2 percent of the global population and Indigenous managed lands are home to about 80 percent of the world's biodiversity. Indigenous Peoples manage or hold tenure over 25 percent of the world's land surface and manage at least 24 percent (54,546 MtC) of the total carbon stored above ground in the world's tropical forests, a sum greater than 250 times the amount of carbon dioxide emitted by global air travel in 2015. Areas titled to Indigenous communities have been shown to store 36 percent more carbon per hectare than public conservation land. According to an analysis by the World Resources Institute, by securing Indigenous land rights in Bolivia, Brazil, and Colombia alone, we could avoid the release of up to 59 megatons of carbon emissions every year — the equivalent of taking 9 to 12 million passenger vehicles off the road. The 2019 IPBES report found that between 65 to 75 percent of the Earth's surface has been significantly altered by human actions. However, on average, these trends have been less severe or are avoided entirely in areas held or managed by Indigenous Peoples and local communities. Leading climate researchers have concluded that “[there is] an urgent need to make collective tenure security a critical part of emission reduction strategies. Empowering forest peoples to continue their historical role as stewards of the environment is essential for stabilizing Earth's climate.” When Indigenous Peoples have rights to their lands, they are able to steward these lands in ways that prevent fossil fuel extraction, maintain carbon-capturing forests, ensure soil regeneration and carbon capture through traditional agriculture and agroecology, and protect biodiversity. The gap between recognized and unrecognized land rights points to significant opportunities to scale-up the protection of Indigenous lands.

The science is clear—Indigenous communities are critical in reversing the climate crisis. Indigenous Peoples have long been viewed as victims of the effects of climate change, but in reality, they are agents of climate solutions and environmental conservation. The consequences of climate change in Latin America may differ from those in Africa or Asia, but one thing remains true: local resilience requires local traditional knowledge. We cannot address a global crisis without focusing on local, place-based solutions. Supporting Indigenous communities at the local level supports and enriches the ecosystem in that region, and the health of that regional ecosystem impacts that of surrounding ecosystems. This strengthens the interconnected and interdependent web of ecosystems (or web of life), and Indigenous Peoples' traditional knowledge is the catalyst for the climate change mitigation our world desperately needs. From traditional Indigenous home design to traditional fire management, from agro-pastoralists to agroecology and agroforestry methods, Indigenous Peoples have lived in reciprocal balance with their environments for millennia and continue to do so up to this day. Therefore, we must do everything that we can to support, encourage, and safeguard Indigenous People's stewardship of their territories.

*“As a young person, land tenure security is important for the survival of future generations because we are just borrowing from them, it ensures that we continue our traditions - ancestral connections,” says Florenio Xuc, a young Q'eqchi farmer and university student from Indian Creek, Toledo Belize.*

In Belize, Indigenous Peoples make up about 11.3 percent of the population, the majority of whom are in southern Belize, particularly the Mopan and Q'eqchi Mayas. Belize is a small Central American country that politically aligns itself with Caribbean countries. Belize, like small island countries in the Caribbean, has been hit hard by the climate crisis, as described in its recent Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) submission ahead of COP 26. While Belize is not a grave contributor to greenhouse gas emissions, it could do more to demonstrate leadership in fighting climate change and mitigate its effects on local communities.

One way to do this would be by strengthening institutional and legal frameworks related to conservation, anti-corruption, land-related laws, and above all the respect for the rule of law. In 2015, the Highest Appellate Court in Belize, the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) rendered a landmark decision that affirmed the rights of the Maya Peoples of Southern Belize to their lands and territories. The 2015 court order reaffirmed that the 38 Q'eqchi and Mopan Maya Indigenous communities of southern Belize have rights to the lands they have customarily used and occupied. The court affirmed that these traditional land rights constitute property equal in legitimacy to any other form of property under Belizean law. However, enacting this order remains a challenge: six years later, implementation efforts are moving too slowly and the government has shown a lack of compliance under certain sections of the consent order.

Understanding that titling and protecting Indigenous stewardship of their lands is an urgent climate solution, the government of Belize has an opportunity to demonstrate leadership on climate change by complying with its court mandate to provide justice in formally titling lands used and occupied by Maya Peoples. Lands used and occupied by Indigenous Peoples in the southern part of Belize remain one of the most forested areas of the country. The Sarstoon-Temash National Park, a mix of broadleaf, wetland, and mangrove forest, which sits on ancestral Indigenous territory contains a rich biodiversity of birds, mammals, reptiles, and fish and insects endemic to the region, and includes certified Ramsar wetlands and undisturbed red mangrove forests, crucial sinks for carbon. Indigenous villages included within the lands titled under the Caribbean Court of Justice order act as essential buffer zones to protect these lands.

However, Belize's lack of respect for the rule of law by its failure to quickly and fully implement court-mandated land rights, coupled with outdated land policies, has a direct negative impact on the environment and Indigenous communities. Securing land tenure and land security or the lack thereof undeniably contributes to deforestation. Deforestation results in the loss of habitat for animals, plants, and biodiversity as a whole. It also causes soil erosion and flooding all of which has a direct impact on Indigenous Peoples' ability to grow and manage their own food systems, hunt, gather cultural significant materials in the forest to support their livelihoods and sustenance, as their ways of being are intimately intertwined with the biodiversity that surrounds them. For the climate, it means an increase in greenhouse gases. If Indigenous communities are not able to access food, their very existence is at stake. Because forested land is often assumed to be unclaimed land, increasingly community members in Belize feel pressure to clear lands in the hopes that by doing so they can protect their claims. For instance, in my Indigenous community of Laguna, some community members have been forced to clear land because a neighboring non-native village is encroaching on their collective lands, claiming that the government of Belize gave them permission through leases to occupy portions of the collective lands owned by Laguna. A minority of community members feel that if they clear the land, the outsiders will not occupy those lands. Thankfully, the majority feels that land is to be

used responsibly, clearing only when necessary, and allowing areas to lay fallow. In the case of non-native communities in Belize, lands are often leased from the government. However, with lands leased from the government, the policy is that forested areas must be “developed” or face the risk of leases being revoked. This undoubtedly is a big motivation for those leasing land to clearcut the land or else be seen as anti-development.

Simple policy changes related to the definition of “development” in respect of leased lands, along with good faith implementation of the affirmed rights of the Maya people in southern Belize to their collective rights to their territories would be an encouraging and meaningful way for Belize to illustrate that it is serious about mitigating its effects on climate change. Paragraph four of the consent order requires it to keep third parties from interfering with the use and enjoyment of these lands and in so doing clearing would not be necessary as in the case of people clearing land in the hopes of protecting it. Despite these challenges, Maya managed areas remain the most intact and forested. Again, it is imperative to note that when Indigenous Peoples have rights to their lands, they use and occupy these lands in ways that prevent fossil fuel extraction, maintain carbon-capturing forests, ensure soil regeneration and overall protect biodiversity.

If Belize and the global community are serious about effectively combating climate change, then they should recognize that management of traditional lands and territories by Indigenous Peoples provides climate and conservation benefits for all living things. In his address before the UN General Assembly recently, the Prime Minister of Belize acknowledged that “Climate change is real...Mother Nature is rebelling and that we can do better.” He is correct and Belize can start by implementing the Maya land rights order with much haste, and goodwill. Belize must implement Maya land rights order with haste and strengthen conservation efforts in a meaningful way if it is truly determined about combating climate change as it says it is. Furthermore, there are many opportunities global leaders can begin to implement to support Indigenous leadership, stewardship, and land tenure. For example, member states, local and municipal governments, private companies, and other institutions should adopt and operationalize the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). Applying a rights-based approach following the principles of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) and self-determination are essential to mitigating climate change and securing Indigenous land tenure.

Indigenous Peoples are on the frontlines of climate change because they are the most marginalized and discriminated against. Indigenous Peoples are the best experts of their environments because they hold millennial-old knowledge of how to care for all living things in their territories. As we look to the future, Indigenous rights, stewardship, and land tenure must be recognized, resourced, and respected. Through more Indigenous leadership and land management will bring biodiversity protection, reduction in CO2 emissions, and an enhancement in natural carbon removal. If the global community is committed to successfully fighting climate change, then it must include the voices and participation of Indigenous Peoples.

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## TURNING AWAY FROM FOSSIL FUELS: LESSONS FROM THE ANTI-APARTHEID MOVEMENT

*Taking the fight directly to corporations — many of which are more powerful than governments — can be incredibly effective.*

Donna Katzin\*

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On September 9, Harvard University President Larry Bacow heralded the university's commitment to shift its \$41.9 billion endowment — the largest in the world — to “a portfolio of investments that support the transition to the green economy.” Two weeks later, September 23, Boston University announced a similar commitment.

The rhetorical battle over turning away from investments in companies contributing to climate change, it seems, has been won.

These moves came after more than a decade of broad-based campaigns against fossil-fuel investments, which at Harvard included petitions, protests, a legal complaint to the Massachusetts Attorney General, and storming the field during a Harvard-Yale football game.

And yet, as activists learned in the decades-long campaigns to disinvest from apartheid in South Africa, the implementation of commitments was often limited by fine-print qualifications or loopholes. Despite legitimate celebration of new momentum, many questions remained unanswered, as detailed in an analysis in *Harvard Magazine*.

The real test of success must be to what extent resources are actually removed from fossil-fuel production and reinvested in renewable energy.

On that front, Big Oil — like the planet — is beginning to feel the heat.

On one day in May, for example, climate campaigners won major victories at Exxon/Mobil's and Chevron's shareholder meetings, shortly after a Dutch court ordered Royal Dutch Shell to reduce its 2019 carbon emissions by 45 percent by 2030. Increasingly, investors themselves are recognizing the market risks involved in fossil fuel production. Some companies themselves are beginning to diversify their portfolios into renewable energy.

Yet, as of 2020, only seven energy sector companies had pledged to achieve net-zero emission targets. And despite the fact that renewable energy is cheaper, the fossil-fuel industry is still receiving a massive \$6 trillion dollars in government subsidies, according to the IMF.

As the COP26 climate summit prepares to open in Glasgow on October 31, to evaluate progress toward the goals of achieving net-zero GHG emissions and limiting the rise in our atmosphere's temperature to 1.5oC above preindustrial levels by 2050, the odds of success are

still small. In August, the UN issued its latest UN Climate Change Report, which the UN Secretary General called a “code red for humanity.”

Yet cumulative pressures can reach a turning point, producing a cascade of effects. Many of us who utilized shareholder activism as part of broader campaigns decades ago recall the days when a 3 percent vote, permitting shareholders to resubmit their resolutions the following year, seemed an insurmountable hurdle. And the oil lobby appeared unshakable.

In New York City, during the anti-apartheid movement, activists led by the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility (ICCR) and American Committee on Africa (ACOA) challenged Shell, Chevron, and Mobil Oil for supplying oil to apartheid South Africa — “fueling apartheid.” Together we galvanized support for the international boycott of Shell Oil and launched the ImMOBILize

Apartheid Coalition to press the companies to stop supplying oil to South Africa until apartheid was no more. We supported anti-apartheid shareholder resolutions, along with frequent demonstrations outside Mobil’s 42nd Street Manhattan headquarters and at Mobil-sponsored events, until the company withdrew its \$400 million in assets from South Africa.

Elsewhere, other international struggles opposed the corporate quest for oil and fought to uphold peoples’ rights, such as the Ogonis’ campaign in Nigeria to protect their land, livelihoods, and lives from Shell Oil, and win justice for its collaboration in the murder of Ogoni leaders, including writer Ken Saro-Wiwa. Such campaigns highlighted the disproportionate threat of Big Oil and climate change to the planet’s most vulnerable communities of color and food systems.

In the anti-apartheid movement, one of the major turning points occurred in 1985, when Chase Manhattan, one of South Africa’s major creditor banks, refused to roll over its maturing loans to South Africa — threatening an international “run on the banks” that South Africa could not afford and sought to head off by declaring a moratorium on debt repayments. The Chase Manhattan moment exponentially increased economic pressures on business and government and intensified corporate campaigns and sanctions that hastened the country’s first national democratic elections nine years later.

In 1994, many of South Africa’s supporters turned from *disinvesting* from apartheid to *reinvesting* in the new democracy through organizations like Shared Interest, which for 27 years has guaranteed South and Southern African bank loans to businesses, farms, and housing builders in low-income Black communities, benefiting 2.3 million people.

As more wealth is concentrated in fewer and larger companies, many of which are actually larger than some national governments, there is even more potential for corporate campaigns to add to the momentum for change from broader campaigns.

The environmental movement draws strength and urgency from the undeniable consequences already being felt not only in the most vulnerable countries but also in rich

countries — depicted daily in the world’s media through uncontrollable wildfires and refugees from hurricanes, cyclones, floods, and drought. Spiraling racism and a virus that knows no borders compound damage and reinforce the need to take action.

But the positive vision of a fossil-fuel-free world can and should be sold not only to activists already receptive to a Green New Deal. It also makes sense in terms of hard-headed business logic, which can be understood by corporate leaders who are willing to think long-term rather than only of immediate profits.

As the Carbon Tracker initiative recently pointed out, the narrative of necessary pain to avert climate disaster has been made totally obsolete by the rapidly declining costs of renewable energy. Countries and companies alike must recognize the change for their own advantage, or be left behind by technological innovation.

Coordinated international campaigning of all kinds is essential to accelerate the pace. But the convergence of moral urgency and technological potential provides an opportunity that we must not fail to leverage by exerting unrelenting pressure on those in places of power to match words with action.

Historical turning points are most often visible only in hindsight rather than in the moment.  
This can be one of them.

*\*Donna Katzin is the founding executive director of Shared Interest, which she led for 26 years. This article is based on her essay “From Disinvestment to Reinvestment, published by the U.S.-Africa Bridge Building Project.*

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### **EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL: STEP FORWARD, BACKWARD, OR SIDEWAYS?**

*Europe is ahead of much of the world in combining decarbonization with an equitable shift to clean energy. And it's still not enough.*

John Feffer\*

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On paper, European countries are taking climate change very seriously. Finland has pledged to be carbon neutral by 2035, Austria by 2040, and both Germany and Sweden by 2045. A number of European countries—Denmark, France, Hungary—have even put their commitments into law.

These commitments are all the more serious because European countries have some of the worst carbon footprints in the world. In terms of per-capita emissions, Germany is number seven at 10.4 metric tons per person while France clocks in at number 14 with 6.6 tons (which is

also roughly the EU average). As a whole, the European Union is the third largest emitter of carbon dioxide after China and the United States.

The carbon neutrality pledges are also within the realm of the possible. After all, the EU has been fairly successful at cutting emissions, having reduced levels by nearly 20 percent from 1990 to 2017. The United States, by contrast, increased emissions over that time by 0.4 percent while China's ballooned by over 350 percent.

In July 2021, the European Union unveiled its "Fit for 55" plan by which the 27-member regional bloc aims to reduce its collective emissions by 55 percent by 2030. "This demand was made by the European Parliament," notes economist Ann Pettifor of Policy Research in Macroeconomics. "The European Commission offered a 30 percent and then a 40 percent reduction. The parliament kept ratcheting up the number to 55 percent.

This is wholly inadequate, it's not fast enough because we should be aiming at 2025 not 2030. But this target is being embedded in rules and institutions—and those institutions apply across 27 countries."

This carbon reduction plan is part of a larger "European Green Deal" first introduced in December 2019 that promises "economic growth decoupled from resource use." This larger plan, which European member states are still debating, envisions increasing the share of renewables to 40 percent of overall energy use, renovating 35 million buildings to make them more energy efficient while creating 160,000 new Green jobs in the construction sector, and boosting organic farming as part of a "Farm to Fork" program that aims to make agricultural production, distribution, and consumption more sustainable.

All of this will, of course, cost a lot of money. The EU has pledged to spend as much as 30 percent of its long-term budget, which would amount to around \$700 billion, to climate action. As part of the plan, a Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism would effectively apply a tariff on carbon-intensive goods coming into the EU. A Just Transition Mechanism of around \$85 billion over six years would help poorer regions of the bloc meet the plan's goals. Within this mechanism, a "public sector loan facility" would combine grants from the EU budget with financing from the European Investment Bank

But as Clara Bourgin, the policy and advocacy officer of Counter Balance points out, much of the money that the EU has promised is really just old money under new labels: "The only two new things—the just transition fund and the public sector loan facility—despite their novelty and added value, are of very limited size. They're more like pilot initiatives than significant investments."

Integral to paying for the European Green Deal is a heavy reliance on private finance as well as modifications to the EU's existing Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS). Established in 2005 and currently the world's largest carbon market, the ETS covers factories, power stations, and the airline industry. The Fit for 55 plan proposes to include emissions from ships and, in a separate new market, road transport and the building sector. The higher price for carbon that will

likely result has divided the EU along the east-west axis, particularly since eastern Europe is more heavily dependent on fossil fuel than the west.

“Including housing and transport into the ETS may sound like a good thing,” adds Dusan Pajovic, the coordinator of the Green New Deal for Europe project of Democracy in Europe Movement 2025 (DiEM25). “But common people will feel this on their skin. They will see it in their heating bills and at the gas station when they pump gas into their cars. Once again, common people will pay for the sins of big corporations.”

European policymakers have repeatedly acknowledged the scale of the climate crisis and the urgency of acting sooner rather than later. But however ambitious the European Green Deal might look on paper, the reality is that is insufficient. Implementing this landmark initiative might well be a victory, even an impressive victory when compared to what China, the United States, or Russia are doing. But given the timeline for cutting carbon emissions and the increasing likelihood of a catastrophic increase in global temperature, it’s not a big enough victory.

As the executive director of War on War Asad Rehman succinctly concludes, “Winning slowly is the same as losing.”

### **Pluses and Minuses**

Unlike other parts of the world, European countries are acting in concert in response to climate change. The European Green Deal is a regional approach that coordinates among 27 countries.

“What we most miss in this global geopolitical state of rising nationalism and authoritarianism is the failure of the international community to work together and coordinate,” Ann Pettifor notes. “We saw that most tragically through the pandemic when the so-called international community absolutely refused to work together to get through this crisis. If only Africa had such rules bringing all the countries in Africa around a plan for decommissioning greenhouse gas emissions. The same for Asia.”

Europe is laudably “providing the institutions and frameworks within which countries operate and will be held accountable,” she adds.

European initiatives also reinforce the seriousness of the problem. Climate denial remains powerful in countries like the United States and Brazil. By contrast, “more than 90 percent of Europeans think that climate change is a real problem that needs to be solved thoroughly,” points out Dusan Pajovic.

And yet, he continues, the European Green Deal is not enough to keep temperatures to below the 2-degree-Celsius threshold much less the 1.5 degrees that scientists agree is the minimum to avoid the worst effects of climate change.



Meanwhile, the European Green Deal does not live up to its name. “The European Commission had at least the decency of dropping the word *new* when they co-opted the term Green New Deal,” Pajovic argues. “Indeed, *new* it is not. But nor is it *green*. As to the word *deal*, we can only understand it as a tribute to the backroom dealing between Brussels career politicians and well-paid lobbyists that brought this disastrous plan to life.”

The European package, for instance, bears little resemblance to the job-creation element of its erstwhile antecedent, the New Deal of Franklin Delano Roosevelt in the 1930s. “The European Commission says it will open up 160,000 new Green jobs in infrastructure,” Pajovic reports. “But compared to the EU’s working population, it’s basically nothing, only about 0.07 percent. FDR opened up 20 million jobs between 1933 to 1935.” Nor does the new plan address public housing or the widespread problem of homelessness.

Finally, the European Green deal “doesn’t take into consideration the historic injustices of Europe toward the Global South,” Pajovic points out. “The EU talks vaguely about allocating \$250-300 billion in a decade, which is nothing. Fossil fuel gets \$11 million in subsidies every minute. When we say we need more money, they say it’s not possible. But it’s possible when they bail out banks, big corporations, and fossil fuel companies.” “We are the continent with the most resources in the world,” he concludes. “We must lead this global transition.”

### **Following the Money**

The European Union is attempting to funnel both public and private money into its proposed economic and environmental transformation. In mid-October, for instance, the EU issued its first “green bond” in the expectation that it would bring in \$14 billion for its Green Deal budget. Instead, the bond was wildly oversubscribed to the amount of \$156 billion.

“The private sector is very fragile and insecure and desperate to get its hands on safe collateral,” Ann Pettifor explains. “The safest asset is not London property or the queen’s racehorse or a Van Gogh. It’s not even oil or gas any longer. The safest asset is government debt like the EU’s.”

Safe collateral that can provide a reliable return on investment is thus a tremendous opportunity. “Bonds are only that valuable because they are backed by taxpayers,” she continues. “It’s the general flow of income into the EU governments and into the EU commission that makes their promise to pay in the future on that bond so incredibly valuable to the private finance sector. This a kind of citizen power. We taxpayers should be demanding that those bonds, especially Green Bonds, should be issued with certain terms and conditions. You can access those bonds, but only if you’re not invested in fossil fuel. But right now, the European Central Bank and the Federal Reserve are very relaxed about accepting dirty bonds from fossil fuel companies as an asset in exchange for liquidity.”

The financial system is the spigot that keeps the global economy running, so “unless we follow the pipeline and switch it off at the source, we will have difficulty reducing carbon

emissions,” she concludes. “We should be arguing that the private sector is the servant of the state, not the master.”

At first glance, Europe is putting together a considerable amount of money for its Green Deal. The Sustainable

Europe Investment plan expects to mobilize \$1 trillion by 2030. Around half this money will come directly from the EU budget, which will in turn trigger national co-financing of \$114 billion over the period 2021 to 2027. A guarantee fund called Invest EU will also spur public and private investment of \$279 billion. And the Just Transition Mechanism will assist poorer and more fossil-fuel-dependent areas keep pace with the rest of the EU.

Clara Bourgin identifies three main structural flaws in this financial architecture. First of all, it’s “undersized,” she says. “The \$1 trillion is mostly a political announcement. It doesn’t reflect what the EU will invest. Most of the money is leveraged from the private sector by investment mechanisms.” A lot of the money is also just old wine in new bottles. The Invest EU fund, for instance, is simply a continuation of the older European Fund for Strategic Investment.

Second, the plan shows “a strong bias in favor of private finance,” she continues. “It is using public investment to derisk private finance. It ignores that what we need for a just and equitable climate transition will not bring returns on investment in the short term.” Such a channeling of public funds into private equity runs the risk of reinforcing the financialization of European economies and increasing inequalities within and between countries.

Finally, Bourgin notes, the entire plan is top-down and “it’s unlikely that decisions about loans and financial instruments will be taken in a transparent, accountable manner.”

### **Global Impact**

The EU wants to make Europe the first carbon-neutral continent and transform its economy at the same time. But the European Green Deal will also have substantial impact on the EU’s neighbors and trading partners.

For Asad Rehman, the EU’s initiatives must be understood in the context of an unjust, unequal world that, during the pandemic, “put the profits of big pharma ahead of the lives of people in the Global South.” He continues, “There is widespread recognition of the magnitude of this crisis facing humanity. It dwarfs everything we face. But there is a cognitive dissonance in terms of the scale of action needed that is matched by a shrugging of shoulders when you point out the responsibility of the rich.”

Rehman proposes four questions to ask of any climate plan to assess whether it’s just and sustainable, not simply for the region it covers but also for the majority of the world’s citizens.

- Does it keep to the 1.5 degree Celsius limit with everyone doing their fair share?
- Does it tackle economic inequality?
- Does it put well-being ahead of unsustainable growth?
- Does it undo embedded systems of racism, patriarchy, and economic injustice?

In order to keep below the 1.5-degree Celsius limit, the world has approximately 500 gigatons left in its carbon budget. “We will have burned through 89 percent of that budget by the end of this year,” Rehman explains. “That means we have a one in three chance of breaching the 1.5-degree guardrail.” Exceeding that limit, however, “will spiral into runaway climate change that will dwarf all the killer fires, droughts, and famines destroying the economies of the Global South. No one in the European Commission would countenance a policy for Europe that would put European citizens at that risk. Not one of those commissioners would board a train with a one in three chance of crashing. But that is exactly what is being sold to the Global South.”

At the same time, Rehman continues, “the EU continues to capture more of the remaining carbon budget, which amounts to a form of carbon colonialism, through more loopholes and offsets in carbon markets.” So, on the first test, the European Green Deal fails.

On the second test of addressing inequality, “while the EU talks about setting up a fund to tackle inequality *within* Europe, neither the European Green Deal nor Europe’s other external policies see the need to tackle *global* inequality as a cornerstone of policy,” Rehman observes.

On the question of growth, the EU continues to pour billions of dollars into fossil fuel subsidies and expanding fossil fuel infrastructure. European financial institutions continue to “provide financial oxygen to the fossil fuel industry,” he notes. “We need immediate new regulations on corporations to meet the 1.5 degree limit.” Meanwhile, the new Green energy infrastructure will increase the use of new metals. “We’re looking at an estimated doubling of current extraction,” he reports, “while meeting climate targets will require cutting extraction in half.”

The Global North is responsible for the lion’s share of carbon emissions historically, with the EU alone contributing 22 percent of the total from 1751 to 2017. So, Europe has a special responsibility to address the climate crisis not just within its own region but globally. But so far, the EU has not ponied up the money. “According to the UN, the finance needed to meet the climate goal and the Sustainable Development Goals is \$1.4 trillion a year,” Rehman notes. “For a decade, the promise of \$100 billion for the Climate Fund has still been unmet.” Indeed, the flow of money continues to go in the opposite direction, with \$24 in debt repayment and other funds going from the Global South to the north for every dollar that goes the other way. This is a “civilizational crisis,” Rehman concludes. “The poor pay the heaviest price while the EU seeks to normalize walls around Europe.”

### Next Steps

The European Green Deal is still a work in progress. The European Commission presented its “Fit for 55” package in July 2021, and debate over the details is ongoing. However, it is not easy as a citizen or an NGO to intervene in the decision-making process and influence outcomes. Activists then have a choice: to push the European Green Deal toward more just and sustainable outcomes or organize in favor of an alternative. “We work as a movement to push institutions,” Dusan Pajovic says of DiEM25, “but we can’t push a rotten structure to do something good.” DiEM25 calls for carbon neutrality by 2030, not 2050, and is also urging that an annual five percent of European GDP go to Green Bonds, which

would generate around 750 billion euros. On related issues, it is also pushing for a shorter work week as part of a general push for degrowth and an end to arms exports so that countries can redirect their budgets to tackling the climate emergency.

At the same time, DiEM25 has outlined a comprehensive alternative: a Green New Deal for Europe. This plan has three pillars: a public works program funded through public financing, a regulatory framework that aligns European law with the scientific consensus on climate change, and an independent commission that researches, monitors, and advises EU policymakers on how they can advance the cause of environmental justice across Europe and the world.

This alternative, he emphasizes, involves citizens directly through deliberative democracy via people's assemblies. It also relies on the principle of subsidiarity: "Ursula [von der Leyen] in Brussels can't know better than people in Portugal about what to do here in Lisbon," he argues.

Counter Balance, too, has specific recommendations. When it comes to decarbonization, "we should introduce strict social and environmental conditions on all the financing connected to the European Green Deal," Clara Bourgin says. "There should be no more financing of fossil fuels, but also we should make sure that meaningful conditions on human rights and workers' rights are embedded in the financing."

Also critical is putting public finance at the heart of the initiative so as to take investments out of the hands of the private sector and direct them toward the public interest. "We need to shrink private market capital and rechannel private wealth into public mechanisms that can act progressively outside the pure market," she continues. "Instead of giving big credit lines to banks, we should fund cooperatives in the social and solidarity sector. We should set up community-led banks that invest directly in local and sustainable communities."

Part of this effort must include great transparency and monitoring of institutions. "We need to fundamentally reform institutions like the European Investment Bank, the Sustainable European Investment Plan, and the national public banks so that these institutions can become easier to control democratically and so that they prioritize quality over quantity," she concludes.

To advance these alternatives will require popular mobilization. Ann Pettifor cites polls in the United States that a strong majority of the American public wants federal money invested in building clean energy infrastructure. "But these masses haven't been mobilized enough to challenge the power of Wall Street, London, and Frankfurt," she notes. "When you drive into a garage to buy oil, there is something tangible there. You can touch an oil company or a fracking outfit. You can't see finance or its immense power. What you can see is the role of the taxpayer in backing the private sector and the role the public sector also plays in providing support."

One sector of the world's population has, in fact, massed on the street. "The children have mobilized," Pettifor notes. "They have a leader, and Greta Thunberg is exercising extraordinary leadership that is inclusive. But why is it on the shoulders of children? Why haven't adults mobilized as well?" Pettifor wants to see a Parents for the Future movement, one

that draws people together into a large movement rather than simply into groups dedicated to ever purer missions. “We need to speak to the public in language that is accessible and that mobilizes,” she says. “The whole point of leadership is to be able to bend public opinion, even those hostile to us, behind progressive policy.”

Asad Rehman also emphasized the importance of mobilization, noting that individuals acting alone or as consumers can’t solve the climate crisis. Mobilization is also about power. “As Frederick Douglas famously said, ‘power concedes nothing without a demand. It never did, and it never will,’” Rehman recalls. “We know that to build power requires a movement of movements. We need a vision. We need to describe the world we want to create where people can see themselves in. We can’t tell people that everything is going to be all right. They’re going to hold onto what little they have. They know firsthand what deindustrialization and austerity means. They’ve been thrown onto the historical scrapheap.”

The climate strike that Thunberg initiated has been effective in this regard. “It moved the dial on climate in a couple years in ways that decades of activity by mainstream NGOs hasn’t,” Rehman acknowledges. “But it also comes on the back of many years of climate justice activism in the Global South. We need to do political education within our movements so that those hundreds of thousands of young people turning out on the street today understand what we’re fighting for. If we don’t provide the demands and the vision, the calls for action could easily veer into ecofascism. Young people in the recent German election didn’t just vote for Greens and die Linke, but also for the far right.”

What’s missing, he concludes, is solidarity. “Without that concept of solidarity being rebuilt we’re not going to get internationalism,” he says. “Without solidarity, climate action will only result in climate walls in the global north.”

“We need to connect our domestic demands to our international demands,” Asad Rehman concludes. “Too often they are separate. When we talk about public services, it should be about public services in Europe and globally. It’s not ‘or.’ It’s ‘and, together.’”

A concrete form of international solidarity is for the Global North to provide funds to the Global South to help with its carbon emission reductions. Dusan Pajovic views these funds as “reparations” for the historic and current injustices visited upon the Global South. Another concrete example of such solidarity is to transform trade rules so that they don’t disadvantage poorer countries. A third example is to restructure global supply chains so that production is decentralized and the poor don’t have to shoulder the burden of making manufacturing carbon-neutral. Toward that end, technology waivers, similar to those discussed around COVID-19 vaccines, are essential so that poorer countries can afford to access clean energy technology.

Ann Pettifor also advocates for solidarity, but one forged through a kind of environmental populism. “When the corporations realized the scale of what was coming, they decided to invent something called the ‘carbon footprint,’ which disperses responsibility for carbon among everyone. But the top percent—the north, the rich—are responsible for 50 percent of all emissions. Instead of carbon taxes that affect everyone, we should focus on getting the top one

percent or 10 percent to give up their frequent flyer privileges and their huge motor cars. The problem doesn't lie with Africa or the poor. It lies with the rich."

\*John Feffer is the director of Foreign Policy In Focus. This article is part of the new Global Just Transition project: <https://fpif.org/global-just-transition/>.

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## **THE CLIMATE CRISIS AND KOREA**

*The two Koreas cannot by themselves stop the climate crisis, but they can establish a model that the rest of the world can follow.*

John Feffer\*

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The new UN report on the climate crisis is truly frightening. The report tells us what we already know about the reasons for the current heat waves, flooding, forest fires, ice melt, and extreme weather events sweeping the planet. We humans are causing these changes, primarily by burning fossil fuels in our cars, planes, and factories.

The report also tells us what we perhaps don't know: that even if countries uphold their current pledges to reduce carbon emissions, it will only result in a one percent decrease in global emissions by 2030 (from 2010 levels). To make sure that the planet doesn't go past the point of no return, climate-wise, those global emissions must be cut by 50 percent before the end of this decade.

As UN chief António Guterres says, the new UN report is a "code red for humanity."

The climate crisis affects regions of the world differently. Huge forest fires are blazing in Siberia, Greece, and California. Ice loss in Greenland and Antarctica is contributing to a significant rise in sea levels that is encroaching on coastlines and threatening to sink a number of islands around the world. Germany recently experienced unprecedented rainfall that led to the inundation of several towns in the Rhine basin.

In Asia, the primary impact of climate change is on the monsoon cycle. Essentially, areas that traditionally get a lot of rain will get even more while dry regions will become even drier.

Just this month, record rainfall in central China produced flooding and mudslides that killed more than 300 people.

Korea has experienced the same catastrophes. Last summer, heavy rainfall swept through the middle of South Korea, flooding the city of Daejeon and even overflowing the banks of the Han in Seoul. It was the longest monsoon in seven years: 42 straight days of rain.

North Korea, too, went through heavy rains last summer. And now it is facing flooding once again. In the country's northeast, heavy rains have destroyed houses and farmland. At least 5,000 people have been evacuated from the flood zones.

For South Korea, climate change will largely be felt through extreme weather events, primarily flooding in certain areas and droughts in others. Tidal flats will disappear. Agriculture will be affected by rising temperatures and the influx of new insects. But with less than 5 percent of the population working in the agricultural sector and the country importing a lot of its food, the consequences will not be acute. South Korean agriculture can adapt.

In North Korea, however, climate change will have a devastating effect on the population's food security. The government has admitted that the country is now facing its "worst-ever" situation, which has been compounded by COVID-19 and the dramatic reduction of trade coming from neighboring China.

According to a recent report on security and climate risk in North Korea, "Climate projections indicate that areas of the South Hamgyong and North Pyŏngan provinces, which cultivate a combined 38% of the country's rice and 30% of its soybeans, will experience up to an additional 3 months of severe drought each year by 2035." In other areas, severe flooding will disrupt food production.

If this sounds familiar, it's exactly the same combination of drought and flooding that triggered North Korea's food crisis in the early 1990s, which led to the country's "Arduous March" of famine and institutional breakdown. The North Korean political and economic system is no better prepared today to deal with these systemic stresses than it was in the 1990s.

The two Koreas cannot by themselves stop the climate crisis. Right now, because of its rather low industrial and agricultural production, North Korea has a very small carbon footprint, comparable to that of Trinidad and Tobago. Since 1990, it has actually cut its carbon emissions by over 70 percent, though again this has not been a conscious choice but rather the byproduct of a steep economic decline.

South Korea, by contrast, is one of the top ten emitters of carbon in the world. It has taken steps to reduce its own emissions, promising to be carbon neutral by 2050. But even if Seoul abides by that pledge, it won't by itself arrest climate change.

But here's what the two Koreas can do. They can unite in the fight against global warming. They can compose a peninsular plan to transition together to a clean energy future. The two Koreas can put aside all the differences that divide them – the military confrontation, the vast economic gap, the enormous divergence in political systems – and focus instead on the common threat of climate change.

In this one category, North Korea actually has a certain advantage in that its carbon output right now is relatively low. Given a relatively modest amount of capital, North Korea can leapfrog more easily to a carbon-neutral economy.

South Korea is the one that needs to catch up by drastically reducing its carbon emissions. And it will cost a great deal more for its advanced economy to pivot. But South Korea also has the capital to help both halves of the peninsula make this transition.

In this way, the two Koreas won't by themselves transform the global economy. But by setting aside their myriad differences, North and South Korea can show the rest of the world that addressing the climate emergency must take precedence over all other disagreements. And if the two Koreas can effectively ignore the DMZ that divides the peninsula, it can show the way for the rest of the world to bridge the equally deep gap that separates the global North from the global South.

Cooperating on reopening the Kaesong Industrial Complex? Putting together a joint team for the Olympics?

These are worthy inter-Korean projects. But they just doesn't compare to the cooperation that's needed, immediately, to address the climate emergency that's adversely affecting the Korean peninsula and the world at large.

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### **CHINESE FOSSIL FUEL INVESTMENTS IN AFRICA**

*African countries need investments, China needs raw materials, and African activists are fed up with the resulting corruption and environmental damage.*

John Feffer\*

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China's relationship with Africa is multifaceted. The People's Republic of China (PRC) shares ideological bonds with many African countries because of early ties to anti-colonial struggles and through the Non-Aligned Movement. Every African country recognizes the PRC with the exception of eSwatini (Swaziland), which has diplomatic relations with Taiwan). Many African countries preserved trade relations with Beijing after the 1989 Tiananmen Square crackdown, and those commercial links have only grown stronger. China has been Africa's leading trading partner since surpassing the United States in 2009.

Many African governments seek Chinese assistance through the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) to bridge the continent's infrastructure gap, while China in turn seeks access to a number of key strategic resources, including fossil fuels, minerals, and also access largely untapped markets. In addition to being rich in natural resources, some African countries attract Chinese interest because of relatively cheap labor, poor governance, and lax environmental standards. In 2017, McKinsey reported that more than 10,000 Chinese companies are likely operating throughout Africa.

The amount of money involved is staggering. According to a 2021 report from the Shanghai University of International Business and Economics, China has since 2000 invested a total of \$47 billion throughout Africa (in 52 out of 54 countries), with new investments adding up to \$2.96 billion in 2020 (an increase of over \$200 million from the previous year). The vast



majority of Chinese investment—87 percent—has been concentrated in four sectors: energy, transport, metals, and real estate. China’s Export-Import Bank provides much of the financing for infrastructure projects in Africa, but a number of commercial banks have also established branches throughout the continent.

Yet, despite these numbers, Africa attracted only 2 percent of Chinese foreign investment in 2019.

The impact of Chinese economic interactions with Africa can also be measured at an individual level. “There are no individuals in Nigeria who don’t have Chinese goods,” reports Tijani Abdulkareem, the executive director of the Socio-Economic Research and Development Centre in Abuja. “It’s the food that they eat, the wristwatches they own, the clothes that they wear.”

China’s footprint in Africa, however, has caused considerable anger, resentment, and pushback from communities in and around the projects that China has financed, constructed, or promoted, particularly those involving extraction industries. Criticisms have focused on adverse environmental impacts, violations of labor laws and human rights, and corrupt practices.

In a webinar entitled *Voices from Africa: Activist Perspectives on Chinese Investments*, sponsored by the Africa Climate Justice Group, six representatives from civil society organizations around Africa provided their on-the-ground perspective on Chinese activities in mining and extraction in their community followed by commentary from an expert on Chinese investments in Africa. The following report is a synthesis of their presentations.

### **Infrastructure Projects**

China has invested in a number of high-profile infrastructure projects throughout the continent, including a \$7 billion oil pipeline in Niger, a \$1.3 billion port project in Cameroon, and a \$3.6 billion investment into the aluminum sector in Guinea. Many of these projects are designed to facilitate access to raw materials and speed their export via roads, rail, or port.

China is also off-shoring its manufacturing capacities: because of their negative environmental impact, to reduce China’s own carbon footprint, and to take advantage of lower labor costs and proximity to raw materials. Africa needs to create labor-intensive manufacturing at the same time that China is hoping to decrease that manufacturing.

In Nigeria, Tijani Abdulkareem points out, 218 Chinese firms are involved in everything from the construction industry to the food and beverage sector. Big-ticket infrastructure projects include the \$5.8 billion hydroelectric Mambilla Dam, a \$2.8 billion gas pipeline, a \$1.5 billion harbor complex, and a \$200 million airport serving Abuja.

In Guinea, reports Aboubacar Diallo of the Centre du Commerce in Conakry, China is providing \$20 billion in infrastructure funding in exchange for mining concessions, an agreement that will last from 2017 to 2036. China has already invested in several hydropower plants. But the focus of its interest now is access to critical ores like iron and bauxite as well as a refinery to turn that bauxite into aluminum and a port to export the metal. In exchange, China has pledged to

reconstruct a major road at the cost of \$2.1 billion, rebuild four universities at a cost of \$300 million, rehabilitate roads and sanitation in the capital of Conakry, and set up an electricity grid for \$250 million. Only the road has been started, however, and the other three major projects have been delayed.

One of the biggest proposed projects that China is spearheading on the continent is the Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone in the Limpopo region of South Africa, which the government approved in 2016. Contracts have been awarded to a subsidiary of the Chinese firm Shenzhen Hoi Mor and nine other Chinese companies totaling more than \$10 billion in investments. This industrial development zone will center around processing minerals such as chrome, manganese, and iron as well as the manufacture of cement and steel. Providing power to the zone is a proposed 3.3-gigawatt coal-fired plant.

In some African countries, however, infrastructure is conspicuously absent from the picture. Zimbabwe, mostly smaller scale Chinese companies have been involved in the mining sector. But as Farai Maguwu of the Centre for Natural Resource Governance in Harare points out, the Chinese “don’t build anything in the area. They simply dig and leave behind open pits. There’s no investment in education or in road infrastructure, which they destroy using their machinery.”

The experience in South Sudan, where China has been developing oil fields since the 1990s, has been similar. “The communities are supposed to benefit from the oil being produced in their area,” observes Pach Ayuen Pach of the Heart of Mother Earth Foundation. “It’s their right, but there are no good schools, no clean water, no roads, no hospitals, and nothing good for the community.”

### **Environmental Impact**

The environmental impact of Chinese investments depends on the nature of project, the behavior of Chinese firms, and the laws and enforcement of the host country. Chinese financing arms—the Ministry of Commerce, the Export-Import Bank—have environmental regulations on the books. But if you look closely, there are very few regulations and they largely apply to administrative processes. Chinese administrative agencies have to comply with regulations when they review investments, but there are no laws to force them to screen these investments. There are no Environmental Impact Assessment requirements, no requirement of disclosure of Chinese overseas conduct.

National environmental protection laws and oversight mechanisms vary widely across the continent. South Africa has perhaps the strongest environmental regulations on the books. For instance, NGO activists won a court case to shut down a proposed coal-fired plant in Mpumalanga province in July 2020. “In South Africa, we do have legislation that helps us stop carbon-intensive projects,” says David Tshidzumba of Save Our Limpopo Valley Environment. But so far activists have been unable to stop the Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone on the grounds of environmental impact, largely because such SEZs are exempt from the usual environmental regulations. South Africa, Tshidzumba explains, is a water-scarce country and the site of the SEZ “is one of the most water-scarce regions in the country.” The industrial zone will

need 80 million cubic liters of water per year, but it remains unclear where this water will come from. Also troubling is that the project will contribute a full 15 percent to South Africa's carbon budget even as the government has agreed to reduce carbon emissions. "If it goes ahead, South Africa will be on its backfoot," Tshidzumba continues. "And we'll probably see sanctions against South Africa because of this project." The Environmental Impact Assessment of the economic zone is still ongoing, but "the Chinese speak of the project as if it is already been given the go-ahead."

In Guinea, where Chinese investments have been concentrated in bauxite and iron industries, the mining has had tremendous impact on the land. "Local law requires restoration of the land," Aboubacar Diallo reports, "but none of it has been rehabilitated." Guinea also has mining laws that require compensation for land taken for such operations, yet companies have seized arable land and displaced people without providing compensation. Rice is the major crop, occupying nearly one-third of the arable land, but the discharge of lubricants and waste water from bauxite mining has compromised this food production. Dust from the mining has polluted the air, and there has been sound pollution as well from blasting and the use of heavy equipment. Sometimes the environmental impact stems from not only ostensibly legal projects but also illegal operations. Reporters in Nigeria, for instance, have exposed the pollution connected to illegal logging, fishing, and mining done either by Chinese entities or by local actors who then sell to Chinese firms. The impacts include "increased flooding, erosion, the extinction of animals and plants," says Tijani Abdulkareem. "Illegal logging denies communities sources of food and livelihood."

Illegal fishing and mining are a problem as well in Madagascar, where China is a major trade partner. "The Chinese use mercury for gold exploration even though it's prohibited," reports Volahery Andriamanantenansoa of the Center for Research and Support for Alternatives to Development—Indian Ocean. "The Malagasy government doesn't have the means to do anything about it."

But the principal mining interest China now has in Madagascar is rare earth minerals. Reducing the mining of these minerals in China itself, because of adverse effects on environment and health, Beijing is eager to find other sources of these critical inputs into high-tech products. In Madagascar, China expects to extract from 300-800 tons of rare earth minerals during the pilot phase of its extraction. But the removal of only one ton of such minerals generates 1,000 tons of contaminated water and 2,000 tons of toxic waste. Over the full lifetime of the project, which could be 40-50 years, that would total an astonishing 500 million tons of poisoned water and one billion tons of toxic waste. "This is simply catastrophic," Volahery says. The mining will have a devastating impact on the rich biodiversity of the region, adversely affect the tourism sector, and undermine key agricultural products like vanilla and coffee.

The mining company has "promised to use less devastating technique," she continues, "but they don't have experience in rare earth mining." And even though these companies are well aware of the environmental impact this kind of mining has had in China, they are turning a blind eye to the consequences in Madagascar.

In South Sudan, meanwhile, “the Chinese are not observing international environmental standards,” reports Pach Ayuen Pach, and their operations in the oil sector are “causing air, water, and soil pollution,” including the emission of gasses through diesel engine generators, the evaporation of gases from burrow pit, and the emission of unburned gasses at the field processing facilities. “The oil industry in South Sudan has left a landscape pocked with hundreds of open waste pits along with water and soil contaminated by toxic chemicals,” he concludes.

### **Labor Impact**

The infrastructure projects and mining concessions are supposed to generate not only revenue for African governments but also jobs for local workers. African countries like South Africa, Nigeria, and Namibia have the highest rates of unemployment in the world at 33-34 percent.

In many cases, Chinese firms have resisted hiring locally and has instead brought in their own workers from China. By the end of 2019, 182,000 Chinese were working Africa, many of them on construction projects. According to McKinsey, however, Chinese firms rely on Africans for nearly 90 percent of the jobs.

Conditions at those jobs vary. At one factory in Zimbabwe, Farai Maguwu reports, “workers allege that they are locked up during lunch hour. The Chinese say, ‘if we leave you free, you will steal.’ They are only released after lunch hour. We have also seen Chinese discharge firearms where workers are demanding a minimum wage.”

Pach Ayuen Pach has been tasked with monitoring health and safety conditions for workers at the UNI Afro oil company in South Sudan. The Chinese company has largely ignored the South Sudanese labor laws. So, for instance, workers labor nine hours a day, seven days a week, 30 days a month. “Employees have no option,” he points out. “It is either work or a pay cut, or dismissal. People in this regard choose to work even if it is against their personal health.” The food provided lacks vegetables aside from raw onions; accommodation for Sudanese workers is of lesser quality than where Chinese workers stay. Workers are entitled to a month off every three months but at half-pay, which discourages them from taking the time off. The language barrier complicates all of these interactions.

In South Africa, the Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone will reportedly create as many as 53,000 jobs at the site plus many more in supporting industries. To get those jobs, the South African government has promised to apply special treatment such as tax-exemption and a waiver of import duties to the Chinese companies operating there, which means a considerable drop in government revenue.

“Whenever we try to delve into the details of the job creation,” David Tshidzumba reports, “we’re given the silent treatment. We need more transparency. Our laws afford us the opportunity to get that information.”

## **Lack of Accountability**

One of the challenges of dealing with Chinese companies is the lack of transparency and clear lines of accountability. Some of that has to do with linguistic and cultural gaps. But it also reflects a certain pattern of corporate behavior.

Even when communities and civil groups raise concerns with Chinese companies in Guinea—for instance about the violation of laws or rights—“the companies continue to move ahead with impunity,” observes Aboubacar Diallo. “When a community contacts the World Bank, they are able to have recourse. That’s not the case with any Chinese company.”

“Chinese companies don’t do business like other multinationals do,” agrees Tijani Abdulkareem. “Even when we raise issues of environmental degradation, they don’t care what civil society says. China made a commitment at the UN General Assembly to support clean energy. We have to step up our game to hold them to their commitments.”

In the case of rare earth mining in Madagascar, the company Reenova has deliberately avoided transparency to boost profits. Although Chinese in origin and based in Singapore, Reenova is registered in Mauritius in order to take advantage of a tax reduction agreement between that island and Madagascar. It was issued a permit for “research” in 2003 and, despite the prohibition against selling minerals extracted during such a period, company documents filed on the Singapore stock exchange suggest that it indeed plans to sell up to 800 tons of material mined during this pilot phase. Moreover, the company hasn’t consulted with the affected communities, offering only information about the purported benefits of the project and resorting to threats when the community remains unconvinced.

In Zimbabwe, where the mining operations are smaller scale, the companies often have no physical address at all, not even a website. Still, they maintain close relations with the Zimbabwean government. In one case, the government sent out state security forces on behalf of a Chinese company to bulldoze a site in a community that clearly was opposed to coal mining. When the community continued to insist that the Chinese company leave, “the Chinese instructed the government that the community leader be put in jail and barred from visiting the community for four months,” Farai Maguwu reports.

In another case, Maguwu asked the Zimbabwean parliament to investigate a Chinese company that was mining diamonds in partnership with the Zimbabwean defense industry. The Chinese were arguing that they were just in the “exploration” phase even though the same company “had mined in the country from 2011 to 2015 before the former president kicked them out,” Maguwu added. “They returned in 2018. It doesn’t make sense that they are now doing ‘exploration.’”

## **Corruption**

One obvious way that Chinese companies have gotten around environmental and labor laws and maintained both a lack of accountability and transparency has been by bribing or otherwise paying off officials.

In Jigawa, one of the poorest Nigerian states, Chinese businesses can with impunity seize land being farmed by community members because “local politicians who have been bribed don’t care,” notes Tijani Abdulkareem. “Most of the officials have been bribed. In these states where there is high state of banditry, a Chinese businessman can bribe to get whatever he wants.”

The same applies to Nigerian businessmen who act on behalf of Chinese companies. One such businessman, nicknamed “Dan China,” presided over illegal mines that extracted \$278 billion in lead, zinc, tin, and other ores. “Protected by bribed security agents and local officials, Dan China allegedly smuggled the illegally mined ore to China via the port of Lagos,” Abdulkareem recounts. In 2017, in an unusual anti-corruption effort, “the Nigerian government cracked down on one of the largest of these illegal mining operations at Kampanin Zurak, a rural area about 150 miles outside the state capital, Jos. During the raid, police arrested sixteen Chinese nationals working at the remote site.”

In their eagerness to supply Chinese buyers, illegal loggers and fishers are deforesting Nigeria and depleting fishing supplies along the coast, again protected by local officials who have been bought off. Nigeria loses an estimated \$70 million annually from illegal fishing alone. “In July 2017, Sinopec-owned Addax paid \$32 million to settle Swiss legal charges that the company had paid up to \$100 million in bribes to Nigerian government officials via middlemen,” Abdulkareem reports.

Similar levels of corruption accompany mining operations in Guinea. In 2020, Israeli-French mining magnate Beny Steinmetz and two others stood accused in a Swiss court of paying \$10 million in bribes to acquire access to the lucrative iron deposits in Guinea. Earlier corruption charges were dropped when Steinmetz relinquished the iron mining contracts. The government subsequently gave the contract to a Chinese-Singapore-Guinean joint venture, which has promised a rail link and a deep-water port to transport the ore to global markets. In Zimbabwe, the Chinese business owners “give the impression that they are protected by someone in high office who has given them the permission to do what they please,” Farai Maguwu reports. “When communities oppose mines, the state will react, arresting Zimbabweans to protect the Chinese.”

### **Cultural Impact**

Mines and infrastructure projects don’t just have economic and environmental impact. They also have consequences for the social and cultural life of the communities where they are sited.

In the Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone in South Africa, for instance, “the sacred animals and trees of the Venda people will be destroyed when making way for this project,” says David Tshidzumba. “They will exhume graves that are more than 60 years old, uproot trees sacred to indigenous people. Once you destroy the land, once you take away the water, we don’t have a sense of belonging. It’s not just heritage but also livelihood, our way of life.”

Mining projects in Zimbabwe have involved the appropriation of communal land, including drilling in gravesites. “I don’t think there is anywhere in the world where there has been such a blatant violation of cultural rights as is happening in Zimbabwe,” says Farai Maguwu. At one granite stone mining site, the Chinese company Heijin told villagers that the operation would go forward because they didn’t own the land. The Zimbabwean government, meanwhile, tried to downplay the number of villagers affected by the operation.

## Looking Ahead

Civil society activists have mounted campaigns against a variety of Chinese-financed extraction projects throughout Africa. They are pursuing legal strategies to prevent the Musina-Makhado zone from getting green-lighted. They are working with impacted communities to disseminate information about environmental impact, expose examples of corruption, and put pressure on governments to abide by local laws when dealing with Chinese companies. They want to establish greater transparency and accountability around Chinese projects and more durable mechanisms that can responsibly handle the complaints of workers and community members. And they are emphasizing non-extractive projects—sustainable agriculture, ecotourism, clean energy—that can provide comparable economic benefits without the devastating impact on the environment and the community.

With Western firms, African activists can pursue actions against companies in the host country’s judicial system. But, China doesn’t have an independent judiciary. Corporate social responsibility became part of Chinese contract law in 2006 and entered into force in 2014, but companies don’t necessarily uphold such principles. Although Beijing established a court in 2018 under the authority of the Supreme People’s Court to handle international claims arising from the Belt and Road Initiative, it’s unclear how independent this judicial body will be. China is, however, increasingly concerned about its reputation. It has provided \$60 billion in foreign aid and devoted \$1 billion of its Belt and Road Initiative to African infrastructure. It wants to be seen as helping Africa not exploiting it.

Recently, the government of the Democratic Republic of Congo suspended a number of Chinese companies for illegal mining activities and Beijing responded by ordering the companies to leave the region and promising sanctions if the companies are found guilty of violations. This case demonstrates that the Chinese government is sensitive to public backlash.

China has long maintained that it will not interfere with the sovereignty of the countries where it is economically involved. On this question of self-determination, then, African stakeholders perhaps have their greatest leverage. If they can publicize complaints, mobilize discontent, and persuade governments to take action, as in the DRC case, then China can be persuaded to change course, if not to uphold principles of corporate responsibility then to respect the sovereign will of the population and protect whatever remains of China’s international reputation.

\*John Feffer is the director of Foreign Policy In Focus. This article is part of the new Global Just Transition project: <https://fpif.org/global-just-transition/>.

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## **BILL GATES SHOULD KNOW BETTER: HOW THE ISRAELI OCCUPATION RAVAGES THE ENVIRONMENT IN PALESTINE**

Ramzy Baroud\*

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Gates' obsession with 'innovation' might have blinded him from addressing other issues that Israel is also 'known for'—namely, being the world's leading human rights violator, whose horrific track record of racial apartheid and violence is known to every member of the United Nations.

Those who are not familiar with how Israel, particularly the Israeli military occupation of Palestine, is actively and irreversibly damaging the environment might reach the erroneous conclusion that Tel Aviv is at the forefront of the global fight against climate change. The reality is the exact opposite.

In his speech at the UN Climate Change Conference COP26 in Glasgow, Israel's rightwing Prime Minister Naftali Bennett pushed the Israeli brand of "innovation and ingenuity" to "promote clean energy and reduce greenhouse gases."

Israel uses this particular brand to sell everything, whether to promote itself as the savior of Africa, to help governments intercept fleeing refugees, to push deadly weapons in the global market or, as Bennett has done in Scotland, supposedly save the environment.

Just before we hastily dismiss Bennett's rhetoric as empty words, we must remember that some are actually buying into this Israeli propaganda, one of whom is the American billionaire, Bill Gates.

The day following Bennett's speech, Gates met with the Israeli Prime Minister on the sidelines of COP26 to discuss the establishment of a "working group" to study potential cooperation "between the State of Israel and the Gates Foundation in the area of climate change innovation," the Times of Israel newspaper reported.

According to the newspaper, Gates, who had asserted in his meeting with Bennett that only innovation can solve the problem of climate change, said, "That's really what Israel is known for."

Gates' obsession with 'innovation', however, might have blinded him from addressing other issues that Israel is also 'known for'—namely, being the world's leading human rights



violator, whose horrific track record of racial apartheid and violence is known to every member of the United Nations.

However, there is something else that Gates might also not be aware of—the systematic and purposeful destruction of the Palestinian environment, resulting from the Israeli occupation of Palestine and Tel Aviv's insatiable appetite for military superiority, thus constant 'innovation.'

Every act that is carried out to entrench the military occupation consolidates Israel's colonial control and expanding illegal Jewish settlements directly impacts the Palestinian environment.

Not a single day passes without a Palestinian tree or an orchard being set ablaze or cut down. 'Clearing' the Palestinian environment is, and has always been, the prerequisite of constructing or expanding Jewish settlements. For these colonies to be built, countless trees have to be 'removed', along with the Palestinians who have planted them.

Over the years, millions of Palestinian olive and fruit-bearing trees were uprooted in Israel's constant hunger for more land. The **soil erosion** in many parts of occupied Palestine speaks volumes of this horrendous ecocide.

But it does not end here, of course. For hundreds of illegal Jewish settlements—hosting a population of more than 600,000 settlers—to survive, a heavy price is being exacted from the Palestinian environment on a daily basis. According to the thorough research of Ahmed Abofou, an independent Legal Researcher with Al-Haq rights group, illegal Israeli settlements "generate around 145,000 tons of domestic waste daily." Abofou reported that "in 2016 alone, around 83 million cubic meters of wastewater were pumped throughout the West Bank."

Moreover, Israel has near-total control of Palestinian water resources. It relies on the occupied West Bank's aquifers to supplant its need for water, while denying Palestinians access to their own water.

According to Amnesty International, the average Israeli receives 300 liters of water per day, while a Palestinian receives a much smaller share of 73 liters. The problem is accentuated when the water usage of illegal Jewish settlers is taken into account. The average settler consumes as much as 800 liters per day, while entire Palestinian communities could be denied a drop of water for days and weeks, often as a form of collective punishment.

The issue with the water is not just that of outright theft, denial of access or unequal distribution of water resources. It is also that of the lack of clean and safe drinkable water, an issue that has been highlighted by international human rights groups for many years.

The result of these unfair policies has forced many Palestinians "to purchase water brought in by trucks" at prices "ranging from 4 to 10 USD per cubic meter," Amnesty International **found**, highlighting that, for the poorest Palestinian communities, "water expenses can, at times, make up half of a family's monthly income."

As bad as the situation may sound, the plight of besieged Gaza is much worse than that of the occupied West Bank. The tiny and overcrowded Strip is the perfect example of Israeli cruelty. Two million Palestinians live there, while being denied the most basic human rights, let alone freedom of movement.

Since the Israeli military blockade on Gaza in 2007, the environment of the coastal region has been in constant deterioration. With little electricity and with bombed-out sewage plants, Palestinians have been forced to dump their unprocessed sewage into the sea. Gaza's underground water is now polluted to the extent that 97 percent of the available water is now undrinkable, according to United Nations reports.

This is only the tip of the iceberg. From the destruction of Palestinian wells to the poisoning of trees, to the demolishing of entire ecosystems to make space for Israel's apartheid wall, to them in its various wars against Gaza, Israel has been on an unrelenting mission to ruin Palestine's environment use of depleted uranium in all of its manifestations.

In truth, Mr. Gates, this is what Israel is 'known for' to anyone who cares to pay attention. Allowing Bennett to present his country as a potential savior of humanity, while validating Israel with massive investments in 'innovation', mischaracterizes—in fact, invalidates—the entire global campaign to truly understand the nature of the problem at hand.

Those who are hurting the planet have no right to claim the role of being its saviors. Israel, in its current violent state, is the enemy of the environment, and this is what it truly should be 'known for'.

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## **FOOD SOVEREIGNTY: A MANIFESTO FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR PLANET**

An official statement marking 25 years of collective struggles for food sovereignty

La Via Campesina\*

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[https://www.commondreams.org/views/2021/10/17/food-sovereignty-manifesto-future-our-planet?utm\\_term=AO&utm\\_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_content=email&utm\\_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm\\_medium=Email](https://www.commondreams.org/views/2021/10/17/food-sovereignty-manifesto-future-our-planet?utm_term=AO&utm_campaign=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_content=email&utm_source=Daily%20Newsletter&utm_medium=Email), and available from at:  
<https://viacampesina.org/en/food-sovereignty-a-manifesto-for-the-future-of-our-planet-la-via-campesina/>.

**Food Sovereignty is a philosophy of life.**

It offers a vision for our collective future, and defines the principles around which we organize our daily living and co-exist with Mother Earth. It is a celebration of life and all the diversity around us. It embraces every element of our cosmos; the sky above our heads, the land beneath our feet, the air we breathe, the forests, the mountains, valleys, farms, oceans, rivers and ponds. It recognizes and protects the inter-dependency between eight million species that share this home with us.

We inherited this collective wisdom from our ancestors, who ploughed the land and waded the waters for 10,000 years, a period in which we evolved into an agrarian society. Food Sovereignty promotes justice, equality, dignity, fraternity and solidarity. Food Sovereignty is also the science of life – built through lived realities spread across countless generations, each teaching their progeny something new, inventing new methods and techniques which sat harmoniously with nature.

As holders of this rich heritage, it is our collective responsibility to defend it and preserve it.

Recognizing this as our duty – especially in the late '90s when conflicts, acute hunger, global warming and extreme poverty were too visible to ignore – La Via Campesina(LVC) brought the paradigm of Food Sovereignty into international policy-making spaces. LVC reminded the world that this philosophy of life must guide the principles of our shared living.

The '80s and the '90s were an era of unbridled capitalist expansion – at a pace never seen before in human history. Cities were expanding, growing on the backs of cheap, unpaid and underpaid labour. The countryside was being pushed into oblivion. Rural communities and rural ways of living were swept under the carpet by a new ideology that wanted to turn everybody into a mere consumer of things and an object of exploitation for profit. Popular culture and consciousness were under the spell of glittery advertisements goading people to “buy more”. In all this, though, the ones who produced – the working class in the rural areas, coasts and cities, which included the peasants and other small-scale food producers – remained invisible, while the ones who could afford to consume with wander took centre stage. Pushed to the edges, peasant<sup>1</sup> workers and indigenous communities worldwide recognized the urgent necessity for an organized and internationalist response to this globalizing, free-market ideology propagated by the defenders of the capitalist world order. Food Sovereignty became one of the expressions of this collective response.

At the 1996 World Food Summit, in a debate about how we organize our global food systems, La Via Campesina coined the term food sovereignty; to insist upon the centrality of the small-scale food producers, the accumulated wisdom of generations, the autonomy and diversity of rural and urban communities and solidarity between peoples, as essential components for crafting policies around food and agriculture.

In the ensuing decade, social movements and civil society actors worked together to define it further *“as the right of peoples to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods, and their right to define their own food and agriculture systems. It puts the aspirations and needs of those who produce, distribute and*

*consume food at the heart of food systems and policies rather than the demands of markets and corporations.”*

**The introduction of Food Sovereignty as a collective right changed how the world understood poverty and hunger.**

Until then, especially in the early years of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, a narrow idea of “Food Security” dominated governance and policy-making circles. Noble in its intent, food security treated those affected by hunger as objects of compassion, risked reducing them to passive consumers of food produced elsewhere. While it recognized food as a fundamental human right, it did not defend the objective conditions for producing food. Who produces? For Whom? How? Where? And Why? All these questions were absent, and the focus was decidedly on merely “feeding the people”. An overt emphasis on people’s food security ignored the hazardous consequences of industrial food production and factory farming, built on the sweat and labour of migrant workers.

Food Sovereignty, on the other hand, presents a radical overhaul. It recognizes people and local communities as the principal actors in the fight against poverty and hunger. It calls for strong local communities and defends their right to produce and consume before trading the surplus. It demands autonomy and objective conditions to use local resources, calls for agrarian reform and collective ownership of territories. It defends the rights of peasant communities to use, save, exchange seeds. It stands for the rights of people to eat healthy, nutritious food. It encourages agroecological production cycles, respecting climatic and cultural diversities in every community. Social peace, social justice, gender justice and solidarity economies are essential pre-conditions for realizing food sovereignty. It calls for an international trade order based on cooperation and compassion as against competition and coercion. It calls for a society that rejects discrimination in all forms – caste, class, racial and gender – and urges people to fight patriarchy and parochialism. A tree is only strong as its roots. Food Sovereignty, defined by social movements in the ‘90s and subsequently at the Nyeleni Forum in Mali in 2007, intends to do precisely that.

**This year we celebrate 25 years of this collective construction.**

The world is nowhere near perfect. Capitalism and free-market ideology continue to dominate policy circles even in the face of unprecedented inequality, rising hunger and extreme poverty. Worse, new attempts are also being made to envision a digital future – of farming without farmers, fishing without fishers- all under the garb of digitalisation of agriculture and to create new markets for synthetic food.

All these challenges notwithstanding, the Food Sovereignty Movement, which is now much more extensive than La Via Campesina and comprises several actors, has made significant advances.

Thanks to our joint struggles, global governance institutions such as the FAO<sup>2</sup> have come to recognize the centrality of peoples’ food sovereignty in international policy-making. The UN Declaration on Rights Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas further re-

emphasizes this in Article 15.4, when it states, “ *Peasants and other people working in rural areas have the right to determine their own food and agriculture systems, recognized by many States and regions as the right to food sovereignty. This includes the right to participate in decision-making processes on food and agriculture policy and the right to healthy and adequate food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods that respect their cultures.*”

Some nations have also given constitutional recognition to Food Sovereignty. The disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in the industrial food chains have further reminded national governments of the importance of creating robust local economies.

Peasant Agroecology, which is fundamental to ensuring food sovereignty in our territories, is now recognized at the FAO as central to our fight against global warming. Current and previous Special Rapporteurs of the United Nations have endorsed food sovereignty as a simple but powerful idea that can transform the global food system favouring small-scale food producers. Sustained campaign by social movements have also resulted in several legal victories against corporations producing agro-toxins, other chemical inputs and transgenic seeds.

Yet, what lies ahead of us is a road ridden with many barriers.

The promoters of the capitalist world order realize that food sovereignty is an idea that impinges on their financial interests. They prefer a world of monoculture and homogenous tastes, where food can be mass-produced using cheap labour in faraway factories, disregarding its ecological, human and social impacts. They prefer economies of scale to robust local economies. They choose a global-free market (based on speculation and cut-throat competition) over solidarity economies that require more robust territorial markets (local peasant markets) and active participation of local food producers. They prefer to have land banks where industrial-scale contract farming would replace small-holder producers. They inject our soil with agro-toxics for better short-term yields, ignoring the irreversible damage to soil health. Their trawlers will again crawl the oceans and rivers, netting fishes for a global market while the coastal communities starve. They will continue to try to hijack indigenous peasant seeds through patents and seed treaties. The trade agreements they craft will again aim to bring down tariffs that protect our local economies.

**Food sovereignty... is an idea that unites humanity and puts us at the service of Mother Earth that feeds and nourishes us.**

An exodus of unemployed youth, deserting village farms and choosing wage work in cities, sits perfectly with their urge to find a regular supply of cheap labour. Their unrelenting focus on “margins” would mean that they will find all means to depress farm-gate prices while trading it at higher prices at retail supermarkets. In the end, the ones who lose are the people – both the producers and consumers. Those who resist will be criminalized. A happy co-existence of the global financial elite with authoritarian governments would mean that even the highest institutions – nationally and globally – meant to oversee and arrest human rights violations will look away. Billionaires would use their philanthropic foundations to fund agencies that churn out “research reports” and “scientific journals” to justify this corporate vision of our food systems. Every global governance space, where the social movements and civil society members

campaigned hard to gain a seat at the table, will make way for Corporate Conglomerates who will enter the scene as “stakeholders”. Every attempt will be made to deride those of us who defend Food Sovereignty as unscientific, primitive, impractical and idealistic. All this will happen, as it did over the last two decades.

None of this is new to us. Those condemned to the peripheries of our societies by a cruel and all-devouring capitalist system have no choice but to fight back. We must resist and show that we exist. It is not just about our survival, but also about future generations and a way of life handed down through generations. It is for the future of humanity that we defend our food sovereignty.

This is only possible if we insist that any local, national or global policy proposal on food and agriculture must build from the principles of food sovereignty. The young peasants and workers of our worldwide movement must lead this fight. We must remind ourselves that the only way to make our voice heard is by uniting and building new alliances within and across every border. Rural and Urban Social Movements, Trade Unions and civil society actors, progressive governments, academics, scientists and technology enthusiasts must come together to defend this vision for our future. Peasant women and other oppressed gender minorities must find equal space in the leadership of our movement at all levels. We must sow the seeds of solidarity in our communities and address all forms of discrimination that keep rural societies divided.

Food Sovereignty offers a manifesto for the future, a feminist vision that embraces diversity. It is an idea that unites humanity and puts us at the service of Mother Earth that feeds and nourishes us.

In its defence, we stand united.

**Globalize the Struggle, Globalize Hope.**

**#NoFutureWithoutFoodSovereignty**

La Via Campesina, 13 October 2021

\*La Via Campesina is the international movement which brings together millions of peasants, small and medium-size farmers, landless people, women farmers, indigenous people, migrants and agricultural workers from around the world. It defends small-scale sustainable agriculture as a way to promote social justice and dignity. It strongly opposes corporate driven agriculture and transnational companies that are destroying people and nature.

\*\_!\_\*

## **TRUDEAU-WERNICK NATIONAL TERMINATION AKA RECONCILIATION PLAN**

Russel Diabo

I'm afraid we're screwed, the trend is to accept the Trudeau/Wernick Plan—they took over the band council/band office system from Ottawa at the centre of the federal government, meaning Prime Minister's Office/Privy Council Office using the money.

The Feds have the biggest AFN Regions (Provincial Organizations) onside like the majority of BC, they have Saskatchewan and most of Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec and Atlantic. Of course the Yukon & NWT.

There may be pockets of resistance in those regions but the majority of band councils/band offices are ok with the Trudeau/Wernick Plan.

The pockets of resistance in Alberta are outnumbered.

Historic Treaties are being dismantled through terms and conditions of funding agreements, one off specific claims like cows & ploughs and discussions at “self-determination” tables to move from the Indian Act into full “self-government, as Trudeau told the AFN Assembly on Thursday without one Chief asking what he meant by “self-government”.

The Feds have taken advantage of the global pandemic and conducted business through zoom calls with willing partners.

However, the fix was in before the pandemic began in March 2020.

Trudeau & Wernick had already succeeded in their top down take over of AFN through the MOU's on fiscal & shared priorities, including the Feds 10 principles for Indigenous Relationships & dissolving the Department of Indian Affairs while keeping the Indian Act in place for control and management.

Now with the two new federal departments the structure is in place to process Indian Act Bands into full “self-government” in Treaty & non-Treaty areas. That's why the Feds came up with the term “Indigenous Governing Bodies” to process Bands into becoming “Indigenous Governments”. The definition of “Indigenous Governing Bodies” includes Band Councils, Indigenous Governments and “entities” with section 35 mandates like Child & Family Services Agencies.

I don't hear a clamour from Bands or Band Councils to develop alternatives to Ottawa's national plan.

There is no mass Peoples movement like Idle No More and Ottawa has indirect control of the Band Council/Band Office system through funding agreements.

It seems all I can do now is watch the Feds national plan unfold as my criticisms are ignored by most.

Ottawa doesn't fund the NO side only the YES side is funded to support the federal plans and the resulting agreements.

### **Supporting documents:**

#### **1969 White Paper Goals: Publicly Withdrawn: Secretly Implemented:**

Eliminate Indian Status.

☐ Dissolve the Department of Indian Affairs within 5 years.

☐ Abolish the Indian Act & remove section 91.24 referring to "Indians and Lands Reserved for Indians".

☐ Convert reserve land to private property that can be sold by the band or its members.

☐ Transfer responsibility for Indian Affairs from the federal government to the province and integrate these services into those provided to other Canadian citizens.

☐ Provide funding for economic development.

☐ Appoint a commissioner to address outstanding land claims and gradually terminate existing Treaties

**See: "How It Works: Trudeau Government's Manipulation of UNDRIP (Bill C-15) to Re-Colonize First Nations,"** By Russ Diabo, Truth Before Reconciliation Campaign.

### **Putting Our Own House In Order!**

#### **Restoring Our Sovereignty From Indian Act Band Councils**

#### **Self-Determination Belongs to Our People's**

UNDRIP Article 18: Right to Self-Representation

Bringing Back the People's Voices in Decision-Making In Communities & Nations

A Truth Before Reconciliation Publication-Campaign 2020

#### **Federal Government's Treaty Policy Is Chretien's "Self-Government" Policy**

**Truth Before Recognition Campaign 2020**, Russ Diabo, October 2020

Treaties (Chretien's) 'Inherent Right' Policy:

The Government of Canada is prepared, where the other parties agree, to constitutionally protect rights set out in negotiated self-government agreements as treaty rights within the meaning of section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982. Implementation of the inherent right in this fashion would be a continuation of the historic relationship between Aboriginal peoples and the Crown. Self-government rights could be protected under section 35:

in new treaties;

as part of comprehensive land claim agreements; or

as additions to existing treaties.



Treaties create mutually binding obligations and commitments which are constitutionally protected. Recognizing the solemn and enduring nature of treaty rights, the Government believes that the primary criterion for determining whether or not a matter should receive constitutional protection is whether it is a fundamental element of self-government that should bind future generations. Under this approach, suitable matters for constitutional protection would include:

- a listing of jurisdictions or authorities by subject matter and related arrangements;
- the relationship of Aboriginal laws to federal and provincial laws;
- the geographic area within which the Aboriginal government or institution will exercise its jurisdiction or authority, and the people to be affected thereby; and
- matters relating to the accountability of the Aboriginal government to its members, in order to establish its legitimacy and the legitimacy of its laws within the Constitution of Canada.

It follows from this approach that matters in agreements of a technical or temporary nature would not be appropriate matters for constitutional protection as treaty rights. Arrangements that must be adaptable to changing circumstances, such as program and service delivery arrangements, and funding arrangements, would therefore not be appropriate subjects for constitutional protection as treaty rights.

□ SOURCE: The Government of Canada's Approach to Implementation of the Inherent Right and the Negotiation of Aboriginal Self-Government policy.

□ Imposed Liberal policy in 1995 under then Prime Minister Jean Chretien.

### **Trudeau's Two-Track "Reconciliation" Plan**

Section 91.24

Use Federal Colonial, Authority & Control over "Indians & Lands Reserved for Indians" to Dissolve Dept. of Indian Affairs & Create 2 New "Indigenous" Depts.

Section 35

To Impose a "New Relationship" Through a Unilateral Federal Definition & Interpretation of "Recognition" of "Existing Aboriginal & Treaty Rights"

### **2017 FEDERAL "10 PRINCIPLES"**

The "10 Principles" act as a proxy for the UNDRIP, with the Principles are simply a restatement of the Canadian common law limitations of section 35 rights.

Canada makes it clear under the first principle where they pretend to recognize the Indigenous right to self-determination, but their approach is still rooted in the colonial doctrines of discovery. They set out that: "C\_a\_n\_a\_d\_a's\_c\_o\_n\_s\_t\_i\_t\_u\_t\_i\_o\_n\_a\_l\_a\_n\_d\_l\_e\_g\_a\_l\_o\_r\_d\_e\_r\_r\_e\_c\_o\_g\_n\_i\_z\_e\_s\_t\_h\_e\_r\_e\_a\_l\_i\_t\_y\_t\_h\_a\_t\_I\_n\_d\_i\_g\_e\_n\_o\_u\_s\_p\_e\_o\_p\_l\_e\_s'\_a\_n\_c\_e\_s\_t\_o\_r\_s\_o\_w\_n\_e\_d\_a\_n\_d\_g\_o\_v\_e\_r\_n\_e\_d\_t\_h\_e\_l\_a\_n\_d\_s\_w\_h\_i\_c\_h\_n\_o\_w\_c\_o\_n\_s\_t\_i\_t\_u\_t\_e\_C\_a\_n\_a\_d\_a\_p\_r\_i\_o\_r\_t\_o\_t\_h\_e\_C\_r\_o\_w\_n's\_a\_s\_s\_e\_r\_t\_i\_o\_n\_o\_f\_s\_o\_v\_e\_r\_e\_i\_g\_n\_t\_y." Here, Canada speaks to its assertion of sovereignty and claim to

underlying title to the land, which they take as a given and do not question. If Canada was serious about meeting its international obligations it would have to move away from its reliance on the colonial doctrines of discovery. Canada should comply with the C\_o\_n\_v\_e\_n\_t\_i\_o\_n\_o\_n\_t\_h\_e\_E\_l\_i\_m\_i\_n\_a\_t\_i\_o\_n\_o\_f\_R\_a\_c\_i\_a\_l\_D\_i\_s\_c\_r\_i\_m\_i\_n\_a\_t\_i\_o\_n\_(C\_E\_R\_D's\_) rejection of the colonial doctrines of discovery as a racist basis for the claim to sovereignty, jurisdiction and title.

Dissolving INAC & Creating 2 Departments: Indigenous Crown Relations & Indigenous Services

#### MINISTER OF INDIGENOUS SERVICES MANDATE

Ensure that services are provided to Indigenous individuals who, and Indigenous governing bodies that, are eligible to receive those services.

- (a) child and family services;
- (b) education;
- (c) health;
- (d) social development;
- (e) economic development;
- (f) housing;
- (g) infrastructure;
- (h) emergency management;
- (h.1) governance;

#### TRUTH BEFORE RECONCILIATION NETWORK

**Russell Diabo**

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**Trudeau Liberal Government's 4th Level Ethnic Governance**

***"Indigenous government's are the fourth level of government in this country"***

**– Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, 2016**

#### Issue:

The federal government continues to seek consent from First Nations (Indian Bands) to its policy definition of the "*Inherent Right to Self-Government*", in secret discussion and negotiation tables with First Nation Governments (Indian Act Band Councils) across Canada. The objective of Canada's "*Inherent Right Policy*" is to obtain final agreements using a **surrender & replacement of rights technique** to define Section 35 Aboriginal & Treaty Rights in legislation.

For decades the federal bureaucracy has gotten federal politicians to try and pass legislation to standardize a process for First Nations (Indian Bands) to "*go beyond*" the Indian Act—as Prime Minister Justin Trudeau recent told an AFN Chiefs' Assembly—the "*path of reconciliation*" is a journey into "*full self-government status*", and he noted, some First Nations (Indian Bands) have already achieved it, while others are negotiating to achieve it. In 2018, the Trudeau Liberal government tried to pass the **Rights Recognition Framework Bill**, but First Nations across Canada rejected it, so the principles and objectives of the proposed

**Framework Bill** are still being pursued by the federal government at its discussion and negotiation tables across Canada. This approach is cited in the **Prime Minister's Mandate Letters** to both **Indigenous Services Minister, Patty Hajdu**, and **Crown-Indigenous Relations Minister, Marc Miller**.

*first and foremost priority is to work in full partnership with First Nations, Inuit and Métis to continue building nation to nation relationships and support self-determination, including supporting First Nations communities as they transition to self-government and move away from the Indian Act.*

The federal government has consistently used a municipal model for local “self-government” converting Indian Act Bands into federal corporations, much like provinces do with municipalities, for example in British Columbia:

*The corporate powers for municipalities are described in section 8 of the Community Charter as being “natural person powers.” Municipalities have the same rights, powers and privileges of a “natural person of full capacity”. For example, municipalities may enter into legal agreements, buy and dispose of land, hire and manage employees, and take or be subject to legal actions. These are typically referred to as “corporate powers” and are enabled through the Community Charter...While municipal corporate powers are broad, some limitations and requirements apply. [SOURCE: Government of British Columbia]*

In 1996, the Chretien Liberal government tried, but due to widespread First Nation opposition, failed to pass Bill C-79, the **Indian Act Optional Modification Act**, which provided for the “legal capacity of bands”:

*16.1 A band has the capacity and, subject to this Act, the rights, powers and privileges of a natural person.*

In 2003, the Chretien Liberal government tried, but due to widespread First Nation opposition, failed to pass Bill C-7, the **First Nations Governance Act (An Act respecting leadership selection, administration and accountability of Indian bands, and to make related amendments to other Acts)**, which provided for the “legal capacity of bands”:

*15. (1) A band has the legal capacity, rights, powers and privileges of a natural person*  
In 2019, the Metis Nations of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Ontario signed **Recognition and Self-Government Agreements** that set out the legal status and capacity of Metis government's:

*7.01 As of the Self-Government Implementation Date, the Métis Government and each of its Governance Structures will be a legal entity with the rights, powers, and privileges of a natural person at law*

The federal government is using the **Metis Recognition and Self-Government Agreements** as a template in discussions and negotiations with First Nations (Indian Bands) using the same definition of legal status and capacity:

## **CHAPTER 7: LEGAL STATUS AND CAPACITY**

*7.01 As of the Self-Government Implementation Date, the First Nation X Government and each of its Governance Structures will be a legal entity with the rights, powers, and privileges of a natural person at law, which includes the capacity to:*

*(a) enter into agreements and contracts with any person, government, organization, or other legal entity;*

*(b) acquire, hold, or dispose of property and any interests therein;*

*(c) sue or be sued and act on its behalf in legal proceedings;*

*(d) hold, spend, invest, or borrow money and secure or guarantee the repayment of money borrowed;*

*(e) create, operate, contribute to, act as trustee of, or otherwise deal with trusts;*

*(f) be appointed as and act as an executor, administrator, or trustee of an estate; and*

*(g) do other things ancillary to the exercise of its rights, powers, and privileges.*

The **surrender and replacement of rights technique** is described by the federal government as follows:

*Self-government is negotiated within the Canadian constitutional framework [federal & provincial constitutional division of powers] and federal legislation is passed before the negotiated agreement takes effect.*

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### **Truth Before Reconciliation:**

The **Truth Before Reconciliation Network on Education and Advocacy** is a core team of people who are working to get Crown governments and Canadian society to address “**Truth Before Reconciliation**”, because we believe the **Truth and Reconciliation Commission** and its **Calls to Action** are not sufficient to address the colonization that First Nations have historically experienced and which continues today, particularly under the colonial policies and legislation passed under the **Constitution Act 1867** and the unilaterally imposed federal policies and legislation defining Inherent & Treaty Rights in section 35 of the **Constitution Act 1982**.

Dale Smith, "UNDRIP's place in Canadian law: Passing the implementation statute was the easy part. The real test is figuring out what to do with all our other laws," *CBA/ABC National*, December 16, 2021, <https://www.nationalmagazine.ca/en-ca/articles/law/in-depth/2021/undrip-s-place-in-canadian-law>, reports, "'There is a risk of domesticating the Declaration, coming to a facile conclusion that it means the same thing as Section 35, and so we're good,'" says van Ert. "That's not right, and it's a danger, and we're not going to live up to the obligation that Parliament and the B.C. Legislature have now adopted if we just blithely assume that Section 35 accomplishes everything that the Declaration does. I don't think it does."

Neither UNDRIP nor Section 35 create rights, says Alexander. They merely affirm existing rights, with each amplifying different aspects of those rights in their own way."

[This is what I've been saying about BCDRIPA (Bill 41) and CANDRIP (Bill C-15) as a policy analyst!]: Arend J.A. Hoekstra, Grace Wu, Thomas Isaac, BCSC Decision Suggests Implications For UNDRIP Legislation In Canada," *Cassels*, January 18, 2022, [https://cassels.com/insights/bcsc-decision-suggests-implications-for-undrip-legislation-in-canada/?utm\\_source=Mondaq&utm\\_medium=syndication&utm\\_campaign=LinkedIn-integration](https://cassels.com/insights/bcsc-decision-suggests-implications-for-undrip-legislation-in-canada/?utm_source=Mondaq&utm_medium=syndication&utm_campaign=LinkedIn-integration), Reported, "The implications of UNDRIP legislation have been vigorously debated. In the Supreme Court of British Columbia's (Court) recent decision *Thomas and Saik'uz First Nation v. Rio Tinto Alcan Inc. (Saik'uz First Nation)*, **the defendants (Canada, the Province of British Columbia, and Rio Tinto Alcan Inc.)** argued that 'the recent UNDRIP legislation has no immediate impact on existing law and is simply 'a forward-looking' statement of intent that contemplates an 'action plan' yet to be prepared and implemented by either level of government."<sup>3</sup>

3. *Thomas and Saik'uz First Nation v Rio Tinto Alcan Inc*, 2022 BCSC 15 at para 206."

In its analysis, the Court recognized that it would not be able to fully adopt the principles of UNDRIP in its decision, noting 'I am still bound by precedent to apply the principles enunciated by the Supreme Court of Canada to the facts of this particular case and I will leave it to that Court to determine what effect, if any, UNDRIP legislation has on the common law.'<sup>7</sup>

7. *bid* at para 212."

**For additional supporting and related materials contact Russel Diabo, [rdiabo@rogers.com](mailto:rdiabo@rogers.com).**

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## ARTICLES

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## RESEARCH NOTES

### INDIGENOUS MOVEMENTS ARE KEY TO THE FIGHT AGAINST FOSSIL FUELS

*The Biden administration and other governments may make climate pledges. But often it's indigenous-led movements who will see that they're kept.*

William Minter,\*

Republished from *Foreign Policy in Focus (FPiF)* October 13, 2021, <https://fpif.org/indigenous-movements-are-key-to-the-fight-against-fossil-fuels/#print>

Oil is now flowing through the Line 3 tar sands oil pipeline from Edmonton, Alberta to Superior, Wisconsin. The 1,097-mile-long pipeline, owned by the Canadian company Enbridge, includes 337 miles in northern Minnesota. It has faced strong resistance for years from indigenous people and other environmental activists known as “water protectors.”

Ironically the tap was opened on October 1, only days before Indigenous Peoples Day on October 11 and weeks before the global climate summit in Glasgow begins on October 31. Ignoring demands from climate activists, the Biden administration refused to cancel the permit. This reflected a pattern in which administration officials seem to be stuck in a pattern of dithering instead of following up climate action pledges with actions.

Public opinion in Minnesota was bitterly divided. Although Democratic voters opposed the project by a 64 to 21 percent margin, Minnesota Democratic Governor Tim Walz and Senators Amy Klobuchar and Tina Smith have refused to oppose Line 3 — or even to criticize the collaboration between law enforcement and Enbridge in the violent suppression of protests.

Criminal cases against as many as 900 Line 3 protesters are clogging court systems in Northern Minnesota. And in early October the news emerged that Enbridge has paid \$2.4 million to local police forces for pipeline protection, through a state-approved escrow account.

It might seem that protesters have lost this fight against the fossil fuel establishment. Not so, argued Winona LaDuke, leader of the Indigenous-led environmental justice nonprofit Honor the Earth, in the *Minneapolis Star-Tribune*.

*“In one narrative, the Canadian corporation won. Columbus conquered anew, proof that might and money remain the rulers.*

*Then, there’s another. That’s the Ballad of the Water Protectors — a movement born in the battles in northern Minnesota and North Dakota, a movement that will grow and transform the economy of the future . . .*

*The Canadian oil industry estimated that a lack of pipeline capacity reduced the industry’s income by tens of billions of dollars before the pandemic started... Uncertainty about Line 3 caused by Indigenous people and water protectors encouraged massive divestment from the tar sands by non-Canadian investors.”*

It seems likely that President Biden will arrive in Glasgow with a briefcase full of promises but few credible actions. Legislative action depends on collaboration from holdout Democratic members of Congress, like Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV), who are in thrall to the fossil fuel industry.

Executive action is possible but unlikely, with the administration seemingly paralyzed by indecision and resistance from vested interests. And the effects of new petitions from climate groups and demonstrations by climate activists are uncertain.

The measure of progress on fossil fuels, however, as Donna Katzin stressed in *Foreign Policy In Focus* recently and in an earlier longer essay for the U.S.-Africa Bridge Building

Project in May, will be how resources are actually dis-invested from fossil fuels and re-invested in renewable energy.

One factor affecting that outcome that is most often underestimated is direct action led by indigenous people, such as the resistance to Line 3 in Minnesota.

As Winona LaDuke noted, activists succeeded in delaying the Line 3 pipeline by four years. In August this year the Indigenous Environmental Network and Oil Change International released a report on Indigenous Resistance Against Carbon, with detailed calculations estimating that victories against these projects in the U.S. and Canada represent the carbon equivalent of 12 percent of annual U.S. and Canadian pollution, or 779 million metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>.

Official commitments by governments adopted in Glasgow are clearly also important, if and when they are implemented. So are campaigns of all kinds to influence the companies themselves to switch from fossil fuels to renewable energy. So is the mobilization of youth around the world who are increasingly conscious of the imminent threats to their own survival.

But the decisive factor may well be direct action by indigenous peoples and others most directly threatened, both in their material impact as well as their catalytic effect on wider activist movements.

\*William Minter is the editor of *AfricaFocus Bulletin*.



### **INDIGENOUS PEOPLES LIKE MINE ARE FIGHTING FOR OUR HOMELANDS**

*Many would-be migrants, like the Garifuna, would love nothing more than to stay in our homes.  
It's Washington that's making it difficult.*

Miriam Miranda\*

Republished from *Foreign Policy in Focus (FPIF)*, October 11, 2021, <https://fpif.org/indigenous-peoples-like-mine-are-fighting-for-our-homelands/?emci=1db51f51-072d-ec11-981f-c896653b9208&emdi=dd8ecb70-182d-ec11-981f-c896653b9208&ceid=3984446>

On this Indigenous Peoples' Day, want to tell you about my people, the Garifuna. We're an Afro-Indigenous people, descended from Arawaks and Africans. Our ancestral territory spans the Caribbean border of Central America.

Latin American and Caribbean communities like ours are rarely noticed in U.S. media — except when we migrate.

In summer 2021, U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris came to Central America and told would-be migrants: "Do not come." More recently, photos of U.S. Border Patrol agents whipping Haitian refugees in the Texas desert brutally drove that message home. This anti-migrant message is dehumanizing and wrong. But the truth is, many of us would love nothing more than to stay in our homes. It's Washington that's making it difficult.

The Garifuna are being forcibly displaced from our beautiful traditional lands along the Caribbean coast of Honduras.

Our livelihoods are threatened by the expansion of the global tourist industry, African palm plantations, so-called “Special Economic Development and Employment Zones” (also called Model Cities), and drug cartels that run cocaine through our territories, destined for U.S. markets.

We’re also under threat from gated retirement communities with U.S. and Canadian financing, as well as mining and hydroelectric projects, including projects with development bank financing.

I’m part of a group called the Black Fraternal Organization of Honduras (OFRANEH, by its initials in Spanish), a federation representing the Garifuna peoples of Honduras. From our perspective, our communities are being emptied of people to benefit the Honduran elite and investors from the U.S. and other rich countries.

When we resist dispossession and refuse to leave our lands, we are threatened, forcibly disappeared, or murdered — threats made all the more dangerous by the security assistance the corrupt Honduran state receives from Washington.

In the last few years, we have counted 50 assassinations of Garífuna people and dozens of cases of legal persecution. Meanwhile our young people are abandoning their communities in droves as a result of the violence, persecution, and lack of healthy living conditions.

OFRANEH has been fighting to reclaim the Garífuna people’s ancestral territory and to improve these conditions through cultural resurgence and traditional agricultural practices.

Through the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, we have won important cases that order Honduran authorities to recognize our traditional lands and guarantee our use and enjoyment of our territory. But the Honduran government refuses to implement these decisions.

Instead, since winning these cases, we’ve faced increasing threats, criminalization, displacement, and assassinations.

In July 2020, four Garifuna youth from Triunfo de la Cruz were abducted at gunpoint by men wearing uniforms with the logo of the Honduran Investigative Police (DPI) — an entity that has received U.S. training. The four men haven’t been seen since. One of them was the president of the town council and a vocal defender of Garífuna land rights.

In a country where such crimes usually go uninvestigated, OFRANEH is taking action. A few months ago, we launched the Garifuna Investigation and Search Committee for the Disappeared of Triunfo de la Cruz. Its initials, SUNLA, mean “Enough!” in our language.



Through SUNLA, we are pushing to return the four youth to their community alive, to protect their families and witnesses, and fight for truth and justice for this crime. So far, the state is not investigating seriously. Instead, officials are blaming the four for their own disappearance, accusing them of being criminals.

Since the 2009 coup, human rights and Indigenous land defenders have been routinely murdered in Honduras — even high-profile figures like Berta Cáceres. Yet U.S. support for the Honduran state has continued. Whether we migrate or fight to stay on our lands, we face tremendous threats.

For this reason, we're calling for international solidarity to halt the persecution of the Garífuna people and for SUNLA's incorporation into the investigation into these forced disappearances, as well as for respect for our traditional lands and our self-determination. This genocidal plan to exterminate our people must be halted.

We're also calling for the United States to halt its support and security assistance to the Honduran regime, which could be done by passing the Berta Cáceres Act and the Honduran Human Rights and Anti-Corruption Act.

On this Indigenous People's Day, we condemn the assault on Indigenous peoples throughout our hemisphere — as well as the brutal mistreatment of migrants seeking safety and opportunity.

OFRANEH and the Garifuna will continue our fight to live and prosper in Honduras. As for the politicians who would tell us "do not come," we call on them to stop backing the regimes that would displace us.

\*Miriam Miranda is General Coordinator of OFRANEH, this year's recipient of the Letelier-Moffitt International Human Rights Award from the Institute for Policy Studies.

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### **CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE LIMITS OF ECONOMIC GROWTH**

*If economic growth ushered in this era of climate change, how can economic growth also be part of the solution?*

John Feffer\*

Republished from Foreign Policy in Focus (FPiF) November 1, 2021, <https://fpif.org/climate-change-and-the-limits-of-economic-growth/?emci=ff66aa84-e63c-ec11-9820-c896653b26c8&emdi=919963fb-653e-ec11-9820-c896653b26c8&ceid=3984446>

Since the nineteenth century, human society has experienced extraordinary but uneven economic growth thanks to the energy unleashed from fossil fuels. That growth, and the greenhouse gasses released from fossil-fuel use, has also created the current climate crisis. The conventional solution put forward to this crisis, a putative compromise between economic and environmental imperatives, has been to maintain economic growth but on the basis of sustainable energy sources.

Not all ecologists or economists are enthusiastic about this “green growth” alternative. According to these critical views, which have now begun to move into the mainstream, the planet simply can’t sustain the current pace of growth and even renewable energy sources like solar hit up against significant resource limits. The only effective way to control carbon emissions, as well as related problems of pollution and biodiversity loss, is to address “overshoot,” the unconstrained use of energy and material resources well beyond planetary limits, particularly in the richer parts of the world. These arguments pick up from some of the earliest computer modeling of resource limits highlighted in the Club of Rome’s *Limits to Growth* report in 1972, but now with a climate crisis twist.

With the fiftieth anniversary of the Club of Rome report approaching, a number of scientists and economists gathered in early October to assess the current state of play of the zero-growth argument, its traction in the mainstream, and how best to call attention to the data supporting these positions. They looked at this question from various angles—physics, geology, biology, economy, ecology—and discussed the major obstacles to greater acceptance of more critical approaches to economic growth as well as ways of overcoming these obstacles.

The main challenge remains how deeply wedded politicians, economists, and even the average person are to economic growth. “It’s often said that it’s easier for most people to imagine the end of civilization than the end of capitalism, and to imagine the end of capitalism than the end of growth,” quips Joshua Farley, ecological economist at the University of Vermont.

The growth narrative has indeed created certain blind spots, geologist Simon Mischeaux of the Geological Survey of Finland points out. “Certain things just haven’t occurred to us to look at, let alone do the math. One is, understanding what energy does for us. The other is understanding where the raw materials come from.” Much work over the years, including modeling around economic, environmental, and resource limits, has been designed in part to eliminate these blind spots.

Still, blind spots persist. They can be found, for instance, in the discourse around the Green New Deal. “Most Green New Deal material I’ve seen is just another formula for growth,” York University economist Peter Victor notes. “With sustainable development, we used to say that we have the adjective but they have the noun. I feel the same with green growth.”

The modelers themselves are not immune from the growth imperative.

“We need projects to survive as a research group,” explains economist Jaime Nieto Vega of the University of Valladolid, adding that those projects require bigger and better modeling. “I’m increasingly convinced that we should keep the modeling simple, but the internal dynamics of academe are against that.” Universidad del Rosario ecological economist Katharine Farrell similarly highlights the need to take into account the modelling implications of “industrialization of scientific knowledge production” with its “fetishization of innovation” that reproduces within academia the same growth dynamic in society as a whole.

In recent years, critiques of growth have been emerging from a number of different disciplines. Such an intellectual convergence is producing what might well become a paradigm shift. “It’s

almost as if human consciousness is ready to see certain ideas,” Simon Micheaux concludes hopefully. “Our ideas might be received a little bit differently over the next couple of years.”

## **Economics**

Economics, on paper, is a discipline devoted to scarcity and trade-offs: budget constraints, resource limitations, the iron law of wages. As economists like to say, “there is no such thing as a free lunch.” Everything, in the end, must be paid for.

Economic growth at first glance seems to promise a shortcut out of this dismal world of scarcity by offering the promise of just such a free lunch, if not for everyone then at least for some. As economies grow, more goods and services become available, and the bounty seems to be conjured as if from thin air.

Economic growth, however, is not a conjuring trick. It has been powered by planetary resources, mostly fossil fuels. As University of British Columbia bio-ecologist William Rees points out, for most of human existence economic growth was “barely detectable until the early nineteenth century when we got into the fossil fuel era. Fossil fuel for the first time gave humans access to other resources needed to grow the rest of infrastructure and human and manufactured capital that we find ourselves ‘blessed with.’ In order to maintain that capital, we need to have a continuous supply of cheap energy.”

The bill for a “free lunch” produced by fossil fuels is now coming due in the form of global warming, biodiversity decline, and various forms of pollution.

The strange thing is that economic growth, though it exerts such a powerful influence across societies of very different political economies, is often illusory. “For much of the past 50 years, most Americans have experienced no economic growth, no increase in consumption or level of wealth,” Joshua Farley points out, because the benefits of economic growth “have all flowed to the elite.”

Yet most people don’t want to give up on even this illusory sense of growth. Farley cites the 2006 review of the economics of climate change by the British economist Nicholas Stern, who noted at the time that it would require an outlay of one percent of global GDP to stabilize emissions at a level of 550 parts per million, which would substantially reduce the risk of climate catastrophe. At a time when GDP was growing 3 percent a year, such an expenditure would mean accepting a living standard of a mere five months in the past. But Stern believed that even such a modest cut would be a tough pill for the public to swallow, and he acknowledged that more ambitious efforts to reduce the risk of catastrophe, by for instance spending 2 percent of global GDP and accepting the living standards of the previous year, would meet with even greater public resistance.

Growth is not simply embedded in national discourses. It lies at the heart of the process known as globalization, namely the elimination of barriers to the transnational flow of trade and capital and the intensification of global supply chains. But globalization, as Peter Victor notes, is not inevitable: “Globalization is built around capital mobility as the owners of capital seek better

returns on their capital. It is allowed by policy, but there is also an opportunity to reduce capital mobility just as it was increased.”

Such pushback against the assumptions of globalization—that deregulation is essential, that growth is inevitable—has grown among economists.

This pushback, for Peter Victor, began with the idea that “the economy is fully embedded in the biosphere and is fully dependent on it for all materials and energy and for all waste disposal.” From this insight, he developed models for exploring the impact in Canada of a no-growth economy and a reduction of energy and material throughput. “If GDP is stable, and you’re getting efficiency gains, then you’re reducing material and energy use,” he explains. When he published his first modeling in 2007, “you could put out scenarios that showed that the cessation of growth in Canada would meet many other important social and economic objectives: less work time, more leisure time, a reduction of income inequality and environmental impacts.”

A second model, developed with ecological economist Tim Jackson, also incorporated the financial system. “We could still get scenarios where growth would end and material and energy throughput would decline, but it was harder,” Victor adds. “I don’t think that’s a surprise. The window is definitely closing in terms of any reasonably smooth adjustment to the circumstances we’re facing.”

Another hallmark of the current age of economic globalization is increased income inequality, both within countries and between countries. This polarization has been driven by the greater role played by finance in the global economy. The rate of return for financial capital is often greater than the economy as a whole, which effectively transfers even more wealth to those who possess capital in the first place. People are making money from money rather than from the production of goods. Some individuals and some countries are better positioned to prosper under such a system, which reinforces inequality.

“I see the fundamental conflict of our age as the rich versus everyone else,” Simon Micheaux argues. “People with lots of money don’t have empathy. The same ways of logic and problem-solving and appealing to a sense of right and wrong doesn’t work with them.”

Katharine Farrell calls attention to the social psychology work of biologist Mary E. Clark that the sociopathology of the profit-driven private corporation is well documented in psychological research. “A corporation has to survive by showing profit and growing,” Micheaux agrees. “If a corporation can’t grow, it loses investment, takes on debt, and goes down. They call this a free market like it’s a good thing. What do psychopaths do when they are fighting for their own survival? Do we expect them to play nice?”

### **Economic Transition**

The global economy is under a number of pressures: stagnation, the costs of climate change and other environmental impacts, the volatility that has accompanied income inequality. “Crises have a way of bringing about unanticipated or unwanted changes,” Peter Victor notes. “But they happen. Think of the crisis European feudalism faced with the rise of the merchant class and later the industrial class. Feudalism gave way to capitalism not because Adam Smith

wrote a great book but because the pressures were too great for feudalism to survive. There was a shift in the power balance. Now we have to recognize that capitalism is under stress.”

One of those stresses is the availability of raw materials. Modern capitalism is based on relatively inexpensive fossil fuels and mineral wealth. That entire system is now under threat. “This is an historic moment,” Katharine Farrell points out. “We are looking at the collapse of the physiological structures of the planet, such as we’ve been able to document them, during the small amount of time that we’ve been around to do so.”

Another energy-related challenge for any transition away from fossil fuels is the relationship between energy efficiency and the reduction of energy demand that’s imperative if humanity is to meet national and international carbon emission goals. “We are finding that energy efficiency is not able to grow at the same scope as energy reduction when economic growth is a given,” reports Jaime Nieto Vega, alluding to Jevons paradox according to which increased efficiency in resource use goes hand in hand with increased consumption of that resource. “This is one of the main challenges of the energy transition plans in the EU and concretely in Spain.”

There is more willingness among politicians to acknowledge the ongoing collapse of the existing system. Simon Micheaux describes a meeting he had with civil servants in Brussels. “They were in an echo chamber,” he remembers. “It had not occurred to them to ask certain questions. I put together some information to demonstrate that our dependency on fossil fuels is a problem, fossil fuels are about to become unreliable, and the transition plan to move away from fossil fuel has not been thought out in a practical context. At a basic level, the planned rollout of electric cars and hydrogen fuel cell powered by solar and wind and hydro won’t work. We’ve run out of time, and we don’t have the minerals in the ground. Even if we did find those minerals somehow by mining the sea floor, those systems are not strong enough to replace fossil fuels. I was met with shock. No one able to refute my work.”

Such a meeting stood in contrast to his involvement in a civil society consultation at the G20 meeting in Melbourne in 2014. “The finance ministers told us up front that if we couldn’t help them achieve 2 percent growth annum indefinitely, we shouldn’t bother coming,” he recalls. “When it became clear that we couldn’t do that, that we would be tabling some very difficult challenges, they cut out the civil society documentation to go to the G20.”

Joshua Farley agrees that the world is on the verge of transition. “The heyday of neoliberalism is fading fast,” he notes. “My students are more open to alternatives to capitalism. We’re reaching a point where the next stage is inevitable. People all around the world are coming up with the same ideas at the same time, just like Newton and Leibniz with calculus and Darwin and Wallace with evolution.”

He continues, “We are moving from a world in which individual choice and competition made sense to one in which collective choice and cooperation are necessary, not because ideologies have changed but because both the problems we face and the nature of the resources required to solve them have changed. When the costs of economic activity are collective, capitalism (i.e. private property rights and individual choice) is suicidal; when the benefits are collective (e.g. new vaccines for COVID, new forms of alternative energy), capitalism is inefficient.”

William Rees remains cautious about this transitional period. “If you believe the results of our eco-footprint and overshoot work, it’s not possible to support the present population indefinitely at average material standards,” he points out. “There are already resource shortages. To maintain the current structure requires the depletion of natural assets in the biosphere. According to our material flow analysis, half of the countries on earth are incapable of becoming even remotely self-reliant. Even China, which boasts of its huge pork production, relies on fodder grown in the United States, Brazil, and elsewhere. So, China’s eco-footprint is all over planet. They’re aware of it, at least implicitly. The Belt-and-Road Initiative is a strategy to ensure that China has access to resources all over earth. China has instructed its industrial sector and military to look for every drop of fossil fuel so that they can get in there first to maintain hegemony. Sustainability beyond mid-century will require a massive contraction of economic throughput by as much as 50 percent globally, which means 80 percent in rich countries on a per capita basis. Although modest by some estimation, are those figures realistic geopolitically?”

“Is capitalism, and the countries dedicated to it so firmly, going to fade away quietly?” he asks. “A dying dinosaur has a very dangerous tail that thrashes around.” He points out that the world is “not controlled by us thinking about ideas. It’s controlled by big money and the politics that goes with it. The military-industrial complex is alive and thriving.”

Part of any transition, then, is to minimize the influence of the beneficiaries of the dying system. “None of us know what the new economy will look like or how to implement it,” Joshua Farley says. “But I advocate removing important parts, like essential resources, from the capitalist economy. That might be perceived as less of a threat to the global market. I still want to go into a store and choose the apple I want. Markets work okay for tastes but not for needs.”

One such segment of the economy might be research. “Ideas, information, knowledge, none of this should be rationed, yet capitalism tries to push knowledge production into a market framework,” Peter Victor points out. “If I can get free information from the Internet, I will do so. I don’t consider it stealing. It’s not like bread from the baker since if I take it, there’s no less for anyone else.”

## **Biology**

Mainstream economists view humans as “rational actors” who maximize their gains according to self-interest. Billions of such “rational actors” have over the years made decisions to increase the overall pie as well as their portion of it. The biological counterpart of this economic view is the “selfish gene,” by which humans will do everything within their power to maximize their advantages in order to improve their chances of reproducing themselves. Growing the economy and growing the species have thus been cast as going hand in hand. Not everyone agrees. Since Richard Dawkins introduced his “selfish gene” argument, others have marshaled evidence for the biological basis of altruism. “Love, compassion: these are characteristics of primates,” Katharine Farrell notes, adding with a dash of understatement that “even some humans have been seen to exhibit these characteristics.”

Biology is not destiny, William Rees argues, but it certainly strongly influences human actions. “The human species responds just as other species do when it finds itself in a resource trove,” he explains. “We go through rapid exponential growth until we either pollute ourselves into slowing down or deplete the assets that produced that growth. We are in the plague phase of a one-off population outbreak that will result in either slow implosion or rapid crash. That’s the choice ahead of us.”

Biological limitations also shape the efficacy of human responses to the current crisis. “We have a brain that evolved in simple circumstances: a small habitat and few people,” Rees continues. “We are not capable of dealing with complexity. We are natural reductionists. Echo chambers, disciplinary silos—that reflects our capacity to focus on one thing at a time and not much else. With every biological phenomenon there is diversity, but in the main, we’re not capable of understanding the complexity of the situation that we have created.”

The heart of the problem, he adds, is not climate change *per se*. “With the explosion of human numbers, we’ve put ourselves in a situation where simply maintaining the current population and infrastructure requires the depletion of natural capital assets—soils, forests, fisheries,” he says. “We are literally consuming the biophysical basis of our own existence. Climate change is a symptom of overshoot. It’s a waste management issue, caused by carbon dioxide, the largest single waste product by weight of industrial economies. Biodiversity loss is a symptom of overshoot because human expansion necessarily displaces other species and their habitats. Gross pollution is the entropic result of growing the human enterprise.”

Ordinarily, such species growth hits a wall. “Species are usually held in check by negative feedback from the ecosystem in the form of disease or competition,” he notes. “Fossil fuel relieved us from that feedback, and we could express our full biological potential to expand. The cultural meme set of neoliberal economics has reinforced the biological disposition to expand.”

Katharine Farrell, while largely in agreement with Rees, resists the notion that human nature is predetermined, by a “selfish gene” way or otherwise. She argues that “it’s very difficult to get out of one’s own orientation” and disagrees with treating the culture of capitalism as an inherent feature of being human: “industrialized capitalism, which has certainly achieved a memetic imposition on the culture of the planet, is not the natural or only option for the human being. We have to get out of the trap of the gendered state of evolution reflected in the Euro-descendent, post-medieval culture of capital accumulation that presently dominates globalized economic activity. It’s not the only option we have.”

Increasingly, humans have been behaving much like parasites, which Joshua Farley points out, constitute “the overwhelming share of species on the planet.” William Rees picks up on the theme. “Humans have broken free of any ethical obligation to non-human species or even the future,” he says. “We have become effectively parasites on the planet. The growth of the human enterprise—the production of all our toys and goodies acquired at the expense of depleting the planet of other species, soil, water—has had the entropic consequence of the parasitic destruction of our host species, which is the ecosystem.”

It all comes down, Katharine Farrell agrees, to entropy, to the inevitable marriage between the production of order and disorder. “We don’t have an energy supply problem so much as an obsessive focus on finding energy sources. We have an overproduction of entropy, of waste heat and residuals that are inevitably produced whenever we do useful work, and this entropy production problem is reflected in biodiversity loss, habitat appropriation, and an explosion of invasive species, including agriculture.”

## Organization

What distinguishes humans from other creatures, Katharine Farrell points out, is not so much social interaction or organization, for ants and bees are highly organized creatures, but the creation of institutions. Ants are differentiated by their shapes: the queen versus the workers. Humans look more or less the same even as they take on different roles in social institutions.

These institutions, Peter Victor points out, mitigate to a certain degree the biological deficiencies inherent in any average individual.

“We tend to be short-sighted,” he admits. “We are good at the local, not at the global. But part of the solution to that are the institutions we construct. When they work well, they can give us a longer time horizon, because they outlast the life of an individual. Unfortunately, a lot of the organizations that get set up with that spirit in mind can get overwhelmed and become short-term and concerned with the local. But if we’re looking not only at how bad things are but how to get out of it, we have to look at changes at the organizational level to complement any discussion of our biological limitations.”

Social segmentation and differentiation, mediated by these organizations, also counteract the individualism of the “selfish gene” and the rational self-interest of *homo economicus*. “None of us has the ability to fully produce from scratch any item we’re in contact with right now,” Joshua Farley points out. “We are inherently a collective species. The individual can’t survive away from the collective any more than a cell can survive apart from the body. Even the most trained survivalist, without a knowledge of local ecosystems developed through culture, is helpless.”

One useful organizational innovation, Katharine Farrell notes, has been federalism, a method of handling complex hierarchical structures. The principle of subsidiarity is especially useful where “differentiated systems don’t try to do everything at one level” but authority is taken at the most immediate or local possible level. Peter

Victor also acknowledges the virtues of federalism: “In Canada, where we have 10 provinces and three territories, we can learn from each other and be closer to politicians than in highly centralized Britain.”

Human organization nevertheless has its downsides, depending on the nature of the organization. “I wouldn’t have forced someone to produce my shirt in an exploitative manner,” Joshua Farley points out, “but buying it through the capitalist system, I don’t think twice about



it.” Organizations, through their complexity, thus offer individuals a kind of plausible deniability when it comes to unjust or unsustainable practices.

The structures of globalization, William Rees adds, have had a destructive effect on more sustainable forms of organization. Globalization has destroyed “the capacity for community-level self-reliance or self-sufficiency. Now with global supply lines, everyone is utterly dependent on everyone else to survive let alone thrive. Unfortunately, that whole organizational structure presupposes abundant cheap energy to enable the global transport of goods around planet. If that system is coming to an end, we are going to be in a situation of forced reorganization, which won’t be pleasant because it will result in increasing strife over the remaining pockets of assets around the world. Globalization has been the means by which the relatively well-to-do can access these remaining pockets. This huge organizational pump has sucked the planet dry and, in the process, impoverished much of the world.”

But self-sufficiency can return, even under adverse conditions. Peter Victor enumerates a number of the survival tactics of countries under U.S. sanctions that have been forced, by their relative isolation from the global economy, to strengthen their food self-sufficiency or develop their own vaccines. Another example of this resistance is “south-south cooperation where the Global South is trying to learn from itself and wean itself to some degree of dependence on the North,” he points out. “What can we learn from these examples?”

### **Is versus Ought**

Science attempts to describe the world as it is not as it should be.

“Both quantitative and qualitative analyses are important,” Peter Victor argues. “A lot can be learned from number-crunching and from people playing with your models. But it’s not enough. It convinces those who are already convinced, and it raises questions with those who have open minds. Quantitative analysis gives us some insight into the choices we can make. But it doesn’t tell us which one to take.”

“I believe in genetic evolution where the mechanism is genes as well as cultural evolution where the mechanism is our moral values,” adds Joshua Farley. “We need these values to live together as a group. These values are the units of inheritance upon which natural selection acts and they are every bit as scientific as genes. We’re still obsessed in science with providing better numbers. No, we need to develop better ethical values that are compatible with society and its current scale. When I ask my students to distinguish between a good person and an evil person, they usually reply that an evil person puts the individual ahead of the group and a good person puts the group ahead of the individual. If we want to be a good species, we have to put the overall planet ahead of humans.”

Katharine Farrell describes a meeting she attended where an indigenous woman from Canada and an indigenous man from Brazil discussed their perspectives on capitalism. “The man talked mainly about brutality and violence and a lack of regard for the other, the lack of reciprocity in terms of economic framing. The woman talked more about cultural complexity, that sense of responsibility, how do we raise and teach our children. I was left with a metaphor: capitalism is an adolescent male who didn’t spend enough time with his mother. It’s a vulgar

oversimplification of the problem, but there's a lot in it. We need a more neurocognitively complex approach to knowledge production that includes and exploits both the masculine and feminine aspects of the human brain."

"I'm not suggesting that the memetic theme we're now embedded in is the only one," William Rees counters. "But the one we have happens to reinforce the biological theme. The whole of civilization is a set of rules and regulations established to override what would naturally happen. We are in the game of recreating the paradigmatic framework with which we move forward and much of that will have to counteract our natural predispositions."

### **Impact**

Given the centrality of economic growth in the mainstream, degrowth has largely hovered on the margins of debate. That seems to be changing.

"I noticed a shift in mood two or three years ago," reports Simon Micheaux. "Instead of hitting my head against the wall, all of a sudden I started to get results. I'm not sure how this happened, but now I'm getting my work in front of senior policy decisionmakers. I'm presenting to ministers and parliaments in multiple countries."

But, he cautions, that hasn't yet translated into altered policies, either at a political level or even in terms of technological research. "The best and brightest are working on things that, I won't say they won't work, they do work, but they are not the ultimate solution. We are forced to work on lithium-ion battery chemistry when there are other chemistries. I've shown that there are not enough minerals in the ground to make those batteries. I've used their data. They have no choice but to see it."

When a financial crisis happens or a sympathetic political party takes power, the terms of reception can change dramatically. Peter Victor remembers when a social democratic government took over in Ontario after a surprise election result in 1991. "I was given a job there, and just being able to work with a government that was interested in social change was incredible," he says. "You couldn't give them enough ideas! They didn't accept them all, but they listened."

Fifteen years later it was a crisis that gave his ideas more prominence. "My book *Managing Without Growth* came out in 2008 at the time of the financial crisis," he recalls. "What otherwise would have been a marginal document published by an academic publisher and sold at a high price became more well-known. The media was looking for an economist who could say something positive about no-growth. I was invited all over the world. I got a sense that I was being listened to. But 99 percent of the time, the audience already agreed with me." Victor adds, "It takes a chorus. If lots of us do these things, it will make an impact."

Degrowth is often associated with doom-and-gloom scenarios. "No one wants to hear that everything is going to go poorly," Simon Micheaux notes. "They want a solution. If you can't promote a solution, they are not prepared to hear the problem." As the economist Herman Daly used to say, "If you're falling out an airplane, it's not an altimeter you need but a parachute."

Finland, Micheaux continues, sits on a lot of minerals integral to battery production such as cobalt, nickel, lithium, and graphite. “If I’m right, in a few years’ time, the global production of minerals will not be sufficient to meet demand. The captains of industry will then turn to the geological surveys in Europe and say, ‘why didn’t you tell us?’ The Geological Survey of Finland (GDK) manages a battery portfolio and they will be first in the firing line. I can have a frank discussion with their executive board members about hyperinflation, peak oil, currency default. They are enlightened, but they don’t understand the implications.” Still, GDK is giving him the opportunity to develop his ideas about the circular economy and cooperate with other Finnish research groups in the industrial sectors.

“It’s pretty clear that we don’t have enough resources to go around,” Micheaux concludes. “If we do the conventional, each nation for itself, it will give war a chance until the population reduces. If we actually have a transparency of information and we all agree to share those resources, we’ll have a form of socialism to distribute those resources and a form of capitalism to exploit those resources.”

To help generate and test new ideas, Joshua Farley recommends creating a knowledge commons. “Any university can unilaterally declare that all the knowledge we create to address social ecological problems is freely available to all on the condition that any improvements to it are also freely available to all,” he suggests. Even geopolitical rivals like the United States, Iran, and North Korea could be part of this commons. Small-scale knowledge commons, like this working group, can provide help in developing certain ideas and marshalling the defense of such ideas in the public sphere.

This effort could include the creation of a social platform to rival Facebook based not on pushing people to buy more things—and offering polarizing content to keep people tuned in—but on algorithms that “reduce political polarization and focus people on common problems,” Farley adds.

Another idea Farley suggests is “secure sufficiency.” Meeting people’s basic needs is “the ultimate form of freedom.” If they are not worried about becoming unemployed or suffering a health emergency that they can’t afford to cover, they might not strive so hard to accumulate wealth or be quite so wedded to a growth economy.

The working group agreed to pool its experience of “what works” in terms of injecting no-growth arguments and modeling into the mainstream. And the group is considering efforts to work with organizations devoted to qualitatively expressed no-growth visions like “well-being” and “buen vivir,” and to challenge competing modeling based on overly optimistic assumptions about technological advances.

\*John Feffer is the director of Foreign Policy In Focus. This article is part of the new Global Just Transition project.

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**MISSING FROM THE CLIMATE TALKS:  
CORPORATE POWERS TO SUE GOVERNMENTS THAT LIMIT POLLUTION**  
*Allowing extractive industries to file expensive lawsuits over environmental regulations could  
undermine whatever agreements might be reached at COP26 in Glasgow.*

Manuel Perez-Rocha\*

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International negotiators are meeting in Glasgow, Scotland to develop solutions to the climate change threat. But one major obstacle to global sustainability will be largely absent from the discussions: the investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS) system.

This system gives transnational corporations the power to sue governments over actions — including policies to address climate change — that reduce the value of their foreign investments. Allowing corporations to continue to wield this power could undermine whatever agreements might be reached in Glasgow.

How does this system work? Clauses in more than 2,600 Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) and Bilateral Investment Treaties (BITs) allow foreign investors to bypass domestic courts and sue sovereign states in international tribunals for millions — and even billions — of dollars.

The World Bank's International Center for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) is the most commonly used of these arbitration tribunals, followed by the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL). Made up of highly paid, three-person panels of corporate lawyers, these tribunals should not be mistaken for courts of law. This privatized system has little regard for precedent, truth, or justice.

Companies in the highly lucrative natural resource extraction sector take greatest advantage of ISDS. Oil, gas, and mining companies have filed around 25 percent of all known claims to date, and 29 percent of all ICSID claims in fiscal year 2021.

The growth of suits brought by extractive industries has been exponential. Since 1995, when an extractive industry brought their first case under an international agreement, they have brought claims demanding at least \$195 billion and won awards totaling at least \$73.2 billion. These figures are based on available data from ICSID and UNCTAD. Other arbitration tribunals do not publish information about cases or awards.

Extractives corporations not only use the ISDS system the most, they also receive the largest monetary awards. Out of the 14 known awards for more than \$1 billion, 11 pertain to oil, gas and mining.

### **A Flourish data visualization**

There are at least 82 known pending ISDS cases brought by extractive industries. Of the 42 where information is available, the companies are demanding a total of \$99.1 billion (\$71.1 billion by mining companies and \$28.1 billion by oil and gas companies).

Notably there are 40 pending cases where the amounts being claimed are not available, so the figures above are only partial. But from the information available there are at least 14 pending cases for more than \$1 billion, with ludicrous suits against Congo for \$27 billion and Colombia for \$16.5 billion topping the list. Another case in which a corporation is demanding \$16 billion, TC v. USA, for the cancelation of the controversial Keystone pipeline by the Biden's administration, is not included in the table below because it has not yet been registered at ICSID. (Source: ICSID and UNCTAD)

### **A Flourish data visualization**

In their lawsuits, corporations most often cite protections in FTAs and BITs against “indirect expropriation.”

This is interpreted to mean regulations and other government actions that reduce the value of an investment. Hence, corporations can sue governments over the enforcement of environmental, health, and other public interest laws or measures arising from democratic or judicial processes. While investment tribunals cannot force a government to repeal laws and regulations, time-consuming, costly litigation and the threat of massive awards for damages often put a “chilling effect” on responsible policy-making.

There has been some movement in recent years to roll back these excessive corporate powers. The European Court of Justice, for example, has ruled that European Union energy companies will not be able to use the Energy Charter Treaty (ECT) to sue EU governments. The U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement that replaced NAFTA eliminates ISDS between Canada and the United States.

But for the most part, international agreements that allow corporations headquartered in rich countries to continue to wield this weapon against development country governments remain in force, reinforcing neo-colonial North-South relations.

The imbalance of who uses the system the most is already very stark. Most extractive companies that have used ISDS are from countries in Western Europe or the United States, Canada, or Australia. By contrast, countries in the regions of the Global South are the most sued.

A majority of extractives-related ISDS cases have been brought by companies headquartered in just five countries. The United States alone is home to companies that have filed 53 out of the 194 total oil, mining, and gas cases.

The Institute for Policy Studies report *Extraction Casino* notes that for transnational extractive industries that pollute the planet and contribute to climate change, ISDS is “yet

another opportunity to strike it rich through reckless, casino-style gambling, given the recourse they have to bring suits within a system in which the deck is heavily stacked in their favor, and produce a chilling effect on regulations and policies that address climate change.”

To effectively combat climate change, governments around the world will need the flexibility to pursue a wide range of actions — without the threat of provoking expensive corporate lawsuits. The ISDS system should not stand in the way of responsible policies to address this existential global threat.

The elimination of the ISDS system should be on the table in Glasgow. At a minimum, negotiators should agree to independent audits of international investment treaties that include ISDS clauses, with meaningful public participation. On the basis of these audits, these agreements should either be cancelled or rewritten in terms that put people’s rights and the environment first.

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## INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND THE CLIMATE CRISIS

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Bryan Bixcul (Maya Tz'utujil) and Adriana Hernández (Maya K'iche')\*

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As Indigenous Peoples, we acknowledge that our identity is intrinsically connected to the land; our cultures and languages directly reflect our connection with the territories we inhabit. As whole ecosystems collapse due to climate change, our ways and means of living collapse as well. There is a climate crisis worldwide, and Indigenous Peoples bear the brunt of its consequences, especially Indigenous women.

Indigenous Peoples make up around 5 percent of the global population and occupy, own and manage an estimated 20 to 25 percent of the Earth's land surface. This land holds around 80 percent of the world’s biodiversity, 85 percent of protected and conservation zones are within or adjacent to Indigenous territories. However, Indigenous Peoples’ rights to lands and natural resources are often unrecognized and too often violated.

As the former president of the UN General Assembly to the Indigenous Peoples’ Global Summit on Climate Change, H.E. Miguel D’escoto Brockmann said, “Climate change poses threats and dangers to the survival of Indigenous communities worldwide, even though they contribute the least to greenhouse emissions. In fact, Indigenous Peoples are vital to the many ecosystems in their lands and territories and help enhance the resilience of these ecosystems. In addition, Indigenous Peoples interpret and react to the impacts of climate change in creative ways, drawing on traditional knowledge and other technologies to find solutions that society at large can replicate to counter pending changes.”

As part of the celebration of the twentieth session of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) which took part this year virtually on April 19-30, 2021, MADRE and the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation convened a conversation at a side session centered around building sustainable and peaceful communities. During this panel, Indigenous women from Africa, Asia, and the Americas came together to discuss issues like the intersection of environmental impacts and peacebuilding; lessons on the successes they have had in protecting their lands and territories; the impacts of climate change and extractive industries in the lives of Indigenous women; and why women are at the center when building solidarity and sisterhood.

Lucy Mulenkei (Maasai), board member at Natural Justice, noted that climate change affects Indigenous communities through natural disasters and depleted resources. She shared the experiences of her community where women have the heaviest workload; they look for water, wood and put food on the table. Men are also affected because they have to travel longer routes and leave their homes for extended periods to find pastures to feed their cattle. Remedios Uriana (Wayüü), member of (ONIC) Organización Nacional Indígena de Colombia, added that Indigenous communities in Colombia face droughts, food insecurity, malnutrition, and sicknesses. Furthermore, Kandi White (Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara), from Indigenous Rising, talked about the imbalances in our environment, much of it caused by the fossil fuel industry. She also called our attention to humanity's loss of respect for the land and ourselves. White elaborated perfectly, "We have become economically dependent on our cultural destruction; we Indigenous women have a right not only to survive but to thrive."

Although the future may seem uncertain, women at this conference felt encouraged by the rising up of women and youth who are organizing to fight back. There is a transition taking place away from fossil fuels, and more and more women are making their voices heard. But change has come very slowly; Indigenous Peoples fought for 25 years to have the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP). We need to act now and use every tool in our toolkit to make change happen faster. To quote Kandi White's words, "We can't wait 25 years for a piece of paper to get passed while we are dying in our communities."

Otilia Lux de Coti (Maya K'iche'), Permanent Representative of Guatemala to UNESCO Executive Council, explained that the issues Indigenous women face have a political and jurisdictional angle; therefore, women's organizations should unite their efforts around specific issues to make their voices heard. She also made the following recommendations: strengthening the rule of law and building stronger institutions to defend Indigenous territories; countries should create laws that recognize the territorial property of Indigenous communities; organizations should lead legal efforts to assert Indigenous Peoples' rights over their territories, and promote land titling for women.

Women often confront corporate power when defending their territories from extractive industries, in addition to experiencing intimidation, harassment, and criminalization. Indigenous women face barriers in the decision-making processes, marginalization within their movements, and stigmatization. Women Human Rights Defenders experience violence perpetrated by corporations and private companies, government entities, military forces, but also within their communities and movements. Human rights violations against Indigenous women are connected to the extractive model of development, which disrupts Indigenous women's livelihoods and their communities. There is a sense of urgency to support Indigenous self-determination where

Indigenous communities decide the future of their territories, with a greater sense of respect to their spirituality and sacredness of the land.

Panelists also concluded that continuing to empower women to assert their rights and use the tools available to them is essential to fight against climate change and protect Indigenous territories. They called on governments to translate the UNDRIP into all Indigenous languages and voiced their concerns over the murder of human rights defenders. Women at this conference reminded all people that their support is important and encouraged them to reconnect to the land and remember who we are.

It is also crucial for governments and civil society to recognize that climate change has become a core national security threat for every nation globally. Conflict can erupt at any moment as communities fight for scarce resources. If we consider the pressure added to communities by extractive industries in our territories, it becomes a dangerously combustible mix of threats to Indigenous communities, especially to Indigenous women who often experience human rights violations. As Indigenous women experience environmental and social impacts due to climate change, societies become less safe for them. We have to reach out to every partner we can find to make the case to the whole world that caring for the environment advances peace, security, and the well being for everyone.

Cultural Survival stands in solidarity with Indigenous women everywhere. Women whose lives have been disrupted by the environmental and social impacts of climate change. Women who are defending their territories and their rights every day against powerful extractive corporations. Women whose experiences go unnoticed, whose voices go unheard. Wherever you are, and whatever the circumstances of your life, please know that you are not alone in this fight. At Cultural Survival, we are raising awareness through our different programs about the difficult circumstances you are facing. We urge governments and societies at large to wake up to these realities, we have to do much more, and we have to do it now.

To watch or share this inspirational event, click this link: <https://www.facebook.com/madre.org/videos/1112809722571901/>.

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### **SCRAPING THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA**

*Deep sea mining companies are not just exploiting the oceans, they're harming the low-income nations surrounding the proposed mine sites.*

Alec Dubro\*

Republished from *Foreign Policy in Focus (FPiF)*, August 10, 2021, <https://fpif.org/scraping-the-bottom-of-the-sea/?emci=f57183ce-cbfa-eb11-b563-501ac57b8fa7&emdi=5a3ffba-86fb-eb11-b563-501ac57b8fa7&ceid=3984446>.



On July 29, the two-day Wokisok Shark Calling Festival will begin at Kono village, New Ireland, Papua New Guinea. It's not a new gimmick to capitalize on Shark Week or Sharknado movies—although foreign visitors are welcome. Nor do people stand on the beach and yell, Shark!

Instead it's a seasonal rite where fishers paddle out from shore and summon sharks with noise and motion makers—and then they hope, capture them. It's supposed to ensure shark harvests for peoples who depend in part on this source of protein. It's actually one of many such ceremonies that take place in this area of the Pacific.

Although the Kono Village festival hadn't been observed for years, it has been revived this year with an added fillip. It's being held to rally the campaign to stop the relentless attempt by deep-pocketed mining investors called the Solwara 1 project to tear up the local sea bed in search of minerals. Local groups such as the West Coast Development Foundation and the Alliance of Solwara Warriors have been battling Solwara for years, but the latest mining push in the form of a new company called DeepGreen has heightened the struggle.

Solwara is an attempt to vacuum up the mineral accretions on the nearby sea floor called hydrothermal vents or smokers. And DeepGreen and its predecessor Nautilus Minerals have plowed ahead in the absence of any meaningful control or protections. Going up against some of the world's richest extractive industries is hard even in developed countries—and New Ireland is most definitely not developed.

This fight is important—perhaps critical—to arresting the march of yet another disastrous extractive technology. As Catherine Coumans of MiningWatch Canada points out:

The Solwara 1 project is targeting hydrothermal vents for destruction – believed to be the cradles of life on earth and containing unique and as yet poorly understood ecosystems of international importance. Mining these vents will directly impact the food security and culture of nearby coastal communities. The struggle to stop this seabed mine from proceeding stretches beyond the Bismarck Sea as a wider Pacific and global effort to stop seabed mining from ever starting is gaining momentum.

Twice the length and area of Long Island, New Ireland is a skinny, musket-shaped island separating the Pacific Ocean from the Bismarck Sea. It has a population of 250,000 and a capital of some 20,000. Its one road, an island-long highway, is a legacy from the Germans, one of a string of foreign countries who claimed ownership of the island. It took a lot of imagination, or possibly real estate vision, for eighteenth-century British explorer Carteret to name it New Ireland. Except that it's adjacent to the larger island of New Britain—which also resembles its namesake not in the least.

Today both islands are under the control of Papua New Guinea—a financially vulnerable government that has an on-and-off relationship with the mining companies. That's understandable considering the limited opportunities for revenue in a nation whose citizens often lie outside the money economy—or barely within it. And it's a story told all too often among the impoverished nations and indigenous enclaves throughout the world.

## Sea Floor Mining

The most successful sea floor mining so far is petroleum extraction; ventures to gather solid ores have been less successful. Many areas of the sea floor abound with polymetallic nodules—small round accretions with a high percentage of precipitated minerals. They’ve long been known about but in the 1960s and 1970s, international mining consortia invested some half a billion dollars exploring the commercial potential of gathering such nodules. In general, the cost of extraction and processing exceeded land-based sources and projects, so despite much publicity, the undertaking went nowhere.

But no problem. According to MiningWatch Canada’s 2019 report *Why the Rush?*, “As frontier investors and first-mover seabed mining companies, Nautilus and DeepGreen have already made significant profits based on speculation about the *possibility* and the *potential* of [deep sea mining] in the Pacific Ocean, without undertaking any actual mining.”

Gerard Barron, the flamboyant 55-year-old Australian rock star lookalike—and chairman and CEO of The Metals Company (aka DeepGreen)—is the kind of financial manipulator the business press loves to profile. When he says he’s out to save the world from fossil fuels, reporters may take his words somewhat skeptically, but they come back for more. Whatever he may or may not believe about his mission, he knows how to make money. Of his investment in Nautilus, Barron says, “It ended up being a very successful investment.”

Barron was the first investor in Nautilus... and the first to leave. And now he’s the prime mover behind DeepGreen and its hoped-for merger with a Sustainable Opportunities Acquisition Corporation, an elusive financial entity called a Special Purpose Acquisition Company. According to *The New York Times*, “Sometimes called blank-check companies, SPACs raise money from investors without having a detailed business plan. Their sole purpose is to find another business to buy within two years. If that doesn’t happen, the company folds and investors get their money back.”

These financial shenanigans not only exploit the sea, they also harm the small, low-income nations surrounding the proposed mine sites, most of whom don’t have the clout to stop such risky ventures. By contrast, the nearby Australian Northern Territory earlier this year banned seabed mining in its coastal waters, citing the environment, Indigenous sites and fishing.

Even with these larger opponents, DeepGreen has fought back with Green arguments. According to Reuters, “Vancouver-based DeepGreen intends to produce from 2024 metals from polymetallic rocks, found deep in the Pacific Ocean, for use in batteries that will power electric vehicles (EVs).” In other words, “It’s Green, folks, so it’s just fine.”

But for Nautilus, its greed long precedes its greenness. In 2010, the company received a license to exploit an area in the Bismarck Sea where they hoped to extract commercial-grade seabed sulfide (SMS) deposits containing metal sulfides, gold, and silver.

## **Gold Rush**

Few impoverished Pacific nations can resist the lure of free riches just for licensing their unused coastal seabeds, often within Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ).

In the New Ireland case, local groups reacted to the news of Nautilus' Solwara 1 project by demonstrating and lobbying against it, both locally and in international fora. However, big mining money—far more money than opponents could muster—bought government cooperation. Countries such as Nauru, Tonga, and Kiribati aggressively vied to become part of the scheme. And Papua New Guinea (PNG)—larger than the others but still financially weak—also rolled over for the project.

But for PNG, the consequences of participation were especially disastrous. As the project churned ahead, the PNG government was enticed to invest \$125 million of its own funds—equivalent to one-third of its health budget. Solwara 1 didn't file an environmental impact report nor was it compliant with international standards. Worse, the affected communities were never consulted. Predictably Papuans and their environmental allies were furious and mounted a vigorous campaign to stop the project. The financial collapse and subsequent bankruptcy of Nautilus meant that the PNG government was stuck with the bill and no way to collect.

Not so for select Nautilus shareholders. “Some investors in first-mover seabed mining companies have already made handsome profits based on speculation about the possibility and the potential of DSM in the Pacific Ocean, without undertaking any actual mining,” according to *Why the Rush?* (<https://maritimereview.ph/why-the-rush-in-seabed-mining-in-the-pacific-ocean/>) So, the rich made out handsomely and the poor footed the bill... again.

## **DeepGreen and Its Discontents**

Enter DeepGreen, Gerard Barron's latest financial legerdemain. Pitching polymetallic nodules as “a battery in a rock,” Barron in March of this year announced plans to take DeepGreen public. If the merger goes through, the new company will be called, with typical humility, The Metals Company. There's no reason to suspect that this new venture will be any different than the last. Writes Bloomberg News (<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-06-24/a-mining-startup-s-rush-for-underwater-metals-comes-with-deep-risks>), “The company seems to know the allure of guilt-free mining. As Barron put it to an interviewer in 2019, ‘Whether you invest in a company like DeepGreen or not, everyone's a sucker for the story.’”

So far, DeepGreen has partnered with Nauru, Tonga, and Kiribati to acquire mining rights across 90,000 square miles between Hawaii and Mexico. Yet, none of the three nations is located anywhere near the zone.

This action is sanctioned by the International Seabed Authority (ISA), an autonomous United Nations organization headquartered in Kingston, Jamaica. The ISA seems to regard its mandate as paving the way for oceanic mining—not protecting the seas. The ISA is so embedded

with the industry that in 2019 Nauru violated UN protocol by ceding its seat on the ISA council to Gerard Barron. The ISA permitted it.

Despite the rush to mine and speculate, the business press and even the mining industry are expressing doubts. For instance, *The Wall Street Journal* wrote tepidly of a seabed miner that “positions itself as an ecological crusader with a planned \$2.9 billion valuation, even as oceanographers warn of ruined habitats.”

However, *Forbes* posits otherwise, “From almost any perspective, seabed mining of metals is better for the environment, social justice issues and economics... A large continuous supply of special economic metals is essential for any high tech future.” But of course *Forbes* writers don’t live on New Ireland.

In the end, despite the seemingly unstoppable march of technology, the best course is simply... don’t. In 2015, Richard Steiner, author of *Oasis Earth*, succinctly laid out the risks in the *Huffington Post*:

Environmental risks and impacts of deep sea mining would be enormous and unavoidable, including seabed habitat degradation over vast ocean areas, species extinctions, reduced habitat complexity, slow and uncertain recovery, suspended sediment plumes, toxic plumes from surface ore dewatering, pelagic ecosystem impacts, undersea noise, ore and oil spills in transport, and more ... the only wise policy is a global moratorium on all deep sea mining.

However, getting to “don’t” is anything but easy. To achieve that, deep sea mining opponents must depend on the organizing abilities of a collection of indigenous groups and their NGO allies. Local Shark Calling Festivals and increasing local resistance are certainly central components of the strategy. At this point the world is not desperate for seabed mining. Now is indeed the time to strike while the smokers are still hot.

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## **FORCED MIGRATION AND POLLUTION, TWO GREAT CONSEQUENCES OF WATER SCARCITY**

**Teresita Orozco,\***

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Oil and minerals such as gold and diamonds have been the cause of conflicts worldwide as the globalized world covets them and values them at high costs. But these resources, in contrast to life-sustaining elements such as water, cannot be compared. Indigenous Peoples of the world are more than aware of the value of water, as water is life. Indigenous stewardship

does not exploit natural resources but conserves them for the common good since together they make up the balance of life.

Regardless of whether water is essential for the existence of the rich or poor, high prices have been paid to preserve this vital liquid. Today, water is traded as a commodity on the stock market, which impacts those most disadvantaged and discriminated against. Indigenous and campesino Peoples are the most aware of the importance and spiritual connections of natural resources to maintain the balance of existence and have had to pay even with their own lives for the defense of these precious resources.

Voices such as those of Berta Cáceres (Lenca) in Honduras, Zezico Rodrigues Guajajara (Guajajara) in Mexico, Ari Uru-Eu-Wau-Wau (Uru-Eu-Wau-Wau) in Brazil, have been muted for being loud, uncomfortable, and constant. With their strength and self-determination, they have been barriers of thorns. Faced with megaprojects that invade, steal, and privatize Indigenous territories to only exploit their natural resources and then return them into commodities with stamps and prices.

Today, many Peoples in the world have lost their right to access their own natural resources, including their land, and the colonial governments and large companies have invaded their territory, taken away their right to water, and privatized it for the benefit of a few. “Water is a living element, with it we can not only have life, but also quality of life. Without it poverty haunts us everywhere. However, this does not matter to the businessmen or the governments. They have cut off access to water. They have put it in tubes to sell it to the people. What once belonged to us, now we have to buy it and this is summarized in further impoverishment. They take over our lands where the water sources are, divert their flows, put dams on them, and have destroyed many slopes because they have also cut down their oxygen lungs (forests). Many times this forces us to sell because without water we will not be able to work or live off the land,” says Tomasa Tercero (Chorotega) from northern Nicaragua.

Dixon Morales, Garífuna leader of Honduras informs us that the 47 Garífuna communities on the Atlantic Coast of Honduras have a very complex problem related to the availability of water in their territory due to climate change and the lack of will of the Honduran government to respect, protect, and fulfill the rights of the Garífuna people. “A large part of the communities do not have a water distribution system. They do not have a community dam, a micro-watershed management plan, a distribution system, nor a system to be able to consume potable or clean water. The few communities that do have a distribution network system are completely deficient, with obsolete pipes and when tropical storms such as Iota and Eta occur, large amounts of money have to be spent for repair and to restore service again, which is not necessarily free for the communities either,” he expressed.

In Panama, Anelimo Merry López, Secretary of Information and Communication of the General Congress of Kuna Yala, highlights: “Some 38 communities in the region live on islands. Not all the islands have aqueducts, some have them because they are in proximity to the coasts. There is no water treatment as it should be and drinking water is consumed as is. During the dry season, communities have been affected because most of them are supplied with the vital liquid through wells and rivers, but in the summer season, these dry up and the communities have to buy water or store it in times of abundance. Getting water in winter is also dangerous due to the

flooding of the rivers, these are polluted as well.” Merry emphasizes the little political will of their governments to meet the demand for water in their communities.

Merry adds that “some of our communities at first said ‘we don't need an aqueduct, I love going to the rivers to get water,’ but apparently that idea has prevailed to some government authorities. People do not want the aqueduct, but this is not absolutely true. It is not the majority of communities that think this way. When applications and projects are written, everything remains at a standstill, because the bureaucracy makes us process and fill out hundreds of documents and as authorities change, everything starts from scratch,” denounces the Secretary of Communications of the Congress Guna Yala. By not having water in the communities, they have to incur expenses to transport it or to buy bottled water. Due to tourism, water consumption has increased, causing pollution. “Now it definitely creates a problem, because these plastics that they bring do not leave the regions, they remain in the regions and there is also no solid waste treatment system and that then of course over time all this is contaminating the area. Some islands and the Kuna people have tried to create a garbage treatment system but it is a very big project and not easy if we do not have the help of the government. We ask for greater belligerence and attention to the demands and needs of our people,” he emphasized.

### **Consequences of Water Scarcity in the World:**

1. Disappearance of Species: Every living being, plant or animal requires a large amount of water for its development. The human body is made up of 70% water, and if this is scarce, our disappearance is imminent.
2. Diseases: The scarcity of water derives from many factors such as climate change, river monopolies, and pollution of the same, plus a scarce or adequate purification system, forces the species to resort to contaminated water sources that can transmit diseases such as diarrhea, cholera, or hepatitis. Today to take care of COVID-19, we need a lot of water, and having it is considered a privilege.
3. Hunger: Shortages can affect agriculture, livestock, and industry and consequently food production.
4. Pollution and Poverty: By not having potable water, many communities are being forced to buy bottled water, many times extracted from their own springs but monopolized by the industry that bottles it and sells it at high costs, causing higher expenses for families and increasing pollution. Drinking water today is already listed as a commodity on the stock market. For many families who live in extreme poverty, another concern arises. Since mobile water service arrives only on certain days and often for only a few hours, this forces the population to have to store it and consume it without proper treatment.
5. Conflicts: Contamination of wells, assaults on women and girls who travel in search of water, changes in migration patterns can cause conflicts between farmers and communities.
6. Forced Migration: The scarcity of water, often due to climate change and the privatization of rivers and springs, has forced campesinos to abandon their lands and in the worst scenario to be evicted because of extractive projects, forcing people to emigrate to cities or to other countries in search of a life with dignity.

Juan José Consejo, Director of the Institute of Nature and Society of Oaxaca, who for 30 years has been dedicated to accompanying communities in their efforts for social welfare and nature conservation, shares that “never before in history have we had so much clean water per capita in the world. It is being extracted from natural systems faster than the population grows, so the problem is not to apply an economic criterion of scarcity, but an imbalance of mismanagement, of inequity. These are the true problems, this is what has been called the water footprint, that is to say, the amount of water that we require for different processes. We create scarcity by means of wanting to manage a common good with bureaucratic and commercial mechanisms.”

“To give examples, which may already be known, a car requires half a million liters of water in its entire construction and assembly process. On the other hand, a liter of milk requires at least 6 or 7 liters of water in terms of what you have to give to the cows but they are above all what you have to use to irrigate the pasture on which it feeds and so on we have a growing water footprint. So I think that these approaches help us to understand how we relate to the water cycle and the general conclusion that we increasingly find is that in this modern society we have a condition of enormous imbalance,” Consejo concludes.

### **How Can We Regain Balance?**

Juan José Consejo also emphasizes that humans have to regain balance in a relationship that he calls "dysfunctional" with nature and water. He explains that until now, we have got on badly with natural elements and with water, and we have to regain balance in different ways, starting from changing our conception of water. Instead of continuing to see it as something that is simply stored in a tube in large volumes (such as large dams) or as something that can be bought and sold, we have to understand it as a living and extraordinarily dynamic entity and that we still do not understand the complexity of how it moves, where it is.

There is a series of principles that we have to follow and behind all these principles is the idea that we have to get along better with this cycle and that “we must try to restore its balance, reforestation, making good use of water, not polluting it as we now do with different processes. In short, there is a long list of things that can allow us to restore that balance,” Consejo adds. He highlights that if we want to resolve this problem, we have to make sure that things resemble natural processes as closely as possible. “We want to say that the rainwater, a part of it, infiltrates the earth, that the part that runs does so in a way that is not destructive, that a portion remains in the environment,” he points out.

Not everything is lost and thousands of Indigenous communities in the world are already aware of the delicate balance of water and taking action to conserve water rooted in traditional knowledge and deep relationships with their sources of water. An example is the management of rainwater in the face of climate change, and the large demand for the vital liquid in the Mixtec, Oaxacan, a semi-arid region of Mexico with limited rainfall and high evaporation. Omar Esparza (Mixtec), from the Zapatista Indigenous Agrarian Movement (MAIZ) shares, “The organization has been discussing a fundamental issue with the communities for more than 20 years: being able to achieve a proposal that would allow campesinos in the region to stay on their land. They face issues with access to water. This got us started on a program for collecting and storing rainwater. For more than 10 years, we have worked on this scheme of building rainwater harvesting works that capture 15,000 - 20,000 cubic meters of water, a huge amount that was previously impossible. Work has been done on the retention and storage of this water and distribution. It is

not only for the use of animals, but also now for the domestic use of families,” Esparza highlights, adding that they have built 70 waterworks that have been improving the quality of life of families in this region.

The scarcity of water for a farmer who does not have enough water to work their land sometimes places them in a difficult position to abandon their land to go to look for life in another territory. “Unfortunately, today sowing is a risk because there is no guarantee that there will be a harvest. This has forced many farmers to abandon their soils and migrate. Thousands of campesinos are selling their lands to large transnational corporations. In some other cases, the Mexican State offers concessions to private or transnational companies to exploit water resources. Today, there is great concern that water in Mexico is listed on the stock market. Although it seems that the Mexican State speaks about the exercise of law and that today everything is changing, the reality is that the government continues to lead a neoliberal model that has deepened the dispossession of Indigenous Peoples of their lands and resources.”

### **Rainwater, A New Opportunity**

Without a doubt, access to water can totally change the life of communities. Esparza comments “only with these systems of rain harvesting can an environment be transformed. We can say that microclimates have been created, where we see that birds appear, ducks that come from I do not know where animals that were at the brink of extinction reappear. We see the jaguar, we see the deer go to drink water. We have seen different animals that we did not see before. Those water retention systems become like a sponge that absorbs water and keep the environment cool. Also, the filtration of water is a fundamental recharge that has an impact of being able to have the liquid that is improving lives.”

According to the United Nations, water scarcity affects 4 out of every 10 people across the world. For this reason, Sustainable Development Goal No. 6 was drafted, water and sanitation for all by 2030, to eradicate poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity for all as part of a new sustainable development agenda. Each objective has specific goals that must be achieved in the coming years. In short, we must be aware of the importance of water, recognize it as a living element and treat it with the same integrity with which we want to be treated. No one appreciates health until they lose it. Let's not let the water run out so that we have to fight for the last drops. Recycling water, reforestation, and not polluting it are just three important actions that we can practice in our personal but also collective actions. Let's organize for water, let's organize for life.

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### **AS CLIMATE CHANGE PARCHES THE SOUTHWEST, HERE'S A BETTER WAY TO SHARE WATER FROM THE SHRINKING COLORADO RIVER**

Daniel Craig McCool"

Republished under a creative commons license from *The Conversation*, November 17, 2021, <https://theconversation.com/as-climate-change-parches-the-southwest-heres-a-better-way-to-share-water-from-the-shrinking-colorado-river-168723>.



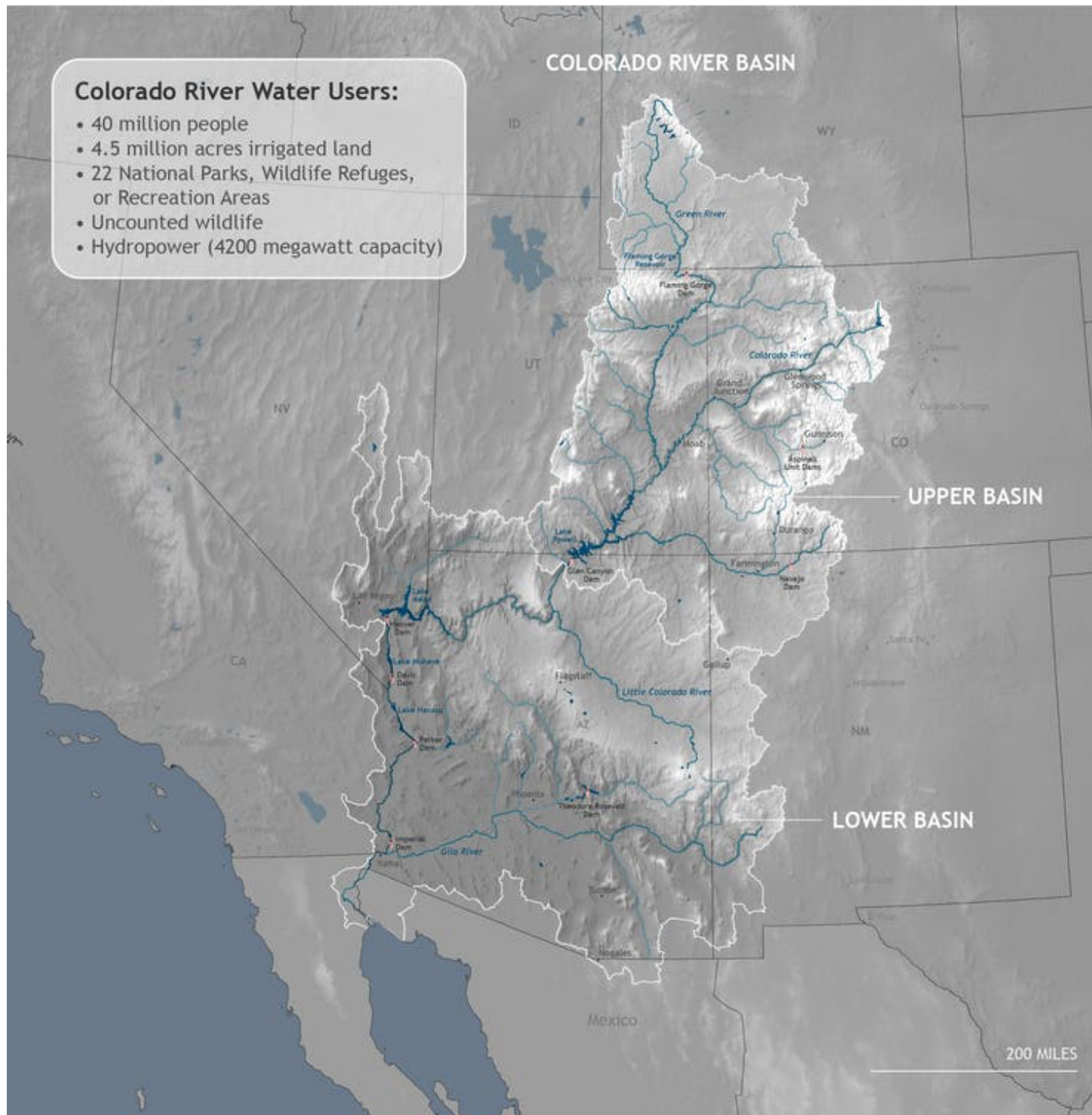
The Colorado River is a vital lifeline for the arid U.S. Southwest. It supplies water to seven states, Mexico, 29 Indian reservations and millions of acres of irrigated farmland. The river and its tributaries support 16 million jobs and provide drinking water to Denver, Salt Lake City, Albuquerque, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, San Diego, Phoenix and Tucson – in all, 40 million people.

These rivers also course through several of the world's most iconic national parks, including the Grand Canyon in Arizona and Canyonlands in Utah. Today millions of people visit the Colorado River Basin to fish, boat and explore.

Southwestern states, tribes and Mexico share the Colorado's water under the century-old 1922 Colorado Compact and updates to it. But today, because of climate change and rapid development, there is an enormous gap between the amount of water the compact allocates to parties and the amount that is actually in the river. With users facing unprecedented water shortages, the compact is hopelessly inadequate to deal with current and future realities.

I have studied water resource development for 35 years and written extensively about Native American water rights and the future of America's rivers. As I see it, the compact rests on three fundamental errors that now plague efforts to develop a new vision for the region. I believe the most productive way forward is for states and tribes to negotiate a new agreement that reflects 21st-century realities.

## Analysis of the world, from experts



The Colorado River and its tributaries drain parts of seven Western states and 29 Indian reservations. Climate.gov

### *Flawed data and allocations*

The compact commissioners made two fatal blunders when they allocated water in 1922. First, they appraised the river's volume based on inaccurate data that wildly overestimated it. Actual annual historic flows were far below what was needed to satisfy the dictates of the compact.

There is evidence that the commissioners did this purposefully: Reaching an agreement was easier if there was more water to go around. This strategy guaranteed that the compact would allocate more water than was actually in the river, a situation now referred to as the "structural deficit."

Second, the compact allocated water in fixed amounts rather than percentages of the river's actual flow. That approach would be viable if river flow were constant and the agreement were based on sound science. But the Colorado's flow is highly variable.

The compact divided the river artificially into an Upper Basin (Wyoming, Colorado, Utah and New Mexico) and a Lower Basin (Arizona, Nevada and California), and allocated 7.5 million acre-feet of water to each basin. An acre-foot is enough water to cover an acre of land to a depth of one foot, or about 325,000 gallons.

In 1944, a treaty allocated an additional 1.5 million acre-feet to Mexico, for a total of 16.5 million acre-feet. However, actual flow has typically been below that amount. River volume at the time of the compact was about 18 million acre-feet per year, but the 20th-century average was closer to 14.8 million acre-feet. And then things got much worse.

Drought and climate change have pushed the Colorado River to a crisis point.

In the past 20 years, climate change has further reduced the Colorado's volume. A "megadrought," now in its 21st year, has reduced flows by nearly 20%, and studies predict that it will fall 20% to 35% or more by midcentury. In late August 2021, Lake Mead, the nation's largest reservoir, was just 35% full. Lake Powell, the second-largest U.S. reservoir, was less than 30% full.

That month, the Bureau of Reclamation declared an official shortage, which will force Arizona, Nevada and Mexico to make significant cuts in water use. In short, the original fixed allocations are no longer anchored in reality.

In my view, a much better approach would be to allocate water among the states and tribes in percentages, based on a five-year rolling average that would change as the river's flow changes. Without such a shift, the compact will merely perpetuate a hydrological fallacy that leads water users to claim water that does not exist.

### *No Native participation*

Beyond these errors, the compact also rests on a fundamental injustice. The 30 tribal nations in the Colorado River Basin are the river's original users, and their reservations encompass huge swaths of land. But they were completely left out of the 1922 allocations.

Compact commissioners, whose views reflected the overt racism of that era, assumed Native peoples did not deserve their own allocation. Making matters worse, nearly every statute, compact and regulation promulgated since 1922 – a body of rules known collectively as the Law of the River – has either ignored or marginalized Native water users. Many tribes, scholars and advocacy groups view this as an injustice of monumental proportions.

Tribes have gone to court to claim a share of the Colorado's water and have won significant victories, beginning with the landmark 1963 Arizona v. California ruling, in which the U.S. Supreme Court recognized water rights for five Indian reservations in the Colorado River Basin. The tribes continued to press their claims through numerous negotiated settlements, starting in 1978 and continuing to this day. They now have rights to over 2 million acre-feet of water in the Lower Basin and 1.1 million acre-feet in the Upper Basin. And 12 tribes have unresolved claims that could total up to 405,000 acre-feet.

Currently, however, tribes are not drawing all of their water because they don't have the pipelines and other infrastructure that they need to divert and use it. This allows non-Indian communities downstream to use the surplus water, without payment in most cases. I believe a new compact should include tribes as equal partners with states and give them meaningful and significant roles in all future negotiations and policymaking in the basin.

### *A new vision*

The compact states are now renegotiating interim river management guidelines that were first adopted in 2007. This process must be completed by 2026 when that agreement expires.

I see these discussions as an excellent opportunity to discard the compact's unworkable provisions and negotiate a new agreement that responds to the unprecedented challenges now affecting the Southwest. As I see it, an agreement negotiated by and for white men, based on egregiously erroneous data, in an age when people drove Model T cars cannot possibly serve as the foundation for a dramatically different future.

In my view, the 1922 compact is now an albatross that can only inhibit innovation. Eliminating fixed rights to water that doesn't actually exist could spur members to negotiate a new, science-based agreement that is fairer, more inclusive and more efficient and sustainable.

\*Daniel Craig McCool is Professor Emeritus of Political Science, University of Utah, and an expert on water issues, including on Indian water rights.

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## **INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' LEADERSHIP AND FREE, PRIOR AND INFORMED CONSENT ARE FUNDAMENTAL TO 30X30 INITIATIVE**

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On January 27, 2021, U.S. President Joe Biden issued an executive order, “Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad,” in which he called upon the Secretary of the Interior and other agency leaders to produce a report with recommendations on “[achieving] the goal of conserving at least 30 percent of our lands and waters by 2030.” With this step, President Biden added the United States to a group of over 50 countries that have joined the High Ambition Coalition for People and Nature and committed to at least 30 percent conservation by 2030, as stipulated in the Convention on Biological Diversity Post-2020 Global Biodiversity framework. Substantial recent scientific research supports this goal as foundational to addressing the global biodiversity and climate crises.

In response, the administration released the “Conserving and Restoring America the Beautiful” preliminary report on May 6, 2021. As an Indigenous-led organization that advocates for Indigenous Peoples' rights and supports Indigenous communities' self-determination, cultures, and political resilience, Cultural Survival cautiously commends Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland (Laguna Pueblo) and the Biden-Harris administration more broadly for the commitments the report makes to supporting Indigenous-led, community-based solutions. The U.S. has an opportunity to change course and to lead in this powerful international effort to protect the world's ecosystems, mitigate climate change, and, in particular, to model Nation-to-Nation, consent-based collaborations with Indigenous Peoples on these issues of utmost importance to all life in the natural world.

### **Indigenous Leaders Address 30x30**

First, we wish to uplift the perspectives and concerns of Indigenous communities and leaders with respect to the initiative. A Tribal Leader Statement on 30x30 Policy was signed by leaders of 25 Tribal Nations and organizations, emphasizing and elaborating upon the priorities of sovereignty, consultation, representation, resources, and evaluation in the implementation of the plan, and we encourage thorough incorporation of this comprehensive set of priorities. The Native American Fish and Wildlife Society is also consulting on the initiative.

On May 26, 2021, Native People's Action, an Indigenous-led organization supporting Alaska Native communities, hosted a webinar with Indigenous leaders on the initiative. President of the Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska Richard (Chalyee Éesh) Peterson (Tlingit) said that the 30x30 executive order could be “part of the answer we have been looking for. Tribes and Indigenous knowledge will be key to the success of this initiative...This is an opportunity for the federal government to engage in real, meaningful government to government consultation and to honor our sovereignty over our traditional lands and our resources...I think as a Tribe, it's been really exciting under the Biden administration that President Biden has really expanded consultation and expanded the definition so that departments are really held to a higher standard of what consultation is...so we have, I think,

even more opportunity now to do government to government consultation...We've been actually inundated with requests from different departments to engage in consultation."

Austin Ahmasuk (Inupiaq) spoke about his work with Kawerak, Inc., an organization serving Indigenous communities in the Bering Straits Region. He said, "The first moment that we heard about 30x30, our leadership became involved in the discussion...We didn't want to see a cookie-cutter 30x30 applied for Alaska because of the different things that are occurring here. For us, fishing and hunting are really important to preservation, are really important to counteract the impacts of climate change. So Kawerak's been involved in a lot of the national discussions around 30x30." He considers involvement important because "historically, our region was not treated very well, as were many other parts of Alaska...Nome didn't treat Native People very well." He also elaborated on "really, really powerful economic, military national interests" who have set their sights on the Arctic for projects such as "increased shipping, deep draft port development, militarization, and large scale commercial fishing." He said, "We in the Arctic, we want peace...Climate change policies must come with peace policies. We can't have peace if our countries are talking about militarization of the Arctic."

Another webinar attendee hosted by Native People's Action, Crystal Nelson (Tlingit), expressed concern that the 30x30 plan implies placing more land into the management of settler governments, since "protected areas have come at the cost of Indigenous people losing title and access to our traditional territories," and posed the question about what Indigenous leaders are advocating for in the context of the initiative. Richard Peterson responded, "I think this initiative...on the surface seems good and seems like it's in the right direction, but it's not going to mean anything if it doesn't involve us, if it doesn't have Indigenous voices, if it's not involving the Tribes. We're the ones who are bringing 10,000 years plus of science and experience that's passed down to us. We know, we've known, our elders told us climate change was happening years ago. So I think we have to be engaged and be a part of the solution or it's not going to work." Austin Ahmasuk added, "The first edition of 30x30...didn't look so good. It looked a lot like perhaps what Miss Nelson was getting at...For our region, [fishing and hunting] comprises a vast majority of the foods that we eat and the things that we do, and so fishing and hunting had to be part of revisions...And so...we support 30x30 but with, of course, a strong inclusion of fishing and hunting and Indigenous knowledge as well as a historical context of how policies have impacted us and ways that they need to be improved into the future."

Cultural Survival will remain vigilant to the input of other Indigenous leaders, communities, and Nations, and we honor and respect the ways each chooses to self-determine their engagement with this initiative, including when that means non-engagement.

### **Conservation and Violence Against Indigenous Peoples**

Time and time again, Indigenous Peoples have been sidelined from environmental decision-making and violently removed from their lands in external attempts to set aside land from human activity for national parks in the U.S. and elsewhere. This has resulted in blatant violation of Indigenous rights and Indigenous genocide. According to Rights and Resources Initiative's "Rights-Based Conservation" report, which addresses the exclusion of protections for Indigenous Peoples in the Convention on Biological Diversity's 30x30 proposal, "It has been estimated that up to 136 million people were displaced in formally protecting half of the Earth's currently protected area." Former UN Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Victoria Tauli-Corpuz highlighted the violence of “fortress conservation” in her 2018 report, “Cornered by Conservation,” which it states leads to “chronic patterns of abuse and human rights violations.”

Separating Indigenous Peoples from land is also ineffective and anti-scientific from a conservation standpoint. Indigenous Peoples know, and western scientific studies also show, that ecosystem health, biodiversity enhancement, and ecological balance result from Indigenous Peoples’ stewardship. Dr. Robin Wall Kimmerer (Citizen Potawatomi) writes, “Especially in the Americas and Australia... the ‘myth of the pristine’...supposes that the landscape encountered at the time of European settlement was in a ‘state of nature’ and free from human disturbance. In the Americas, this perspective ignores at least twelve thousand years of human history of land management and an even longer period in Australia...There is now abundant evidence that the pre-European settlement landscape was the product of Indigenous natural resource management...Therefore, it may not be possible to restore the pre-settlement landscape without also restoring the traditional land management practices.” Restoration and conservation of lands entail restoration and conservation of relationship with the Indigenous communities who are part of those lands, and the Biden-Harris administration must work to ensure that Indigenous Peoples are never again separated from their lands under the guise of conservation or for any reason.

Cultural Survival agrees with the administration’s 30x30 report that ongoing human relationships with conserved lands can be consistent with the health of natural systems, and there is no one better situated to lead this work than Indigenous Peoples, who have lived in a reciprocal, sustainable, and mutually beneficial relationship with their lands and waters since time immemorial. While Indigenous Peoples are leading conservation and restoration efforts, Indigenous Peoples should not be required to shoulder the burden of healing damage largely caused by outside economic and political forces, and these efforts should be resourced, supported, and amplified in accordance with Indigenous self-determined decision-making and consent. This moment is rich with opportunities for partnership, co-management, and federal support for work Native Nations are already doing for the benefit of all who rely on this continent’s forests, waters, mountains, deserts, and prairies.

Ekvn-Yefolecv is creating an ecovillage community that provides opportunity for individuals and kin to revitalize Maskoke language, traditions, and worldview while committing to environmental sustainability. Photo courtesy of Ekvn-Yefolecv - Maskoke.

### **Respecting Indigenous Peoples’ Self-Determination and Right to Free, Prior and Informed Consent, as well as Treaty Obligations, is Non-Negotiable**

Indigenous Peoples have the right to Free, Prior and Informed Consent regarding decisions and projects that affect their lands, territories and resources. This right is enshrined in international agreements such as the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which the U.S. endorsed in 2010. They also have the right to federal compliance with treaty obligations. Indigenous Peoples both hold the knowledge, experience, and values to lead conservation efforts, and they also have a right to make decisions about conservation projects that might be considered on their territories. Cultural Survival urges the Biden-Harris administration to respect this right and to forge a new path where previous administrations have reneged on their treaty obligations and other domestically and internationally enshrined obligations to Indigenous

Peoples. A holistic, rights-based approach to the 30x30 is fundamental, with some noted recommendations to follow. It is also essential to note that each Indigenous Nation and community will hold its own perspective on conservation approaches in general and the 30x30 initiative in particular. We respect Indigenous Peoples' right to determine their responses to the initiative and their own approaches.

### **Indigenous Peoples' Ecological Knowledge and Land Relationships are Critical to Achieving Conservation Goals**

There is substantial evidence from both Indigenous and western scientific sources that biocultural approaches to conservation and restoration lead to deep, thorough, and lasting conservation and restoration. Recent research demonstrates that while Indigenous Peoples around the globe represent 6.2 percent of the population - 474.6 million people - they manage or hold tenure over 25 percent of the planet's land, support about 80 percent of global biodiversity, and manage at least 24 percent of the total carbon stored in aboveground tropical forest biomass.

Cultural Survival commends the plan's emphasis on the role of local communities, such as coastal communities, in responding to climate change and developing solutions suited to their ecosystems. Indigenous Peoples hold unparalleled Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) based on their ancient and ongoing relationships with their lands and waters. This knowledge is place-based, holistic and systems-oriented, nuanced, and rooted in and reinforced by Indigenous languages and cultures, and it is developed through active relationships with land over time, passed down, developed, and adapted over generations since time immemorial. It contains a vast breadth and depth of information that may not be justly understood in its entirety through any amount of western scientific study and is inseparable from respect for the land and its inhabitants. Indigenous Peoples are demonstrated leaders in conservation with immense potential to support this campaign with climate, ecological, and relationship-based solutions.

Meanwhile, prohibiting Indigenous Peoples from carrying out traditional land management - on top of violating their inherent rights - is environmentally disastrous. The annual wildfires in the western U.S., while exacerbated by climate change, are rooted in years of poor management stemming from U.S. governmental policy of fire suppression. Indigenous Peoples in the U.S. and worldwide have intentionally and skillfully used fire, or cultural burning, to many ends, including pest control, cultivation of wild foods, and assistance with the harvest of seeds and insects; over 70 uses have been recorded. Ironically, fire suppression has led to fuel buildup and more extreme and uncontrollable fires. Now, the U.S. Forest Service, along with counterparts in other countries, is turning to Indigenous Peoples for assistance in incorporating traditional knowledge about burning into their practices. While this acknowledgement of the importance of this ancient practice is a step toward implementing it in certain contexts, it is crucial to ensure that Indigenous Peoples have access to lead cultural burning and other decision-making on their lands. Doing so will benefit all peoples. Leaf Hillman, Karuk Ceremonial Leader and Director of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy for his Tribe, said, "Humans have excluded this fire from this natural system and have created unnatural conditions. Fire is our relation and we need to work with fire."

During the Native Peoples Action 30x30 panel, Crystal Nelson (Tlinglit) highlighted the Indigenous guardian programs in Canada as a model for collaborations centering Indigenous governance and management. Some guardian programs involve population assessments, such as



using underwater microphones to detect whale songs and thus determine population presence and movement, gauging industrial noise in forests to determine ecosystem impacts, and patrolling territories for general and unauthorized human use, including overharvesting of food and medicine plants, among many other projects, some of which include collaborations with governments and other non-Indigenous institutions.

Vicky Tauli-Corpuz and her co-authors highlighted several conservation benefits to protecting Indigenous Peoples' rights to their lands: "When bulldozers or park rangers force Indigenous Peoples from their homes, it is not only a human rights crisis—it is also a detriment to all humanity. Indigenous Peoples have long stewarded and protected the world's forests, a crucial bulwark against climate change. The rate of tree cover loss is less than half in community and indigenous lands compared to elsewhere. Where community rights to own their lands are legally recognized, the difference is even greater. Worldwide, community lands hold at least a quarter of aboveground tropical forest carbon—equal to four times global greenhouse gas emissions for 2014—and likely much more. This research also shows that Indigenous Peoples and local communities are investing substantially in conserving their forests—up to \$USD 1.71 billion in the developing world. They are achieving at least equal conservation results with a fraction of the budget of protected areas, making investment in Indigenous Peoples themselves the most efficient means of protecting forests." A Rights and Resources Initiative report declared that there is an "urgent need to make collective tenure security a critical part of national emission reduction strategies. Empowering forest peoples to continue their historical role as stewards of the environment is not only essential for stabilizing Earth's climate." Similarly, a 2019 paper published in *Biological Conservation* argued that conservation "is increasingly likely to fail without Indigenous consent," a point made more salient when it is taken into account that conservation of the environment includes conservation of relationships with the peoples of that environment. Indigenous Peoples' land tenure and decision-making are fundamental to climate change mitigation and adaptation, biodiversity promotion, and even the prevention of future pandemics.

### **Indigenous Peoples on the Front Lines of Climate Disasters**

Meanwhile, climate change is causing devastation that disproportionately affects Indigenous Peoples, as their rights to self-determination and participation in decision-making processes are violated. Fires have torn through Native lands in California, and Indigenous migrant farmworkers have endured hazardous conditions as they worked through wildfires, remaining in zones otherwise evacuated. The Isle de Jean Charles Band of Biloxi-Chitimacha-Choctaw Tribe has lost 98 percent of their 22,400-acre island off the Louisiana coast due to sea level rise and other destruction following Hurricane Katrina and three others. Austin Ahmasuk explained on the Native Peoples' Action panel on 30x30 that his community is losing access to the ocean as the Arctic thaws, describing "the delicate balance that exists in the Arctic. One of the reasons the Arctic is so productive, one of the reasons our land is so productive, is because of cold...and that balance is now being undermined by lots of climate change influences, some of which have resulted in the near disappearance in some of the basic food trophic levels that exist in the Arctic, the disappearance of Saffron cod, rainbow smelt, near complete collapse of the red king crab in our region...Our life absolutely revolves around the marine maritime environment." It is broadly recognized that Indigenous Peoples globally are some of the most heavily impacted

as climate change strengthens storms, increases the intensity and frequency of fires, and interrupts other ecological patterns and balance.

Indigenous Peoples' livelihoods, economies, health, well-being, and food systems are deeply tied to their lands, territories and natural resources. Just as it is impossible to separate the condition of lands from the Indigenous Peoples who tend them, it is impossible to separate Indigenous knowledge from Indigenous Peoples. Knowledge, like other resources, can be and has been violently extracted and appropriated. International agreements such as the Convention on Biological Diversity, Article 8(j), and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Article 31, seek to protect Indigenous Peoples' rights to their knowledge and how it is used. Collaborations must, above all, consult Indigenous Peoples about their participation and leadership, involved Indigenous Peoples in decision-making, respect Indigenous Peoples' rights to determine what knowledge they share and its application in these contexts, and in particular, they should prioritize supporting and resourcing Indigenous Peoples implementing self-determined projects on their own lands.

### **Holistic Conservation**

Indigenous Peoples understand that all of the Earth's ecosystems are intertwined. While the goal of protecting at least 30 percent of lands and waters under U.S. stewardship is important, the initiative must also address the dangers of continued U.S. facilitation, resourcing, and backing of pipelines, oil drilling, fracking, and other extractive development projects which not only contaminate Indigenous Peoples' lands, territories, and natural resources, but also have devastating impacts globally as they infiltrate waters, soils, air, and other interconnected systems. In many cases, the U.S. has allowed for extractive industries to operate even within established conservation lands, as was proposed in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and Bears Ears National Monument, both sacred lands to the respective Indigenous Peoples that call those lands home. President Biden has made positive steps early in his administration by ordering a moratorium on new oil and gas leases on federal land and water areas and by revoking the permit to the Keystone XL pipeline. Yet he has also consistently stated that he will not ban fracking, even in the face of building pressure from climate activists.

### **Recommendations for Collaboration**

Building off Cultural Survival's open letter to the Biden-Harris administration with 15 calls to action to honor Indigenous rights, we highlight and elaborate on the following fundamental recommendations for approaching this work. It cannot be overstated how critical it is that the 30x30 initiative is implemented and in accordance with these priorities noted below.

1. Respect and honor Indigenous Peoples' rights through the operationalization of principles within the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) into domestic U.S. law.
2. Respect for and the prioritization of Indigenous Peoples' self-determination and their right to Free, Prior and Informed Consent are non-negotiable.
3. Honor and carry out all existing treaty obligations, and respect Indigenous Peoples and Native Nations as the best experts and stewards of their lands, territories, and natural resources. More broadly, this also includes honoring Indigenous Peoples' land rights and customary land

- tenure and incorporating this into conservation strategies and practices related to biodiversity protection, climate change, and a just transition.
4. Ensure federally recognized Tribal lands and allotments are safeguarded, including those pending and applying for such recognition, and uplift and protect Tribal sovereignty, especially as the U.S. continues to experience and address climate change. This includes supporting and resourcing Indigenous Peoples' and Native Nations' ability to maintain Tribal lands and their self-determined development on their lands.
  5. Facilitate the return of land and its legal, protected title to Indigenous Peoples, communities, and Tribes, and continue to do this through the U.S. Department of Interior by returning land from state and national parks.
  6. Indigenous Peoples' Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) and their land relationships are critical to achieving conservation goals; therefore, their leadership must be centered in all layers of decision-making.
  7. In addition to centering and prioritizing Indigenous Peoples' leadership, local, county, state, and federal governments must financially resource, back, and support Indigenous Peoples', communities, Tribes, and their leadership as outlined in UNDRIP Article 39: "Indigenous Peoples have the right to have access to financial and technical assistance from States and through international cooperation, for the enjoyment of the rights contained in this Declaration."
  8. Enhance funding for Indigenous Peoples and Native Nations' engagement, capacity building, and technical assistance – they are technical experts in forest health, climate action, and biodiversity resiliency, and funding is required to fully support their engagement and contributions in this critically important leadership role. This means resourcing their self-determined capacity building and trainings to empower Indigenous Peoples and Native Nations' full participation and representation in conservation and restoration.
  9. Local, state, and the U.S. federal governments must work in collaboration with Indigenous Peoples to achieve conservation goals, and this includes earmarking public funding specifically to both support Indigenous Peoples and Native Nations' self-determined conservation efforts, as well as financially resource their full participation and representation in nation-to-nation dialogue and decision making processes. Indigenous Peoples and Native Nations should also be consulted in annual budgetary planning and resource allocation processes in collaboration with local, state, and federal governments on public funding.
  10. Local, state, and federal governments shall recognize, review, and publicly address their contributions to land theft, genocide, and violations of Indigenous Peoples' rights, and work towards collective reconciliation to support healing as a measure to enable bi-partisanship between the U.S and Indigenous Peoples.

11. In partnerships with Indigenous Peoples to carry out the 30x30 initiative, ensure the engagement of all Indigenous Peoples within the lands and territories of the United States, regardless of federal recognition, understanding that their relationship with the land exists whether this is legally recognized by the U.S. federal government or not; whether they are citizens of the U.S. or not (including border Tribal communities whose homelands span across the U.S and surrounding countries), and whether they have been removed from their original homelands or not.
12. In order to be successful in its goals, the administration must understand the 30x30 initiative as one element within a broader strategy towards a transition to a just, green economy. Additional elements must strengthen Indigenous Peoples' leadership and participation in this new economy, by ensuring and prioritizing equitable access to health care, higher education, broadband, and workforce opportunities.

The 30x30 initiative has the potential to serve as a powerful step in the journey to repair our relationship with Mother Earth, by ensuring Indigenous Peoples' rights, sovereignty, and Free, Prior and Informed Consent is fundamental. Indigenous communities across the continent have demonstrated their commitment to environmental conservation and Tribal leaders have generously offered their guidance and leadership, yet will require their leaderships to both be respected and included, but also financially resourced. Cultural Survival urges the Biden-Harris administration to support Indigenous-led programs that transmit and revitalize cultural knowledge in communities and that put land back in Indigenous hands, and we encourage the administration to do everything in its power to use the 30x30 platform as a means to facilitate Indigenous Peoples' ability and access to continuing to engage in the work and relationships they have carried out on this land since time immemorial.

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### **ICT AT 40: 'WE REPORTED LIKE INDIANS, FROM THE GROUND UP'**

Mark Trahant\*

Republished with authors permission from *ICT*, July 9, 2021, <https://indiancountrytoday.com/news/ict-at-40-we-reported-like-indians-from-the-ground-up>.

Forty years ago the *Lakota Times* rolled off the press in Pine Ridge, South Dakota, published by Tim Giago. That paper became Indian Country Today in 1992. Later it was the *Indian Country Today Media Network*, owned by the Oneida Indian Nation. It became a magazine and a daily website. Then in 2017 the publication was shuttered, at least temporarily, and the assets were given to the National Congress of American Indians. And by 2018 *Indian Country Today* was back in business with a tiny crew of three people.

This March *ICT*'s ownership changed again. Indian Country Today (or ICT4 as we call it internally) is now independent and owned by IndiJ Public Media, an Arizona not for profit corporation, led by Karen Michel, Ho-Chunk.

“While working as a reporter for the *Rapid City Journal*, I was bothered by the fact that although I had been born and raised on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, I was seldom given an opportunity to do news stories about the people of the reservation,” wrote Giago in a 2005 article in Nieman Reports. “One editor told me that I would not be able to be objective in my reporting. I replied, ‘All of your reporters are white. Are they objective when covering the white community.’”

Giago said by the spring of 1981 he knew he had to start a newspaper at Pine Ridge. The first office was in a former beauty shop. “It seems strange now but when our newspaper hit the stands,” he wrote, “we became the only independently owned Indian weekly newspaper in America.”

The newspaper company was successful by several metrics. It went on to win hundreds of reporting awards from regional and Native press associations. And Giago said investigations from the newspaper “caused banks to be fined and rip-offs of the tribal government to be halted ... *Lakota Times* proved that freedom of the press could not only succeed in Indian Country but that it can make a major difference in the way news is covered on the Indian reservations of America.”

Over the years the *Lakota Times* expanded its reach. “Even though we eventually had news coverage from all nine Indian reservations in South Dakota, we always considered them to be one community. All of us grew up in the same fashion, which meant we lived in poverty and shared many of the same difficulties,” Giago wrote.

Then in 1992, “to reflect its national circulation,” the *Lakota Times* became *Indian Country Today*. The national map was expanded with bureaus in Washington, D.C., Spokane and Albuquerque, as well as financial support from the Gannett Foundation (now the Freedom Forum) and The New York Times.

The paper’s offices moved to Rapid City in 1989 and by 1999 the circulation was reported as reaching 50,000 copies with a pass-along readership that topped six figures.

Three themes emerged in the early years of *Lakota Times* and *Indian Country Today*: An honest accounting of the boarding school experience (so relevant now); an exploration of the mascot issue and its impact on Native people; and a strident challenge to the work of the American Indian Movement.

And like any publication, *Indian Country Today* earned both praise and criticism for its writing.

Giago had a longtime feud with Chuck Trimble, Oglala Lakota. Trimble had been an editor in Denver and was executive director of the American Indian Press Association (before he moved on to the National Congress of American Indians). Both men attended Holy Rosary Mission School and for many years Giago (and a lot of us) thought Trimble was the secret author of a newsletter, *Lakota TIM* (or Truth In Media).

Giago complained that Trimble wrote a column about him that was “a mixture of lies and half-truths disguised as fact. It is too bad that a man with such a good record as executive director of the National Congress of American Indians should sink so low as to air his vicious, personal attacks upon someone he has known all of his life.”

But Trimble in 2012 revealed that he edited *Lakota TIM* but it’s author was mostly a politician, Shirley Plume, Oglala Lakota. “Her new single-page journal ... would be authored by Lakota persons under the nom de plume of ‘Iktomi.’ Like its legendary namesake, Iktomi used satire with humor and self-deprecation in their rollicking crusade,” Trimble wrote. “*Lakota TIM\** had a limited press run which was mailed to only several members of the then-Native American Press Association (NAPA); but it usually got a much wider circulation via fax from there on. Sending it to his peers, it was hoped, would put pressure on Giago himself to be more fair and truthful.”

What’s missing from that narrative is that Shirley Plume is also Chuck’s sister (and gatherer of gossip.)

The feud ended by the time of Trimble's death in March 2020. Giago wrote that Trimble's "passing has left a big hole in the field of Native American journalism."

### **Tim Giago’s legacy**

The impact of *ICT* founder Giago is remarkable. Many publications have significant ties to Giago and the original *ICT*. Giago’s latest venture, *Native Sun News*, as well as the *Lakota Journal*, and the *Lakota Times* (which had been *Lakota Country Times* until a couple of years ago).

Avis Little Eagle, who worked with Giago at *Lakota Times*, later edited the *Teton Times* in McLaughlin, South Dakota. While at *Lakota Times*, Little Eagle wrote a ten-part series on fake medicine men. She also suggested the name, “Indian Country Today.”

Indeed Giago has retired several times. When he sold *Indian Country Today* to the Oneida Indian Nation’s Standing Stone Media, Inc., he cited retirement as a goal. But soon after he started another newspaper at Pine Ridge.

"I made a mistake, I think, in selling it," Giago told *American Journalism Review*. He was 65 years old. "So I decided to start another one."

Then 10 years ago Giago announced his retirement from *Native Sun News*. "I may retire from the news business," Giago wrote in a column, "but certainly not from life."

He credited his mentor, Rupert Costo, Cahuilla, the legendary editor of the national publication, *Wassaja*, based in San Francisco. "Rupert could be a hard man with strong opinions, but he was a man who had the courage of his convictions and he pounded that sense of standing up for the rights of others into my head."

Last month at 87, Giago again reached for the gold watch. He wrote in June that he was going to retire from the business in July. "For more than 40 years I have worn the visor and the arm garters of an editor and publisher. I am proud of the many newspapers I have published all of those years, but it is time for a new generation of Native journalists and editors to take over," he wrote. Giago's birthday is July 12.

One legacy, which literally means a gift to the next generation, was the 1990 Year of Reconciliation led by Giago and South Dakota Gov. George Mickelson. Mickelson proclaimed 1990 as the "Year of Reconciliation," leading to the proclamation for a "Century of Reconciliation." And, at Giago's request, Mickelson and the Legislature established Native American Day in October. It was the only state to celebrate it rather than Columbus Day.

#### A shift to New York

Indian Country Today was sold to the Oneida Indian Nation and its company, Standing Stone Media, Inc., in 1998. That venture included a magazine, "This Week in Indian Country." An active website, and the framework for a broader news network, Indian Country Today Media Network. The venture also lost a lot of money.

As Mary Annette Pember, Red Cliff Band of Wisconsin Ojibwe, wrote in *Columbia Journalism Review*: "From the beginning, the news organization was mostly a losing financial proposition for the Oneida Nation — part vanity project, part desire to influence movers and shakers in Washington. However, while I've never spoken with Halbritter or leaders of the Oneida Nation, I think *ICTMN* was also a genuine source of ethnic pride for them. Rather than being misquoted and overlooked by the media, Indians were finally part of setting the news agenda."

There was a lot of remarkable journalism that took place during Oneida's ownership. Tim Johnson and Jose Barreiro teamed up to broaden the scope of coverage, expanding the Indigenous world beyond U.S. borders. The paper staffed and covered the United Nations

including the development of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Indian Country Today's print magazine started and ended publication a couple of times (magazines are expensive) but starting in 2013 the publication was largely online. At one point *ICTMN* had a New York City office and a team that was meant to establish the publication as a player in national media.

*ICT* produced a "best of" book in 2005, "America is Indian Country," repurposing some of the writings, photography and cartoon.

Three current employees of *ICT* worked for the Oneida venture: Vincent Schilling, Akwesasne Mohawk and associate editor; Heather Donovan, *ICT*'s advertising director; and Pember, national correspondent.

"We reported like Indians, from the ground up," Pember wrote. "We spoke to the aunties, cousins, grandparents and kids who do the business of living in Indian communities. Jacqui Banaszynski, former Knight Chair in editing at the Missouri School of Journalism and fellow at the Poynter Institute, once described great journalists as wing walkers, those air-show barnstormers who wandered the edges of airplanes mid-flight. *ICTMN* editors urged us to walk way the hell out."

Perhaps the most important legacy was the *ICTMN* coverage of Standing Rock. As Pember wrote: "*ICTMN* supported Jenni Monet of the Pueblo of Laguna as she reported tirelessly from the Water Protector camps near Standing Rock, and received the Paul Tobenkin Memorial Award for her coverage."

Another cool thing from the Standing Stone Media era was the American Indian Visionary Awards. In 2006, for example, the paper gave that award to Hank Adams, "the lifelong activist who negotiated peaceful ends to some of the most dangerous standoffs in modern Indian history, is the 2006 recipient of Indian Country Today's American Indian Visionary Award."

Other award winners were Billy Frank, Jr., in 2004 and Vine Deloria, Jr., in 2005.

This award represented a window into the brilliance of Indigenous leaders. (So easy to do when you think of the chiefs of the 19th century ... but the 20th century experience was just as rich.)

As the award announcement read: "Adams was a crucial behind-the-scenes figure in practically every scene of the militant Indian revival of the last four decades. He is best known in



the history books for his negotiations with the White House to resolve the takeover of the BIA building in Washington in 1972 during the Trail of Broken Treaties protest and to wind down the 10-week siege of Wounded Knee in 1973. Both incidents could have caused untold casualties, but his ability to gain the confidence of both sides is credited with keeping bloodshed to a minimum.”

Giago said he regretted selling *Indian Country Today* and claimed that the publication avoided its critics. “In the 13 years Ray Halbritter has owned *Indian Country Today*, the newspaper has never published a letter, a column or a news report that was critical of him, the Nation, or the newspaper. And that my friend, is known in the newspaper business as censorship,” Giago wrote in a January 2011 column. “How do I know this? As the former editor I began to receive letters shortly after I sold it, letters and emails that continue to come to me even today from Native Americans who were angry that letters and columns they wrote to ICT critical of Halbritter and of the newspaper, were never published.”

Then Pember wrote about what it meant to her to be a reporter at *ICT* during this era.

“Indian Country is a tough and complex beat. Meaningful coverage demands a depth of historical, legal and social knowledge that reporters are seldom allowed the time necessary to acquire. *ICTMN* gave reporters that time,” Pember wrote. “At *ICTMN*, writers reported on scientific findings regarding the connection between trauma and ongoing social ills in Indian Country. Rather than excuse the widespread ‘dis-ease’ that touches Indian Country, the reporting helped communities gain a measure of authority and knowledge over seemingly intractable problems. *ICTMN* produced a special report based on my research and writing about this issue.

“ We blew the lid off Hollywood-style stereotypes that would have the world believe we are stoic, humorless creatures who somehow remain unengaged in contemporary life. *ICTMN* covered Indian rappers, artists, filmmakers, entrepreneurs and chefs.”

### *ICT's nonprofit business model*

I have written a lot about the NCAI and IndiJ Public Media ownership of *ICT*. So I won't go there today.

*ICT4* has grown significantly over the past four years and yet we have so much more to do. Our goal is to raise about \$4 million a year so that we can operate bureaus in key regions, continue to improve our digital reports and our daily broadcast. (And on this front: We have a lot more news that's coming soon.)

But I want to mention another legacy ... one that will lead us forward along our other path, broadcasting.

Even though our roots come from *The Lakota Times* and Tim Giago, there are also other contributions and influences. All of the people my age benefited from the work and guidance of Richard LaCourse, Yakama, Howard Rock, Inupiat, and so many other legends. I still greatly appreciate my friendship with Suzan Harjo, Cheyenne and Hodulgee Muscogee. Every phone call is a history lesson where we swap stories about those who've helped us and share our love for our people.

Harjo has been a columnist for *ICT* in every era. Most recently she has written lengthy pieces that defy expectations — I say that because a June 2018 “column” about the Reclaiming Native Truth report was more than 8,000 words.

Most of our readers — four out of five people — read *ICT* on a mobile device. That's a really long story to be scrolling on your iPhone.

But Harjo's piece was the best read story of that week. And that month. And one of the top stories of the year. All told, more than 100,000 people read Harjo's essay on their cell phones, or on Facebook (and even most of them were on cell phones) or linking from other web pages.

Readers spent 8 minutes and 12 seconds reading “If you don't know sovereignty, you don't know history.”

I also think it's worth noting another anniversary. In 2023, we can mark the 50th anniversary of Indian Country Today with Harriet Skye, Standing Rock. This TV show was broadcast in North Dakota and is an example of how you change the story.

As Jodi Rave wrote for *Buffalo's Fire*: “Skye started hosting ‘Indian Country Today’ in 1973. For more than a decade, she filmed some 250 episodes, most of which were recorded on 2-inch, reel-to-reel videotape. Producers used the same tape for each show, so only a few of the final episodes survived to be archived at the North Dakota State Historical Society.”

And she added that Skye “made it seem natural for an Indian woman to report and broadcast the news.”

Rave wrote after Skye's death in 2018 that “I can't think of a single Native person on TV today who hosts a talk show about contemporary Native news.”

I love the phrase “a spacious channel” first used by Cherokee journalist Elias Boudinot in 1827. And expanding that spacious channel remains our goal.

Karen Michel is IndiJ Public Media's chief executive officer and president and has the last word here.

"I would say *ICT* definitely has come a long way in 40 years," Michel said on the Friday newscast. "So we've really covered a lot of ground over the decades. There's many people along the way who have contributed ... I'd say we have a really strong reputation as a premier news source covering Native communities. And we do things, cover stories that the mainstream media does not, and those stories are written and produced by Indigenous journalists for an Indigenous audience. And so I think that's really why we matter."

\*Mark Trahant, Shoshone-Bannock, is editor of *Indian Country Today*. On Twitter: @TrahanReports. Trahant is based in Phoenix.

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## DECOLONIZING JOURNALISM FROM AN INDIGENOUS PERSPECTIVE

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Nati Garcia (Maya Mam, CS Staff)

Republished from Cultural Survival, November 23, 2021, <https://www.culturalsurvival.org/news/decolonizing-journalism-indigenous-perspective>.

The Global Investigative Journalism Conference (GIJC) is the world's largest international gathering of investigative reporters since 2001. This year's conference was held virtually for the first time, on November 1-5, 2021. Over 1,600 journalists from 144 countries attended. Sessions ranged from data journalism; investigation of pressing issues like climate change, mapping, and inequality; investigative podcasts; online research tips; data collection tools; and investigation by Indigenous journalists; and offered diverse panels from around the globe.

It was an opportunity to bring together journalists to discuss, exchange, and share experiences and ideas to collaborate in a demanding field where facts, reporting, investigation can become exhausting. Finding a story can be a challenge, the idea, formation, analysis, to become a story requires many layers of peeling to reach the core in particular with investigative reporting.

Before finding a story there is a question to ask, what exactly is the role of a journalist? There is the assumption that journalists are one of the pillars to ensure a democratic society and shape the consciousness of civilians, providing information and evidence so that what is being reported comes from a place of truth. However, one wonders whose truth? Can there be space for multiple truths?

The responsibility of a journalist is daunting, to provide the clearest, most accurate information for decisions that impact individual lives, communities, government, and society. However, for Indigenous Peoples, much of the information that has been eluded since colonial contact are truths that have been hidden to protect the colonial image. The responsibility of a

journalist is to provide accurate truths for people to be able to make informed decisions, therefore, it is critical to report the dark truths of colonial systems and break down the hierarchy of truths.

As a journalist, it is vital to reflect on the values of journalism and decolonize one's approach to reporting. The media influences public opinion. For too long, the public has received misleading information about Indigenous Peoples who have been portrayed in discriminatory, racist, or stereotypical lights. It is time to shift that narrative that uplifts colonial exploitation. Words are powerful and can be harmful when writing a story about Indigenous Peoples and as non-Indigenous journalists, people need to be especially cautious and conscious of word choice as well as make sure Indigenous Peoples serve as collaborators or reviewers. Accountability is important in the work of journalism and being aware not to extract and sensationalize suffering of Indigenous stories but to contextualize solutions is fundamental.

Indigenous Peoples have utilized mechanisms since time immemorial to document Indigenous cultures. This sophistication of intergenerational oral transmission, the ceremonial ways in connecting with the unseen, are known today as storytelling. There is power in storytelling and speaking the truth in being a witness to the transmission of stories. It is an ancient tradition practiced by Indigenous Peoples around the world.

The GIJC offered a panel on Indigenous Investigation that featured Indigenous journalists Tristan Ahtone (Kiowa and Mikmaw), Lorena Allam (Gamilaraay and Yuwalaraay), and Trina Roache (Glooscap First Nation). They highlighted the importance of reporting on colonial systemic issues affecting Indigenous communities and structural injustice that impact Indigenous sovereignty around the globe. The panelists spoke from their own experiences being Indigenous journalists from three different regions in Canada, the United States, and Australia and shared about their efforts of writing stories of Indigenous strength and resilience.

Trina Roache is an award-winning video journalist who has covered stories in the unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq, Wolostoquey, and Pestomuhkati Nations, from politics to policing to land protection. Her work has earned regional and national awards from the Atlantic Journalism Awards, Amnesty International Canada, and the Canadian Association of Journalists. Roache brings a Mi'kmaw perspective and years of experience in visual storytelling. Roache spoke on the importance of providing accurate context, understanding what happened and why it is relevant today when writing a story. She emphasized the value of investigative research of archives, historical records, and church records of a colonial country, where she shared the challenges in navigating this vast resource that may not always be available to the public. A key message Roache shared was on the responsibility "to be a storyteller not a story taker," to work alongside Indigenous Peoples building relationships stating it is about writing "with us not about us."

Roache spoke about Indigenous stories in Canada and residential schools, and the countless hours of digging into archives and historical records seeking cues for uncovering valuable information to accurately inform the public and inviting the public to understand the histories of Indigenous Peoples. "Investigations for me have looked like police accountability, holding the government accountable, to win an award for human rights reporting I think is indicative of the ongoing impact of colonialism. There is a lot of work to do... Indigenous voices need to have weight and we need to legitimize these stories. The colonial records really reveal historic and ongoing policy of assimilation and cultural genocide."

Lorena Allam is a multiple Walkley award-winner and has been a journalist and broadcaster for over 30 years. Allam is the Indigenous Affairs Editor for The Guardian Australia. Allam spoke about the ongoing impacts of colonization sharing about the Deaths Inside Project that tracks the deaths in custody in Australia. The project began in 2018, and has collected data on the deaths of Indigenous people in custody since 1991. Her findings were concerning as many records of deaths could not be located. She shared, "When an Indigenous person dies in custody it is up to the media to ask questions," stressing the importance of a journalist to advocate for justice and telling the truth to the public, and being trauma-informed to uphold accountability to colonial states.

Tristan Ahtone is Editor-at-large at Grist and previously served as Editor-in-chief at The Texas Observer and Indigenous Affairs Editor at High Country News and is Co-founder of the Indigenous Investigative Collective. He shared three stories published by the Collective: "Anti-Indigenous Handbook," "A Broken System," a publication on how many Indigenous people have died from COVID-19 who have not been accounted for in statistics and an investigation of Tribal fraud. Ahtone states, "There is no ethical investigative reporting about Indigenous communities without an Indigenous person writing, reporting, photographing, or editing that story."

History and context are vital when investigating in Indigenous stories. Ahtone states, "What separates Indigenous journalism from other forms is its reason for existence and its place it holds outside of and often in opposition to institutions that mainstream journalists are tied to." Making Indigenous journalism fundamentally different because it works towards supporting Indigenous sovereignty and self-determination with ideas at odds against colonial systems. Ahtone mentions how it is important to understand if one is producing stories for Indigenous people or about Indigenous people. Newsrooms lack support in training Indigenous people to write, which is a serious problem in the profession and requires the implementation of decolonization approaches. Ahtone ends with a powerful note, "you cannot report on Indigenous communities if you do not have Indigenous representation in your newsroom, to report accurately."

Newspapers and newsrooms have converged Indigenous Peoples into one heavily stereotyped box, influenced by colonial ideology that continues to resonate today and the panelist spoke to this. Indigenous communities comprise 476.6 million people in 90 countries — 6.2 percent of the world's population — and are custodians of 80 percent of the world's biodiversity. At the same time, these communities are often under siege by dominant cultures, their resources stolen, and their people subjected to discrimination and abuse. For this reason, it is critical to support Indigenous leadership and voices in the field of journalism and community media to amplify the resilience and self-determination of Indigenous sovereignty.

With years of experience coordinating capacity building efforts through workshops, conferences, radio station exchanges, facilitating the development of regional networks, and supporting advocacy efforts to legalize and democratize community media, Cultural Survival elevates the experience, assets, and expertise of the communities that we partner with through our Indigenous Community Media Fund. We believe that it is crucial to listen and respond to the self-determined needs of the communities in order to provide support that is sustainable and most importantly, pertinent to the needs of the community. Indigenous youth are the future of their communities and developing youth leadership is an integral part of ensuring communities' well being.

The Cultural Survival Indigenous Community Media Youth Fellowship is an opportunity to assist fellows to represent the voices of their communities and bring awareness of local issues to global conversations through their proposed projects, all the while strengthening their cultural identities and leadership. At the GIJC conference, Cultural Survival supported a fellow in participating.

Andrea Katherine Yate Erazo (Pijao) is from Cabildo Ambiká, Bogotá, Colombia. She is a leader interested in strengthening and supporting her own educational journey. She is part of the Abole Guipas y Guambitos Youth Council of her community. Currently, she is studying Economics at the National University of Colombia, and is part of UN-Gen, a student group that seeks to strengthen and recognize gender diversity in all its expressions at the National University of Colombia in Bogotá, as well as a member of the Women's Word Circle-MLK.

Yate Erazo shares her reflections from the GIJC conference: “Although journalism is not one of the areas that I am involved in personally, I found that this conference can serve as a tool for knowledge, analysis, and investigation of situations. I believe that there is something very important that unites all of us with the objective of investigating and finding the best way to use audiovisual tools. We all seek to publicize different situations that are important to us, especially from cultural aspects as Indigenous Peoples.

“Journalism and research are fundamental factors for land defense and for keeping our Indigenous cultures strong. These are the tools that I found most beneficial for my personal experience as an Indigenous woman, communicator of knowledge, and messenger of ancestral words to Indigenous communities. Thanks to this conference, I found the need to communicate is something that can be used in different ways. Storytelling has allowed knowledge to be passed down through generations and enabled our histories to survive. I am very grateful for this invitation and I share my experience about this important opportunity.”

There is still much work to be done, however, in supporting Indigenous youth in strengthening their abilities in community media to become storytellers and in creating their own content paves aspiration in shifting the narratives in colonial systems. They educate the public, spread awareness, and showcase the resiliency and beauty of Indigenous people. At Cultural Survival, we continue to provide fellowships to Indigenous youth such as Yate Erazo to lead the way in decolonizing and promoting self-determination for their Peoples and future generations.

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### **The Yaqui Tribe: An Indigenous Nation in Resistance**

Guadalupe Pastrana (Nahua, CS Staff)

Republished from Cultural Survival, December 2, 2021,  
<https://www.culturalsurvival.org/news/yaqui-tribe-indigenous-nation-resistance>.

Located in the state of Sonora, Mexico, the Yaqui Tribe is an Indigenous Nation made up of eight Peoples who share the same territory, language, and culture. Also, a long history of struggle and resistance unites them, first against the colonial government and later against the Mexican State

which led to attempts at dispossession and extermination.

Today, the Yaqui Tribe continues to fight and defend the continuity of their lifeways for its present and future generations. The looting of their resources and the harassment of their members was not by choice, on the contrary, the Yaqui Peoples are experiencing a new wave of violence that has left many imprisoned and their leaders assassinated.

Cultural Survival recently spoke with Mario Luna Romero (Yaqui), spokesperson and second secretary of the town of Vícam, as well as coordinator of the Namakasia community radio. Luna Romero made it clear that for the Tribe “the mandate is to take care of the territory, conserve it together with everything that lives and coexists in it, that is, the fauna and flora, what is seen, and what it is not seen.”

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### **Repeating the Past**

At the end of the 19th Century, the Yaqui Tribe faced one of the most intense extermination efforts by the Mexican State. With Porfirio Díaz in command, the Mexican State issued an open call to “colonize” the Yaqui and Mayo Valleys, and based on the Lerdo Law, it ignored the titles that protected the possession of the Yaqui Peoples over their territories. Faced with this call to invade territories that since ancient times belonged to the Tribe, the Yaqui Peoples took up arms in 1882 and for several years they faced federal troops who tried to do away with them. The persecution weakened the Yaqui community. Hundreds of Yaqui boys, girls, men and women were captured and sent to work as enslaved people on henequen (agave) estates in southeastern Mexico, as was reported by the American journalist John Kenneth Turner in *Barbarian, Mexico*.

In recent months, this attempted genocide against the Yaqui Tribe has once again become relevant. On September 28, 2021, in Vícam, Sonora, the Mexican government carried out an act of "Appeal for forgiveness to the Yaqui people" within the framework of the so-called Justice Plan for the Yaqui Peoples, which according to official statements seeks, among other things, "to redress the injustices committed against this people," including the persecution led by the Porfirio Díaz government.

Mario Luna Romero and other members of the Tribe remain critical of the Justice Plan for the Yaqui Peoples. They comment that the current Mexican government talks about repairing past damages but forgets to end the dispossession and violence that exists in the present. “They offer apologies for actions against our people, but they are only limited to the past. They speak of the Porfiriato, of the conquest, but they do not speak of post-revolutionary Mexico, or of modern Mexico, or of the present, in which the same atrocities continue to be repeated,” Luna Romero told Cultural Survival.

And it is that we must remember that another problem facing the Yaqui Tribe is a new wave of violence against them. In May 2021, Tomás Rojo Valencia, a Yaqui leader, was assassinated; in June, Luis Urbano was assassinated and in July, ten members of the Tribe were kidnapped when they were leaving the town of Loma de BÁCUM. In addition, Fidencio Aldama, a Yaqui political prisoner, has been imprisoned for five years and is accused of murder. Luna

Romero was imprisoned for a year without having committed any crime and to date, he has not received fair compensation.

“Deaths like Tomás Rojo’s were totally invisible. How are they going to bring justice to the mothers, the fathers, the wives of the disappeared? Their names are not even mentioned, they do not exist for them, that is not justice. So it is very difficult to believe in an initiative of this type when obviously you leave the strongest on the outside,” Luna Romero commented in relation to the act of “Appeal for forgiveness to the Yaqui Peoples” carried out in Vícam.

In addition to the aforementioned request for forgiveness, the Justice Plan for the Yaqui Peoples includes paying attention to the Tribe's historical claims "on land and territory, water and the environment." One of the most important struggles of the Yaquis is for the defense of their river, the Yaqui River, whose waters are being looted and taken to the city of Hermosillo, Sonora, through the Independencia aqueduct, which is responsible for the shortage of water in eight Yaqui communities. “They are not repairing the current damages. They did not stop the looting of the water that is taking place through the Independence aqueduct,” Luna Romero commented and added that despite the existence of a 2013 ruling of the Supreme Court of Justice of the Nation (SCJN) to stop the operations of the aqueduct, it continues to function normally today.

The solution proposed by the Mexican government to solve the problem of water scarcity facing the Yaqui Tribe is the creation of a new irrigation district, District 18, which according to official statements “will be transferred to the Yaqui people for their administration, use, and collective enjoyment.” Luna Romero mentioned that “telling the Tribe that they are going to be given more water is generating high expectations, knowing that there is no water available. They say they will give the Tribe almost 700 million cubic meters of water a year and everyone applauds because of course we want more water, but you come back to reality and say: ‘Where's the water?’ The problem is that they have admitted users of the river at their discretion and have granted concessions that exceed the capacity of the water source.”

### **The Land is the Heart of the Peoples**

When we ask Luna Romero about how the Yaqui Tribe has managed to survive despite multiple extermination attempts, how they have maintained their language, their identity, and their own organizational and government forms, he answers that it has been possible because the Tribe has the mandate of protecting their territory to continue existing. He adds that for this reason, they have "undertaken the defense of the territory at different junctures, defenses that have implied the loss of life, bloodshed, and tears for men and women."

The conservation of the territory is a responsibility assumed by all the members of the Tribe. It is a mandate that has been transmitted from generation to generation and that falls with greater force on the traditional authorities. “At the time when the Elders, the traditional authorities, take command, they are also given the power to speak for those who have no voice. Who has no voice? The animals, the plants, the mountains, the river, the sea. It is because of them that we are working as authorities, always thinking about that commandment that they are granting us,” Luna Romero shared.



For the Yaqui Tribe, the conservation of the territory — with everything that coexists in it— is the center of their struggle, protecting the land, water, flora, and fauna is to ensure the continuity of life. “The Yaqui recognize and identify the territory as the heart of all this. Without territory you can hardly develop your language, you can hardly have food sovereignty, nor can you guarantee your children a place to live. And obviously in this territory is where we have our deities, our beliefs, our places of communication with what is not seen”, concluded Luna Romero as he continues to demand just and true compensation for his Indigenous Nation.

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## **SPECIAL COVERAGE: SUMMARY OF CO-CHAIRS’ CONCLUSIONS CONFLICT AND DEMOGRAPHY IN AFRICA CONFERENCE**

Patrick Smith, Comfort Ero and Nicholas Westcott, respectively on behalf of Africa Confidential, the International Crisis Group and the Royal African Society

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*On 14 September 2021 Crisis Group, Africa Confidential and the Royal African Society co-hosted the Climate, Conflict and Demography in Africa conference. In this summary, its co-chairs highlight five messages to help one of the hardest-hit and most neglected continents in the fight against climate change.*

### **Areas of Discussion and Agreement**

On 14 September 2021, Africa Confidential, the International Crisis Group and the Royal African Society co-hosted a high-level conference on Climate, Conflict and Demography in Africa. An audience of over 1000 people from North America, Europe (including the UK) and Africa heard 25 speakers from all three continents. Representatives from Africa included the vice-president of Nigeria, Ghana’s environment minister, the former prime minister of Ethiopia and the former president of the African Development Bank. Ministers, envoys, ambassadors, economists, academics and representatives from business, civil society and media from a wide range of countries also took part in the deliberations.

A lively debate at the conference and in three preparatory expert group meetings (which discussed the Sahel, the Horn of Africa and southern Africa) produced considerable common ground both in terms of analysis and in clear messages for African governments, the international community and participants in the 2021 UN Climate Change Conference (COP26).

Participants agreed that African countries are both among the most negatively affected by climate change, and the lowest contributors to the emission of greenhouse gasses. It was also widely observed that African voices have been neglected in the climate debate, and it is crucial

that they are heard more clearly if COP26 is to reach the decisions needed to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees.

The conference highlighted that Africa's resources are being put under increasing strain by both demographic and climatic change, the impact of which varies from region to region. While total precipitation on the continent has not necessarily diminished, the distribution and timing of rainfall has become more concentrated and erratic, leading to more frequent droughts, floods and cyclones. Additionally, more of Africa's arable land is being brought into cultivation, while forest zones are being cut back and biodiversity reduced by human expansion into previously wild areas.

At the same time, Africa's population is growing. Having doubled between 1900 to 1960, it quadrupled in the following 60 years to 1.3 billion in 2020, and may double again by 2050. This is reflected in the young median age of the continent's population (nineteen years old) and in rapid urbanisation (between 1950 and 2015, Africa's urban population rose from 27 million to 567 million people, a 2,000 per cent increase). Levels of poverty remain high, at over 35 per cent, and have recently been exacerbated by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Conference discussions centred around the specific challenges African countries face. With many of the continent's citizens dependent on rain-fed agriculture or fishing, and others already suffering water scarcity, they are more vulnerable to the impact of climate change and will likely be disproportionately affected by it. Countries also lack the physical and administrative infrastructure to manage its impact. In particular, many Africans already suffer "energy starvation", a severe lack of accessible and affordable power, while a large number of governments still rely on fossil fuel exports for revenue. Participants therefore appealed for investment in gas and its continued use as a "transition fuel", to enable Africa to accelerate its development and reduce poverty without further destruction of woodlands for fuel. This was accompanied by calls for a dramatic increase in funding for renewable energy.

Participants explored the link between climate change and security. While climate change itself does not necessarily cause conflict, the increased competition for resources as a result of global warming can exacerbate political, economic and social factors that are drivers of violence and war. This is already apparent across parts of the Sahel, the Horn of Africa and southern Africa, and constitutes a danger to international as well as local communities. Conflict both exacerbates the problems and obstructs solutions that could create sustainable livelihoods for the growing continent's population and enable constructive responses to climate change. Without more rapid action, the conference concluded that climate change is likely to contribute to greater poverty, greater inequality and intensifying local violence and wider conflicts, leading to displacement and migration.

Often, local mechanisms exist for managing access to increasingly scarce resources (land, woods and water) and preventing conflict, but are neglected or have broken down under the strain, as illustrated by the worsening tension between farmer and herder communities in several countries in Africa. National mechanisms either do not exist or do not work effectively, especially in the absence of accountable political institutions, and with national authorities that are often resistant to regional or international involvement.

The conference agreed that the speed of change in Africa and the implications for the whole world were being underestimated both inside and outside the continent. Participants agreed that more urgent action is needed by local communities, national authorities and external actors to reduce the impact of climate change in Africa and help people to adapt, so that economic growth and poverty reduction can be sustained. A failure to act at all three levels (local, national and international) will only increase the risk of conflict.

It was also agreed that it is essential to mobilise and articulate African opinion more effectively by developing and advocating a convincing narrative about the need to address climate change that draws on people's local perspectives and realities.

### **Co-Chairs' Agreed Messages**

As co-chairs, we identified **five core messages** to be communicated to African people and governments, international actors and the COP26 negotiators.

First, **we need to measure and manage environmental and ecological change better**, if we are to help communities deal with the impact of climate and population changes. In particular we must improve both the prediction of climate events, so that people can be prepared, and the planning of resilience measures. We therefore urge action to:

- Measure the human impact on biodiversity across the continent through wider monitoring of national parks, reserves and conservation areas under threat.
- Put in place more effective natural disaster prediction mechanisms on a regional basis to reduce the damage from floods, droughts and locusts; and take action to improve the resilience of local communities to cope with such threats.
- Work to communicate the importance of climate policies to the African public and governments.

Secondly, **national governmental policies in Africa need to be more joined up to cope with the impacts of climate change**. Climate is not a matter for environment ministers alone, but for the whole of government as it impacts agriculture, trade, industry, finance and security throughout each country, in both urban and rural areas. It has to be a top political and cross-government priority.

Thirdly, **a failure to act faster on climate change will exacerbate conflict on the continent. Nor can we fight climate change if we are fighting each other**. We therefore urge action to:

- Make the security implications of climate change a more central part of the international debate, at COP27 next year if not at COP26 in November.
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- Ensure African negotiators maintain unity and give priority to concrete steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, rather than just securing additional finance for mitigation

measures. Action on emissions is even more urgent than money, because with it African governments are liable to pay an unacceptable price in social and political disorder.

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- Address local resource issues in conflict resolution work, including through national authorities recognising its relevance and working more closely with local community leaders in designing solutions; and encourage international partners to make green investments a part of peace agreements to incentivise respect for them.

Fourthly, **Africa needs more support and financing to become more resilient and adapt more effectively to climate change.** The commitment by the world's richest nations to provide \$100 billion annually to developing countries has yet to be met; of the money that is available, Africa is getting a disproportionately small share. We therefore urge donors to:

- Redirect a greater share of global climate finance to Africa (currently less than 3 per cent), and in so doing include additional incentives for conservation of forests and the wild environment, and encourage debt for social equity swops.
- 
- Provide more generous support, especially from the private sector, for a just and fair energy transition in Africa. Investments in the energy sector should prioritise renewables but not to the exclusion of other transition energy sources such as gas.
- 
- Fifthly, **a constructive response needs investment in a fair energy transition, education and upskilling, and sustaining the natural environment.** We therefore urge action to:
- Adopt green energy transition policies in African countries that will deliver increased power to communities, attract outside investment and minimise increases in greenhouse gas emissions.
- 
- Encourage African green technology solutions.
- 
- Develop educational capabilities in African universities to build the human capacity necessary to address the challenges of climate change, both technically and politically.

Work with local communities for the sustainable development of natural resources, preservation of biodiversity and forest habitats.

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## **ON THE MOVE: DISPLACED INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND REFUGEES FROM CENTRAL AMERICA SEEK A BETTER LIFE**

Por Avexnim Cojti (Maya K'iche', CS Staff)"

Republished from Cultural Survival, June 19, 2021,  
<https://www.culturalsurvival.org/news/move-displaced-indigenous-peoples-and-refugees->

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a greater flow of individuals, children, and families is expected globally to seek refuge outside of their country of origin in pursuit of a life with basic needs met such as food, water, shelter, and a place to have hope of a future for themselves and their children. According to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in 2020, there were more than 79.5 million displaced people in the world. Of these 79.5 million, 26 million are refugees seeking sanctuary and almost half of them are children and youth.

The definition of a refugee according to the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees of 1951 (Refugee Convention) is “someone who is unable or unwilling to return to their country of origin owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion.”

Of the 195 recognized countries in the world, 147 have signed the Refugee Convention and 1967 Protocol. This means that there is worldwide recognition of the reality of forced displacement in many countries and that many States have signed to guarantee the protection and rights of refugees. Among the basic rights of refugees are the right not to be returned to persecution or the threat of persecution (the principle of non-refoulement); the right not to be penalized for illegal entry and the right to minimum conditions of stay such as freedom of movement, the right to education, health and paid employment or self-employment, the right to dispose of goods and the right to obtain travel identity documents.

In the last decade, refugee numbers have doubled. In 2012, UNHCR reported 10.5 million refugees and in 2020 the numbers reached 26.3 million. Most of the countries that receive refugees are also poor countries that, by receiving refugees, also increase vulnerabilities in their territories. Among the five countries that have received the most refugees are Turkey, Colombia, Pakistan, Uganda, and Germany. Only Germany is the most economically stable country among the five countries that have received the highest number of displaced persons and refugees. The United States, regarded as one of the strongest countries in the world, is not among the top 10 countries that receive refugees. On the contrary, the U.S. has lowered its refugee quotas during a period when more support is needed.

From 2012 to 2015, the United States had a quota of 70,000 refugees, in 2016 and 2017 an average quota of 97,000 per year, in the years 2018 and 2019, it was lowered to an average of 35,000 refugees per year, and in 2020 and 2021 the quotas were and are on average 16,000 refugees per year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Parallel to an immigration policy that has lowered refugee quotas, there is another important phenomenon happening for the United States and that is 170,000 people have been arriving at the U.S./Mexico border monthly since April of 2021 from Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala, with a large majority of unaccompanied children and young people asking for help to live, and asking for asylum and protection.

The number of displaced people and refugees from Honduras, El Salvador, and Guatemala have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, which reveals the abandonment of the three States towards those most at risk. People already living in poverty fell into abject poverty during the pandemic and many also were severely impacted by recent storms Eta and Iota. These two storms in 2020 caused landslides, the contamination of water sources, destroyed bridges, roads, the flooding of households, the loss of crops, and furthermore the inability to plant in the following months. With the increase of floodings and desertification of lands due to climate change, many Central American communities face food insecurity.

Among displaced people and refugees are Indigenous Peoples, who are largely ignored in the migration narrative, denied their Indigeneity, and at the same time criminalized as the rest of the Central American population by the rulers of States United.

In Central American countries, Indigenous Peoples, such as Maya, Xinka, Lenca, Nahuatl Pipil, Miskito, Tolupan, Pech, Tawahka, Cacaopera Peoples experience high rates of human rights violations and make up a large portion of internally displaced persons and refugees outside national borders. In addition to fleeing poverty, violence, and lack of opportunities, they flee from structural racism, the impacts of climate change, and ill-designed trade agreements on the agricultural economy, which greatly impacts their sustenance and food sovereignty.

U.S. Vice-president Kamala Harris' visit to Guatemala in June 2021, in her first year in government, was important for many sectors of civil society, and especially for Indigenous Peoples. In meeting with Harris, people were able to raise their voices and express their concerns and their proposals for solutions to improve the political, social, and economic conditions of the country, and thus, reduce the high rates of migration to the United States.

Part of the promises of Joe Biden and Kamala Harris's administration is economic support to rural sectors and Indigenous entrepreneurship through their development arm, USAID. However, it is important to underline that several authors such as Ricardo Patzan and Jorge Morales Toj have tenaciously argued that this solution is not enough, if trade policies are not modified. Central American countries need to protect and promote an economy that supports the Indigenous and campesino people through agriculture and the commercialization of their products at the national and regional levels.

Trade agreements with Central American countries have allowed the imports of foreign products, gradually eliminating local agricultural economies. Likewise, the economic elites of Central American countries continue to maintain control of the commercialization of products at national and international levels. The subsistence economy for Indigenous Peoples, campesinos, and Afro-descendant communities must be supported to stop forced migration. People are forced to migrate as they are no longer able to make a living and provide the basic needs of food and water for their families. Many do not have access to even a high school education and sell their labor for meager salaries or that cannot make a living from their crops due to the ill-designed trade agreements, or due to climate change have lost their crops.

The increase in multinational corporations that continue to seek the exploitation of minerals from Indigenous territories for the transition to the green economy, the privatization of freshwater sources, and the ongoing criminalization of Indigenous leaders, organizations, and Peoples that protect their territory and natural resources continue to be factors that create the situation where refugees and displaced people migrate to the United States.

Therefore, it is very important that the United States supports substantive changes and among them is the elimination of systemic barriers that interfere with the regenerative economies of Indigenous and campesino communities in Central America. This is strongly connected to working the land and access to land, as well as supporting the self-determination of Indigenous Peoples to govern themselves and manage their public budgets. Finally, it is urgent that the quotas for refugees be raised in the United States as well as in other economically strong countries, in order to respond proactively to the reality that is reaching their borders this and in future years, without criminalizing individuals and families but respecting, protecting, and fulfilling their right to request the protection that they need and deserve.

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## MEDIA NOTES

University of Arizona Press listings include: Stephen E. Strom and Jonathan T. Bailey, *The Greater San Rafael Swell: Honoring Tradition and Preserving Storied Lands*, A story of shared vision and collaborative conservation in the West (376 pp. for \$24.95 paper); Wendy Shelly Greyeyes, Foreword by Kevin K. Washburn, *A History of Navajo Nation Education: Disentangling Our Sovereign Body*, Uncovering the path toward educational sovereignty (272 pp. for \$29.95 paper, \$100 printed case); Edited by Pedro Vallejo and Vincent Werito, *Transforming Diné Education: Innovations in Pedagogy and Practice*, Advancing teaching practices and student resilience (184 pp. for \$24.95 paper, \$100 printed case); Jennifer McLerran, *A New Deal for Navajo Weaving: Reform and Revival of Diné Textiles*, Critically examines non-Indians' attempts to intervene in Diné weaving (312 pp. for \$50 jacketed cloth, plus Ebook); Marianne O. Nielsen and Barbara M. Heather, *Finding Right Relations: Quakers, Native Americans, and Settler Colonialism*, Rethinking Quaker settler colonist relations with Indigenous peoples (208 pp. for \$4 printed case, plus Ebook); Cheryl Redhorse Bennett, *Our Fight Has Just Begun: Hate Crimes And Justice In Native America*, Exposing racial injustices in the Four Corners area (216 pp. for \$29.95 paper, \$100 printed case); Edited by Mark L. M. Blair, Mary Jo Tippeconnic Fox, and Kestrel A. Smith, *American Indian Studies: Native Phd Graduates Gift Their Stories*, Inspiring the next generation of Native scholars (192 pp. for \$24.95 paper, plus Ebook); Teresa A. Velásquez, *Pachamama Politics: Campesino Water Defenders and the Anti- Mining Movement in Andean Ecuador*, Broadening conversations about social movements, indigeneity, and environmental protection (272 pp. for \$55 printed case, plus Ebook); Colleen M. Scanlan Lyons, *Running After Paradise: Hope, Survival, and Activism in Brazil's Atlantic Forest*, Documenting the lives of the people living in one of the most important and threatened tropical forests on the planet (304 pp. for \$60 printed case); Todd A. Surovell, Barger Gulch: *A Folsom Campsite in the Rocky Mountains*, Key findings from one of the oldest and most iconic Folsom sites in North America (304 pp. for \$65 printed case); Stephen B. Acabado and Marlon M. Martin, *Indigenous Archaeology in the Philippines: Decolonizing Ifugao History*, Illustrating the importance of collaborative archaeology (248 pp. for \$60 printed case); Edited by Gesa Mackenthun and Christen Mucher, *Decolonizing "Prehistory:" Deep Time and Indigenous Knowledges in North America* (288 pp. for \$35 paper, plus Ebook); Nathaniel Morris, *Soldiers, Saints, And Shamans: Indigenous Communities and The Revolutionary State in Mexico's Gran Nayar, 1910-1940* (392 pp; for \$35 paper, plus Ebook); Mara J. Goldman, *Narrating Nature: Wildlife Conservation and*

***Maasai Ways of Knowing*** (304 pp. for \$35 paper, plus E-book); and Julie Velásquez Runk, ***Crafting Wounaan Landscapes: Identity, Art, and Environmental Governance in Panama's Darién*** (336 pp. for \$35 paper, plus Ebook), all from the University of Arizona Press, 355 S. Euclid Ave., Suite 103, Tucson, AZ 85701, phone/fax (800) 426-3797, <http://www.uapress.arizona.edu/>.

Offerings from the University of Hawaii Press include: Teresia Kieuea Teaiwa, Compiled and Edited by Katerina Teaiwa, April K. Henderson, and Terence Wesley-Smith, ***Sweat and Salt Water: Selected Works***, The collection honors her legacy in various scholarly fields, including Pacific studies, Indigenous studies, literary studies, security studies, and gender studies, and on topics ranging from militarism and tourism to politics and pedagogy (288 pp. for \$28 paper, \$80 cloth); Peter Schwieger, ***Conflict in a Buddhist Society: Tibet under the Dalai Lamas*** (352 pp. for \$72 cloth); and Jean Barman and Bruce McIntyre Watson, ***Leaving Paradise: Indigenous Hawaiians in the Pacific Northwest, 1787–1898*** (528 pp. for \$30 paper, \$72 cloth), All, plus \$5 first item, \$1 each additional, shipping, from University of Hawai'i Press, 1840 Kolawalu St., Honolulu, HI 96822 (808)956-8255, [uhpbooks@hawaii.edu](mailto:uhpbooks@hawaii.edu), <http://www.uhpress.hawaii.edu>.

Recent offerings from the University of New Mexico Press include: Edited by Alex E. Chavéz & Gina M. Pérez; foreword by Arlene M. Dávila, ***Ethnographic Refusals, Unruly Latinidades***, The contributors in *Ethnographic Refusals, Unruly Latinidades* highlight the value of “radical inclusion” in their research and call for a critical self-reflexivity that marshals the power of bearing witness to Shawn Michael Austin, ***Colonial Kinship: Guaraní, Spaniards, and Africans in Paraguay*** (\$85.00, cloth); Edited by Carolyn R. Larson, ***The Conquest of the Desert: Argentina's Indigenous Peoples and the Battle for History*** (\$29.95, paper), all plus \$5 for the first item and \$1 for each additional, shipping, from the University of New Mexico Press, MSC04 2820, 1 University of New Mexico, Albuquerque NM 87131-0001 (505)272-7777 or (800)249-7737, <http://www.unmpress.com/>.

University of Nebraska Press offerings include: Clinton N. Westman, ***Cree and Christian: Encounters and Transformations*** (402 pages \$70 cloth, Ebook and pdf); Mary-Elizabeth Reeve, ***Amazonian Kichwa of the Curaray River: Kinship and History in the Western Amazon*** (210 pp. for \$60 cloth, Ebook and pdf); Francis Paul Prucha, ***Documents of United States Indian Policy, Third Edition*** (396 pp. for \$30 paper and Ebook); and Frederick E. Hoxie, ***A Final Promise: The Campaign to Assimilate the Indians, 1880-1920*** (350 pp. for \$24 paper and Ebook), all, plus \$5 for the first item, \$1 for each additional, from University of Nebraska Press, 1111 Lincoln Mall, Lincoln, NE 68588 (800)755-1105, [pressmail@uni.edu](mailto:pressmail@uni.edu), [www.nebraskapress.unl.edu](http://www.nebraskapress.unl.edu).

Offerings from the University of Oklahoma Press include: Herman J. Viola, Foreword by Debra Kay Mooney, Contributions by Ellen Baumlér, Cheryl Hughes, and Michelle Pearson, ***Warrior Spirit: The Story of Native American Heroism and Patriotism*** (168 pp. for \$18.05 paper); Paul N. Beck, ***Inkpaduta: Dakota Leader*** (212 pp. for \$21.95 paper, \$29.95 cloth); William Wayne Red Hat Jr. Edited by Sibylle M. Schlesier, ***William Wayne Red Hat Jr.: Cheyenne Keeper of the Arrows*** (176 pp. for \$16.95 paper, \$21.95 cloth); Edited by Kent Blansett, Cathleen D., Cahill, and Andrew Needham, ***Indian Cities: Histories of Indigenous Urbanization*** (344 pp. for \$34.95 paper); Valerie Sherer Mathes, Foreword by Lori Jacobson, ***Amelia Stone Quinton and***



*the Women's National Indian Association A Legacy of Indian Reform* (312 pp. for \$55 cloth); Robert S. Grumet Foreword by Daniel K. Richter, *The Munsee Indians: A History* (482 pp. for \$24.95 paper and \$45 cloth); Robert J. Bigart, *Providing for the People: Economic Change among the Salish and Kootenai Indians, 1875–1910* (280 pp. for \$24.95 paper and \$45 cloth); Thomas A. Britten Foreword by Charles Trimble, *Voice of the Tribes: A History of the National Tribal Chairmen's Association* (270 pp. for \$24.95 paper and \$45 cloth); Terri A. Castaneda, Marie Mason Potts: *The Lettered Life of a California Indian Activist* (384 pp. for \$24.95 paper and \$45 cloth); Malcolm Ebright and Rick Hendricks, *Pueblo Sovereignty: Indian Land and Water in New Mexico and Texas* (260 pp. for \$24.95 paper and \$45 cloth); Justin Gage, *We Do Not Want the Gates Closed between Us: Native Networks and the Spread of the Ghost Dance* (376 pp. for \$24.95 paper and \$45 cloth); Edited by Albert L. Hurtado Introduction by Wilma Mankiller, *Reflections on American Indian History: Honoring the Past, Building a Future* (170 pp. for \$21.95 paper and \$29.95 cloth); Bonnie Sue Lewis, *Creating Christian Indians: Native Clergy in the Presbyterian Church* (302 pp. for \$24.95 paper and \$34.95 cloth); Robert S. McPherson, *Traders, Agents, and Weavers: Developing the Northern Navajo Region* (344 pp. for \$24.95 paper and \$34.95 cloth); William C. Meadows, *Kiowa Military Societies: Ethnohistory and Ritual Region* (476 pp. for \$39.95 paper and \$75 cloth); and Devon A. Mihesuah, *Choctaw Crime and Punishment, 1884–1907* (352 pp. for \$24.95 paper and \$32.95 cloth), all, plus \$5 for first item, \$1.50 for each additional, shipping, from the University of Oklahoma Press, Attn: Order Department, 2800 Venture Drive, Norman, OK 73069-8218, [www.oupres.com](http://www.oupres.com).

Offerings from the University of Alaska Press include: Lehtola, Veli-Pekka, Muller-Wille, Linna Weber (transcriber), *Sami People - The: Traditions in Transition* (144 pp. for \$27.95 paper), all plus \$6 first item, \$1 each additional, from University of Alaska Press: [www.alaska.edu/uapress](http://www.alaska.edu/uapress).

Books from University of Pennsylvania Press include: Paul Conrad, *The Apache Diaspora: Four Centuries of Displacement and Survival* (400 pp. for \$34.95 cloth); Noelani Arista, *The Kingdom and the Republic: Sovereign Hawai'i and the Early United States* (312 pp. for \$24.95 paper, \$45 cloth); and Erin Woodruff Stone, *Captives of Conquest: Slavery in the Early Modern Spanish Caribbean* (288 pp. for \$49.95 plus Ebook), all plus \$5 first item, \$2 each additional, from University of Pennsylvania Press, [www.pennpress.org](http://www.pennpress.org).

Publications from University of Minnesota Press include: David Hugill, *Settler Colonial City: Racism and Inequity in Postwar Minneapolis* (\$25 paper, \$100 cloth); Leanne Betasamosake Simpson, *As We Have Always Done: Indigenous Freedom through Radical Resistance* (320 pp. for \$18.95 paper); Daniel Heath Justice and Jean M. O'Brien, Editors, Afterword by Stacy Leeds, *Allotment Stories: Indigenous Land Relations under Settler Siege* (376 pp. for \$28 paper, \$112 cloth); Jamaica Heolimeleikalani Osorio, *Remembering Our Intimacies: Mo'olelo, Aloha 'Āina, and Ea*, Recovering Kānaka Maoli (Native Hawaiian) relationality and belonging in the land, memory, and body of Native Hawai'i (232 pp. for \$25 paper, \$100 cloth, plus Ebook), all from: <https://www.upress.umn.edu>.

University of Chicago publications include: Kevin Lane, *The Inca: Lost Civilizations*, From their mythical origins to astonishing feats of engineering, an expertly informed reassessment of one of the great empires of the Americas: the Inca (by Reaktion Books, 208 pp. for \$25 cloth);

Megan E. O’Neil, *The Maya: Lost Civilizations, An illuminating look at the myriad communities who have engaged with the ancient Maya over the centuries* (by Reaktion Books, 296 pp. for \$25 cloth); Charles Stépanoff, Translated by Catherine V. Howard, *Journeys into the Invisible: Shamanic Imagination in the Far North*, A lively exploration of the Indigenous traditions of shamanism in the Far North of Eurasia and North America. In this book, Charles Stépanoff draws on ethnographic literature and his fieldwork in Siberia to reveal the immense contribution to human imagination made by shamans and the cognitive techniques they developed over the centuries (From Hau, 320 pp. for \$30 paper); Aaron Glass, *Writing the Hamat’sa: Ethnography, Colonialism, and the Cannibal Dance*, An exploration of the Hamatsa, a ritual dance of the Kwakwaka’wakw people of British Columbia (From University of British Columbia Press, 512 pp. for \$37.95 paper, \$95 cloth); Gavin Renwick, *Colonization Through Design*, Explores the intersection of Indigenous knowledge and innovative design solutions (From University of British Columbia Press, 120 pp. for \$43.95 paper); Elizabeth Cassell, *The Terms of Our Surrender: Colonialism, Dispossession and the Resistance of the Innu*, An analysis of the laws determining indigenous land ownership in eastern Canada (from University of London Press, 304 pp. for \$35 paper), order at: [press.uchicago.edu](http://press.uchicago.edu).

**Clear Light Books** has numerous Indigenous publications, but as they are not dated in the catalogue we cannot tell which are new to list here. Books from Clear light are all plus \$4.00 first item, \$.50 for each additional, from Clear Light Books, <http://www.clearlightbooks.com>.

University of British Columbia Press publications encompass: Yvonne Boyer and Larry Chartrand, *Métis Rising Living Our Present Through the Power of Our Past* (280 pp. for \$89 cloth); Yvonne Boyer and Larry Chartrand; Foreword by Tony Belcourt, *Bead by Bead: Constitutional Rights and Métis Community* (236 pp. for \$32.95 paper, Ebook and pdf, \$89.95 cloth); Michel Bouchard, Sébastien Malette, and Guillaume Marcotte, *Bois-Brûlés: The Untold Story of the Métis of Western Québec* (320 pp. for \$34.95 paper, Ebook and pdf, \$89.95 cloth); Jerry Fontaine, *Our Hearts Are as One Fire: An Ojibway-Anishinabe Vision for the Future* (280 pp. for \$29.95 paper, Ebook and pdf, \$75 cloth); Adam J. Barker, *Making and Breaking Settler Space: Five Centuries of Colonization in North America* (312 pp. for \$34.95 Ebook and pdf, \$89.95 cloth); R. Cole Harris, *A Bounded Land: Reflections on Settler Colonialism in Canada* (344 pp. for \$32.95 paper, Ebook and pdf, \$34.95 cloth); Edited by Sigrid Lien and Hilde Wallem Nielssen, *Adjusting the Lens: Indigenous Activism, Colonial Legacies, and Photographic Heritage* (320 pp. for \$45 paper and pdf); Carole Blackburn, *Beyond Rights: The Nisg\_a’a Final Agreement and the Challenges of Modern Treaty Relationships* (202 pp. for \$29.95 Ebook and pdf, \$89.95 cloth); Edited by Peter Cook, Neil Vallance, John Lutz, Graham Brazier, and Hamar Foster, *To Share, Not Surrender: Indigenous and Settler Visions of Treaty Making in the Colonies of Vancouver Island and British Columbia* (330 pp. for \$37.95 paper, Ebook and pdf, \$89.95 cloth); Daniel Rück, *The Laws and the Land: The Settler Colonial Invasion of Kahnawà:ke in Nineteenth-Century Canada* (338 pp. for \$39.95 paper, Ebook and pdf, \$39.95 cloth); Jamie Baxter, *Inalienable Properties: The Political Economy of Indigenous Land Reform* (226 pp. for \$32.95 paper, Ebook and pdf, \$80 cloth); Jim Reynolds, *From Wardship to Rights: The Guerin Case and Aboriginal Law* (308 pp. for \$27.95 paper, Ebook and pdf, \$75 cloth); Kara Granzow, *Invested Indifference: How Violence Persists in Settler Colonial Society*, *Invested Indifference* offers a divergent perspective on the contemporary disappearance and murder of Indigenous women and girls in Canada (284 pp. for \$32.95 paper, Ebook and pdf, \$89.95 cloth); Tara K. McGee, Amy Cardinal Christianson, and First

Nations Wildfire Evacuation Partnership, *First Nations Wildfire Evacuations: A Guide for Communities and External Agencies* (172 pp. for \$25 paper, Ebook); Graham White, *Indigenous Empowerment through Co-management: Land Claims Boards, Wildlife Management, and Environmental Regulation* (400 pp. for \$34.95 paper, Ebook and pdf, \$34.95cloth); and Duncan McCue, *The Shoe Boy: A Trapline Memoir*, *The Shoe Boy* is an evocative exploration of Indigenous identity and connection to the land, expressed in guise of a unique coming-of-age memoir set on a trapline in northern Quebec (88 pp. for \$14.95 paper, Ebook and pdf), order through the <https://www.ubcpres.ca/indigenous-studies-catalogue>.

David Graeber, David Wengrow, *The Dawn of Everything: A New History of Humanity*, showing that ancient city societies were extremely equalitarian and democratic is published by Farrar, Straus and Giroux and available via MacMillan and various book stores and web sites.

The **December 2021 Issue of *Cultural Survival Quarterly* features articles on, " Securing the Futures of Our Languages,"** on the web at: <https://www.culturalsurvival.org/publications/cultural-survival-quarterly/45-4-securing-future-our-languages>.

**New Film *EXODUS* Provides Unique Window into Lives of Rohingya Refugees:** Documentary from Fortify Rights and Doha Debates released worldwide today," Fortify Rights, August 25, 2021, <https://mailchi.mp/fortifyrights/new-film-exodus-provides-unique-window-into-lives-of-rohingya-refugees?e=24e6ca1455>, reported, "Fortify Rights and Doha Debates today released *EXODUS*, a 23-minute documentary film that delves into the lives of three young Rohingya refugee photographers from Myanmar living in one of the world's largest refugee camps.

The film follows the stories of Omal Khair, Dil Kayas, and Azimul Hasson, three Rohingya survivors of genocide forced from their homes in Rakhine State during Myanmar-military-led clearance operations of 2017. The film is being released on August 25, the anniversary of the onset of genocidal attacks in Myanmar that forced more than 700,000 Rohingya into Bangladesh." The film is available at the above web address.

On the Web: **Project 1492:** <https://project1492>, describes itself, "For too long American history has been taught from just one perspective – the myopic view of the settler colonists – and so many of the facts of the country's past have been conveniently swept under the rug. Project 1492 is intended to offer a different view of history while informing average Americans about many events that have been omitted from the mainstream narrative or forgotten entirely. History has consequences, and the impact of the choices made over the past 500 years have put an indelible stamp on this country that continues to impact the relationship between the descendants of European settlers and modern-day Native Americans.

The stories you'll find here aren't easy to read, but they are important. Most Americans have no idea what happened to American Indians in the past or what their lives are like today. Our goal is to share as many of those stories as we can. We began with a dozen or so, but there are many more in the works that will be added to the Project 1492 website going forward. We want to hear from you, too. Please contribute your story ideas through the Contact page. Tell us what you'd like to see. Tell us what you think people need to know. Tell us what you think. We look forward to hearing from you."

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## **Ph.D. Dissertations from Universities Around the World on Topics Relating to Indians in the Americas, Compiled from *Dissertation Abstracts***

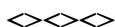
Jonathon Erlen, Ph.D., History of Medicine Librarian, Health Sciences Library System  
University of Pittsburgh, erlen@pitt.edu

and

Jay Toth, M.A., Professor of Anthropology, SUNY Fredonia, jtoth@atlanticbb.net

*IPJ* hosts a regularly updated data base of American Indian related Ph.D. from 2006 – the present. The dissertation coverage includes all languages and is international in scope as far as Dissertation Abstracts covers. This includes most European universities, South African universities, and a few in the Far East. They do not cover all the universities in the world, but do a pretty good job covering first world universities. There is no coverage of Latin American universities' dissertations. The data base is updated in each Winter and Summer issue of *IPJ*, and sometimes between issues. Since ProQuest, the proviser of the lists of dissertations from which Jonathan and Jay find Indigenous dissertations, no longer goes by months/years there will be titles from various years added in the updates.

Dissertation      abstracts      Data      Base      2006      –      the      present:  
<http://indigenouspolicy.org/index.php/ipj/thesis>



### **Useful Web Sites**

#### **Environmental Web Sites**

**Indigenous Environmental Network** serves as an Indigenous voice on environmental issues, at: <http://www.ienearth.org/>.

**UN NGO Climate Change Caucus**, with numerous task forces, is at: <http://climatecaucus.net>.

**The Seeding Sovereignty Collective** is at [seedingsovereignty.org](http://seedingsovereignty.org).

**On the Frontlines of Climate Change: A global forum for indigenous peoples, small islands and vulnerable communities** can be subscribed to at: <http://www.climatefrontlines.org/lists/?p=subscribe>. See postings on the website at: <http://www.climatefrontlines.org/en-GB/node/148>.

**350.org** works around the world on climate change related issued, at: [www.350.org](http://www.350.org).

**Greenpeace** engages on many environmental concerns, at: [greenpeace.org/usa/](http://greenpeace.org/usa/) and [greenpeace.org/](http://greenpeace.org/).

**Friends of the Earth** is involved world wide in environmental advocacy, at: [foei.org](http://foei.org).

The **Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS)** works on a variety of environmental, as well as other, issues, at: [www.ucsusa.org](http://www.ucsusa.org).

**Environmental Action** is active on numerous environmental issue, at: [environmental-action.org](http://environmental-action.org).

**Environment America** works on environmental issue in the U.S. at: <https://environmentamerica.webaction.org>.

**Food and Water Watch** is active on a variety of issues relating to water and food, at: <https://www.foodandwaterwatch.org> and <https://secure.foodandwaterwatch.org>.

**The Wilderness Society** works on environmental issues, particularly concerning preserving "wild places." at: [wilderness.org](http://wilderness.org).

***Ocean River Institute works on river and other water issue, at: [oceanriver.org](http://oceanriver.org).***

**The National Wildlife Federation, at: [nwf.org](http://nwf.org), and The National Wildlife Federation Action Fund, at: <https://online.nwf.org/site/SPageNavigator/ActionCenter>, are concerned with environmental issues involving wildlife in the U.S.**

**The Nuclear Information and Resource Service** includes in its work nuclear environmental issues, at: [nirs.org](http://nirs.org).

**The National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) includes in its concerns environmental issues relating to U.S. national parks, at: [npca.org](http://npca.org) and <https://secure.npca.org/>**

**Earth Policy Institute**, dedicated to building a sustainable future as well as providing a plan of how to get from here to there: [www.earthpolicy.org](http://www.earthpolicy.org).

**Wiser Earth** lists more than 10,700 environmental and environmental justice organizations at: <http://www.wiserearth.org/organization/>

**Earthwatch**, the world's largest environmental volunteer organization, founded in 1971, works globally to help the people of the planet volunteer realize a sustainable environment: <http://www.earthwatch.org/>.

**Avaaz.org** works internationally on environmental and peace and justice issues: <http://www.avaaz.org>.

**The Environmental Defense Fund** works on a variety of environmental issues and policy, including global warming induced climate change, primarily in the U.S.: <http://edf.org>.

**Earthjustice** focuses on environmental issues and action: <http://action.earthjustice.org>.

**The Sierra Club** works on environmental issues in the United States: <http://action.sierraclub.org>.

**SaveOurEnvironemnt.org**, a coalition of environmental organizations acting politically in the U.S.: [http://ga3.org/campaign/0908\\_endangered\\_species/xuninw84p7m8mxxm](http://ga3.org/campaign/0908_endangered_species/xuninw84p7m8mxxm).

**The National Resources Defense Council** works on a variety of environmental issues in the U.S.: NR<http://www.nrdconline.org/>

**Care 2** is concerned about a variety of issues, including the environment: <http://www.care2.com/>.

**Rainmakers Oceania** studies possibilities for restoring the natural environment and humanity's rightful place in it, at: <http://rainmakers-ozeania.com/0annexanchorc/about-rainmakers.html>.

**Green Ships**, in fall 2008, was asking Congress to act to speed the development of new energy efficient ships that can take thousands of trucks off Atlantic and Pacific Coast highways, moving freight up and down the costs with far less carbon emissions and more cheaply: <http://www.greenships.org>.

**Carbon Fund Blog** carries climate change news, links to green blogs, and a green resource list, at: <http://carbonfund.blogspot.com/2008/03/sky-is-falling.html>. Carbon Fund is certifying carbon free products at: <http://www.carbonfund.org/site/pages/businesses/category/CarbonFree>.

**Grist carries environmental news and commentary**: <http://www.grist.org/news/>,

**Green Inc.** is a new blog from *The New York Times* devoted to energy and the environment at: [greeninc.blogs.nytimes.com](http://greeninc.blogs.nytimes.com).

**Planting Peace** is, "A Resource Center for news and activities that seek to build a powerful coalition to bring about cooperation and synergy between the peace movement, the climate crisis movement, and the organic community." Their web site includes extensive links to organizations, articles, videos and books that make the connections, at: <http://organicconsumers.org/plantingpeace/index.cfm>, Planting Peace is sponsored by the **Organic Consumers Association**: <http://organicconsumers.org/>.

**The Global Climate Change Campaign**: <http://www.globalclimatecampaign.org/>.

The **Audubon Society** reports on and works on issues focused on birds, at: [audubon.org](http://audubon.org).

**Peace & Security Funding Index: An Analysis of Global Foundation Grantmaking** is available at: <http://peaceandsecurityindex.org>.

**Oxfam America's interactive website:** <http://adapt.oxfamamerica.org> shows how social vulnerability and climate variability impact each county in the U.S. Southwest region. The methodology exposes how social vulnerability, not science, determines the human risk to climate change.

The center for defense information now carries **regular reports on Global Warming & International Security** at: <http://www.cdi.org>.

### **American Indian and International Indigenous Web Sites**

**National Congress of American Indians**, [ncaipress@NCAI.org](mailto:ncaipress@NCAI.org), <http://www.ncai.org>, or 202-466-7767

**Native American Contractors Association**, 202-758-2676, <http://nativecontractors.org>

**National Indian Health Board**, 202-507-4071, <https://www.nihb.org>

**National Council on Urban Indian Health**, 202-544-0344, <https://www.ncuih.org/index>

**National Indian Education Association**, 202-544-7290, <http://www.niea.org>

**National American Indian Housing Council**, 202-789-1754, <http://naihc.net>

**National Indian Child Welfare Association**, 503-222-4044, <https://www.nicwa.org>

**Self-Governance Communication & Education Tribal Consortium**, 918-302-0252, <https://www.tribalselfgov.org/about-sgce/staff/>.

***CELANEN: A Journal of Indigenous Governance*** is produced by the Indigenous Governance Program at the University of Victoria, at: <http://web.uvic.ca/igov/research/journal/index.htm>. CELANEN (pronounced CHEL- LANG- GEN) is a Saanich word for "our birthright, our ancestry, sovereignty" and sets the tone for this annual publication containing articles, poetry, and commentary.

**Native Research Network** is now at: [www.nativeresearchnetwork.org](http://www.nativeresearchnetwork.org). Its vision statement is: "A leadership community of American Indian, Alaska Native, Kanaka Maoli, and Canadian Aboriginal persons promoting integrity and excellence in research". Its mission is "To provide a pro-active network of American Indian, Alaska Native, Kanaka Maoli, and Canadian Aboriginal persons to promote and advocate for high quality research that is collaborative, supportive and builds capacity, and to promote an environment for research that operates on the principles of integrity, respect, trust, ethics, cooperation and open communication in multidisciplinary fields". The Native Research Network (NRN) provides networking and mentoring opportunities, a forum to share research expertise, sponsorship of research events, assistance to communities and tribes, and enhanced research communication. The NRN places a special emphasis on ensuring that research with Indigenous people is conducted in a culturally sensitive and respectful manner. Its Member List serve: [NRN@lists.apa.org](mailto:NRN@lists.apa.org).

**The American Journal of Indigenous Studies** is a quarterly journal by the American Scholarly Research Association (ASRA), at: [www.ASRAresearch.or](http://www.ASRAresearch.or).

**The Enduring Legacies Native Cases Initiative** began in 2006 as a partnership between The Evergreen State College, Northwest Indian College, Salish Kootenai College, and Grays Harbor College. Our goal is to develop and widely disseminate culturally relevant curriculum and teaching resources in the form of case studies on key issues in Indian Country: <http://nativecases.evergreen.edu/about.html>.

**The National Indian Housing Council** offers a number of reports at: <http://www.naihc.indian.com/>.

**The American Indian Studies Consortium** is at: <http://www.cic.uiuc.edu/programs/AmericanIndianStudiesConsortium/>.

Some news sources that have been useful in putting the issues of Indigenous Policy together are:

For reports of U.S. government legislation, agency action, and court decisions: **Hobbs, Straus, Dean and Walker, LLP**, 2120 L Street NW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20037, <http://www.hobbsstraus.com>.

**Indian Country Today**: <http://www.indiancountry.com/index.cfm?key=15>.

**News from Indian Country**: <http://www.indiancountrynews.com/>.

**The Navajo Times**: <http://www.navajotimes.com/>.

**IndianZ.com**: <http://www.indianz.com>.

**Pechanga Net**: <http://www.pechanga.net/NativeNews.html>

**Survival International**: <http://www.survival-international.org/>.

**Cultural Survival**: <http://209.200.101.189/publications/win/>, or <http://www.cs.org/>.

**Censored (in Indian Country)**: <http://bsnorrell.blogspot.com/>.

**ArizonaNativeNet** is a virtual university outreach and distance learning telecommunications center devoted to the higher educational needs of Native Nations in Arizona, the United States and the world through the utilization of the worldwide web and the knowledge-based and technical resources and expertise of the University of Arizona, providing resources for Native Nations nation-building, at: [www.arizonanativenet.com](http://www.arizonanativenet.com) **The Forum for 'friends of Peoples close to Nature'** is a movement of groups and individuals, concerned with the survival of Tribal peoples and their culture, in particular hunter-gatherers: <http://ipwp.org/how.html>. **Tebtebba (Indigenous Peoples' International Centre for Policy Research and Education)**, with lists of projects and publications, and reports of numerous Indigenous meetings: <http://www.tebtebba.org/>.

**Andre Cramblit** ([andrekar@ncidc.org](mailto:andrekar@ncidc.org)) has begun a new Native news blog continuing his former Native list serve to provide information pertinent to the American Indian community. The blog contains news of interest to Native Americans, Hawaiian Natives and Alaskan Natives. It is a briefing of items that he comes across that are of broad interest to American Indians. News and action requests are posted as are the occasional humorous entry. The newsletter is designed to inform you, make you think and keep a pipeline of information that is outside the mainstream media. "I try and post to it as often as my schedule permits I



scan a wide range of sources on the net to get a different perspective on Native issues and try not to post stuff that is already posted on multiple sources such as websites or other lists”. **To subscribe to go to:** <http://andrekaruk.posterous.com/>.

**Sacred Places Convention For Indigenous Peoples** provides resources for protecting sacred places world wide. Including, news, journals, books and publishing online Weekly News and providing an E-mail list serve, as well as holding conferences. For information go to: <http://www.indigenouspeoplesissues.com>.

**Mark Trahant Blog, Trahant Reports,** is at: [http://www.marktrahant.org/marktrahant.org/Mark\\_Trahant.html/](http://www.marktrahant.org/marktrahant.org/Mark_Trahant.html/)

The journal of the Native American and Indigenous Studies Association, ***Native American and Indigenous Studies (NAIS)***: Subscription rates: Individual subscriptions are a benefit of membership in the Native American and Indigenous Studies Association. NAISA membership is \$25–\$100 annually. Institutions: \$116. Outside USA add \$5.00 for each year’s subscription. Back issues and single copy rate: Individuals: \$27.00; Institutions: \$54.00. Digital subscriptions available at JSTOR (<http://jstor.org/r/umnpress>).

**UANativeNet, formerly Arizona NativeNet,** is a resource of topics relevant to tribal nations and Indigenous Peoples, particularly on matters of law and governance.

**The Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development** offers a number of reports and its “**Honoring Indian Nations**” at: [http://www.ksg.harvard.edu/hpaied/res\\_main.htm](http://www.ksg.harvard.edu/hpaied/res_main.htm).

**The Seventh generation Fund online Media Center:** [www.7genfund.org](http://www.7genfund.org)

**Native Earthworks Preservation,** an organization committed to preserving American Indian sacred sites, is at: <http://nativeearthworkspreservation.org/>.

**Indianz.Com has posted Version 2.0 of the Federal Recognition Database,** an online version of the Acknowledgment Decision Compilation (ADC), a record of documents that the Bureau of Indian Affairs has on file for dozens of groups that have made it through the federal recognition process. The ADC contains over 750 MB of documents -- up from over 600MB in version 1.2 -- that were scanned in and cataloged by the agency's Office of Federal Acknowledgment. The new version includes has additional documents and is easier to use. It is available at: <http://www.indianz.com/adc20/adc20.html>.

**Native News Online.net** is at: <https://nativenewsonline.net>.

**Tribal Link** has an online blog at: <http://triballinknewsonline.blogspot.com>.

**Restoration Magazine,** National Indigenous Women’s Resource Center, is at: <https://rm.niwrc.org/>.

*Lakota Times* is posted weekly at: <https://www.lakotacountrytimes.com/>.

**The National Indian Education Association:** <http://www.niea.org/>.

**Climate Frontlines** is a global forum for indigenous peoples, small islands and vulnerable communities, running discussions, conferences and field projects: <http://www.climatefrontlines.org/>.

**Cry of the Native Refugee** web site, <http://cryofthenativererefugee.com>, is dedicated to “The True Native American History.”

**First Peoples World Wide**, focuses "on funding local development projects in Indigenous communities all over the world while creating bridges between our communities and corporations, governments, academics, NGOs and investors in their regions. We facilitate the use of traditional Indigenous knowledge in solving today's challenges, including climate change, food security, medicine, governance and sustainable development:" <http://firstpeoples.org>.

The **RaceProject has a FacE-Book** age that is a forum for the dissemination and discussion of contemporary Race and Politics issues. It includes a continuing archive of news stories, editorial opinion, audio, video and pointed exchanges between academics, graduate students and members of the lay-public. Those interested can visit and sign up to the page at: <http://www.facE-Book.com/RaceProject>.

**Rematriation Magazine** provides A safe, online space for Indigenous women's voices, at: [rematriation.com](http://rematriation.com).

**The International Institute for Indigenous Resource Management** is at: <http://tinyurl.com/yaykznz>.

The **Newberry Library** received a grant in August, 2007, from the National Endowment for the Humanities to fund “**Indians of the Midwest and Contemporary Issues.**” The **McNickle Center will construct this multimedia website designed to marry the Library's rich collections on Native American history with state-of-the art interactive web capabilities to reveal the cultural and historical roots of controversial issues involving Native Americans today.** These include conflicts over gaming and casinos, fishing and hunting rights, the disposition of Indian artifacts and archeological sites, and the use of Indian images in the media. In addition to historical collections, the site will also feature interviews with contemporary Native Americans, interactive maps, links to tribal and other websites, and social networking. For more information contact Céline Swicegood, [swicegoodc@newberry.org](mailto:swicegoodc@newberry.org).

The site [www.pressdisplay.com](http://www.pressdisplay.com) **has scanned and searchable versions of thousands of newspapers daily from around the world.** These are not truncated "online versions". You can view the actually pages of the paper published for that day. There are also 100's of US

papers included daily. The service also allows you to set search terms or search particular papers daily. The service will also translate papers into English.

**Native Voice Network** (NVN: [www.NativeVoiceNetwork.org](http://www.NativeVoiceNetwork.org)), is a national alliance of Organizations interested in collaborative advocacy on issues impacting Native people locally and nationally.

*The Northern California Indian Development Council has a web-based archive of traditional images and*

**sounds** at: <http://www.ncidc.org/>.

**Resource sites in the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA): National Indian Child Welfare Association:** <http://www.nicwa.org>, offers include publications, a library, information packets, policy information and research. NICWA's Publication Catalog is at:

[Http://www.nicwa.org/resources/catalog/index.asp](http://www.nicwa.org/resources/catalog/index.asp)' Information Packets are at: <http://www.nicwa.org/resources/infopackets/index.asp>. Online ICWA Courses are at: <http://www.nicwa.org/services/icwa/index.asp>. ***The Indian Child Welfare Act: An Examination of State Compliance***, from the Casey Foundation is at:

<http://www.casey.org/Resources/Publications/NICWAComplianceInArizona.htm>.

Tribal Court Clearinghouse ICWA Pages, with a brief review of ICWA and links to many valuable resources including Federal agencies and Native organizations. <http://www.tribal-institute.org/lists/icwa.htm>. Other resource sources are:

the Indian Law Resource Center: [www.indianlaw.org](http://www.indianlaw.org), the National Indian Justice Center: [www.nijc.indian.com](http://www.nijc.indian.com). Other sites can be found through internet search engines such as Google. Some research web sites for ICWA include: [http://www.calindian.org/legalcenter\\_icwa.htm](http://www.calindian.org/legalcenter_icwa.htm), <http://www.narf.org/nill/resources/indianchildwelfare.htm>, <http://www.tribal-institute.org/lists/icwa.htm>,

<http://www.nicwa.org/library/library.htm>,

<http://www.nationalcasa.org/JudgesPage/Newsletter-4-04.htm>,

[http://www.dlncoalition.org/dln\\_issues/2003\\_icwareolution.htm](http://www.dlncoalition.org/dln_issues/2003_icwareolution.htm),

<http://www.helpstartshere.org/Default.aspx?PageID=401>,

[http://cbexpress.acf.hhs.gov/articles.cfm?section\\_id=2&issue\\_id=2001-0](http://cbexpress.acf.hhs.gov/articles.cfm?section_id=2&issue_id=2001-0),

<http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?i104:I04296:i104HUGHES.html>,

<http://nccrest.edreform.net/resource/13704>, <http://www.naicja.org>,

<http://www.tribal-institute.org/>.

**Tribal College Journal (TCJ)** provides to news related to American Indian higher education: [tribalcollegejournal.org](http://tribalcollegejournal.org).

**American Indian Graduate Center:** <http://www.aigcs.org>.

The Minneapolis American Indian Center's Native Path To Wellness Project of the Golden Eagle Program has developed a publication, *Intergenerational Activities from a Native American Perspective* that has been accepted by Penn State for their Intergenerational Web site: <http://intergenerational.cas.psu.edu/Global.html>.

The *Indigenous Nations and Peoples Law, Legal Scholarship Journal* has recently been created on line by the Social Science Research Network, with sponsorship by the

The **National Council of Urban Indian Health** is at: <http://www.ncuih.org/>.

*Wicazo Sa Review*, i an interdisciplinary journal devoted to the mission of assisting indigenous peoples of the Americas in taking possession of their own intellectual and creative pursuits, is at: <https://americanindian.clas.asu.edu/review>.

**A web site dedicated to tribal finance**, [www.tribalfinance.org](http://www.tribalfinance.org).

*Lessons In Tribal Sovereignty*, at: <http://sorrel.humboldt.edu/~go1/kellogg/intro.html>, features *Welcome to American Indian Issues: An Introductory and Curricular Guide for Educators*. The contents were made possible by the American Indian Civics Project (AICP), a project initially funded by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation's Native American Higher Education Initiative. The primary goal of the AICP is to provide educators with the tools to educate secondary students - Indian and non-Native alike - about the historical and contemporary political, economic, and social characteristics of sovereign tribal nations throughout the United States.

**The Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC)** has a blog as part of its Celilo Legacy project, serving as a clearinghouse for public discourse, information, events, activities, and memorials. The blog is accessible by going to [www.critfc.org](http://www.critfc.org) and clicking on the "Celilo Legacy blog" image, or by simply entering: [www.critfc.org/celilo](http://www.critfc.org/celilo).

The **Coeur d'Alene Tribe** of Idaho has **Rezcast, a Web site of Native affairs and culture** at: [www.rezcast.com](http://www.rezcast.com).

A listing of the different Alaska Native groups' values and other traditional information is on the **Alaska Native Knowledge website** at: [www.ankn.uaf.edu](http://www.ankn.uaf.edu).

**Red Nation Web Television**: [www.rednation.com](http://www.rednation.com).

**A list of Indigenous Language Conferences** is kept at the **Teaching Indigenous Languages** web site at Northern Arizona University: <http://www2.nau.edu/jar/Conf.html>.

*UNESCO Interactive Atlas of the World's Languages in Danger* is at <http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/index.php?pg=00206>. For a detailed cautionary note about the usefulness of the UNESCO Atlas, see Peter K. Austin's comments. He is the Marit Rausing chair in field linguistics and director of linguistics at SOAS in

the UK: [http://blogs.usyd.edu.au/elac/2009/02/unescos\\_atlas\\_of\\_the\\_worlds\\_la\\_1.ht](http://blogs.usyd.edu.au/elac/2009/02/unescos_atlas_of_the_worlds_la_1.ht)

The **Council of Elders, the governing authority of the Government Katalla-Chilkat Tlingit** (provisional government): Kaliakh Nation (Region XVII) has initiated a **web site in order to expose crimes against humanity committed upon the original inhabitants of Alaska**, at: <http://www.katalla-chilkat-tingit.com/>.

An interactive website, [www.cherokee.org/allotment](http://www.cherokee.org/allotment), **focuses on the Allotment Era in Cherokee History during the period from 1887 to 1934**, when Congress divided American Indian reservation lands into privately owned parcels that could be (and widely were) sold to non Indians, threatening tribal existence.

The **Blue Lake Rancheria** of California launched a web site, Fall 2007, featuring the nation's history, philosophy, economic enterprise, community involvement, and other topics, with many-links. One purpose of the site is to make tribal operations transparent. It is at: [www.bluelakerancheria-nsn.gov](http://www.bluelakerancheria-nsn.gov).

**UN Secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues:** [www.un.org/indigenous](http://www.un.org/indigenous), The newsletter **Message Stick** highlighting the activities of the **United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII)** and its Secretariat 05 is available at: [http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/news/quarterlynewsle\\_home1.htm](http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/news/quarterlynewsle_home1.htm).

**Indigenous Rights Quarterly** can be accessed at: <http://www.aitpn.org/irq.htm>.

**NGO Society for Threatened Peoples International**, in consultative status to the United Nations ECOSOC, and in participatory status with the Council of Europe, Indigenous Peoples Department, USA: <http://www.gfbv.de>.

The **Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization (UNPO)**: <http://www.unpo.org/>.

The **Native Studies Research Network**, UK, University of East Anglia, Norwich is at: <http://www.nsrn-uk.org/>.

The **World Indigenous Higher Education Consortium (WINHEC)** and its Journal are online at: <http://www.win-hec.org/>. (See the Ongoing Activities Section for more on WINHEC). The WINHEC site includes links to other Indigenous organizations and institutions.

**A link on Latin American Indigenous Peoples:** <http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/COUNTRIES/LACEXT/0,,contentMDK:20505834~menuPK:258559~pagePK:146736~piPK:226340~theSitePK:258554,00.html>

The **Asian Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Network** produces occasional papers and reports at: <http://www.aitpn.org/Issues/II-08-07.htm>.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **\*Whitman College Hiring in Indigenous Politics in a Global Context\***

The Whitman College Department of Politics seeks applicants for a Tenure-track position beginning August 2022, with expertise in Indigenous politics in a global context, at the rank of assistant professor. Applicants must have a Ph.D. by the time of appointment.

We welcome candidates with a wide range of methodological approaches and disciplinary backgrounds. The successful candidate will have broad latitude to design undergraduate courses at the lower- and upper-levels that build on their scholarly interests. Course topics could include, but are not limited to, Indigenous politics; racial politics in a global context; international politics; political theory; settler-colonialism and decolonization; land and territory; international law; and/or geographically-focused classes. The candidate selected for this position will have the opportunity to contribute to the college's Center for Global Studies, as well as interdisciplinary programs such as Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, Environmental Studies, Gender Studies, and Race and Ethnic Studies, as appropriate. Whitman College has a formal, ongoing collaborative relationship with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Reservation. The candidate selected for this position would have the opportunity to participate in that collaboration, if desired.

The annual teaching load at Whitman is five course equivalents, which includes thesis mentoring. The College provides a generous pre-tenure sabbatical leave program and professional development support for both research and teaching.

Located in the historic community of Walla Walla <<http://www.wallawalla.org/>>, Whitman's beautiful tree-lined campus is home to an intellectually diverse, dynamic, and supportive community of some 500 staff and faculty serving roughly 1,500 students from the local region and across the globe. With exceptional students, accomplished faculty and staff, along with a fiercely loyal and growing number of engaged alumni, Whitman College continues to build on its national reputation for academic excellence as one of the top liberal arts colleges in the country.

Whitman College is committed to cultivating an inclusive learning community. Applicants should be able to demonstrate their commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion and articulate how their classroom and scholarly practices work to advance antiracism in the learning environment. This statement can be included in the cover letter or the teaching statement. In their cover letter, candidates should address their interest in working at a liberal arts college with undergraduates, majors as well as non-majors, at all levels of instruction.

To apply, go to <https://whitman.bamboohr.com/jobs/view.php?id=121>. BambooHR will prompt you to submit all of the required materials: a letter of application; separate statements addressing the candidate's teaching interests and scholarly/performance agenda; curriculum vitae; contact information for three references; graduate transcripts; and evidence of demonstrated or potential excellence in undergraduate instruction.



Website: <http://www.icermediation.org/>

Journal of Living Together: <https://www.icermediation.org/pi>

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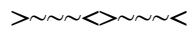
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/internationalcenterforethnoreligiousmediation/>

Twitter:

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**American Indian Studies, Arizona State University Assistant  
or Associate Professor Position**

**The American Indian Studies Program (AIS) in The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences on the Tempe Campus of Arizona State University invites applications for a full-time faculty position (open rank – Assistant, Associate or Full Professor).** The anticipated start date is August 2022. This is an academic year, benefits-eligible, tenure eligible position. For more information or To apply: <http://apply.interfolio.com/95790>

**QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE POSITION INCLUDE:**

Assistant, associate, or full professor level with a specialization or focus on Indigenous geographies. *Areas of Specialty may be in any one or a combination of the following:*

**Indigenous Knowledge, Indigenous methodologies, community and regional planning, design, architecture, environmental studies, sustainability, geography, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) technologies, cartography; placemaking, placekeeping, data sovereignty (GIS and mapping), TEK; Planning on Indigenous Lands, Contemporary Indigenous Architecture, Indigenous Design and Planning, Indigenized Mapping, Reclaiming Geospatial Data; Demography.**

The successful candidate will be expected to develop and maintain a rigorous research program; teach courses at the undergraduate and graduate levels in American Indian Studies; contribute to curriculum development and graduate advising; serve on school, college and university committees; and provide service to the school, professional associations and the community. The College values our cultural and intellectual diversity, and continually strives to foster a welcoming and inclusive environment. We are especially interested in applicants who can strengthen the diversity of the academic community.



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I would like to invite folx to visit our careers site to complete the application, or to share with your networks.

1. Select the link to access our careers site.
2. Sign In to access your account or if you are not an existing user select the New User link to create one.
3. Review the job description and select the Apply button to begin your application.

Thank you,  
T. Mark

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**Northern Arizona University has a tenure track position opening for an Assistant Professor in Educational Specialties - ESL and Bilingual Education.** For more information go to [https://hr.peoplesoft.nau.edu/psp/ph92prta/EMPLOYEE/HRMS/c/HRS\\_HRAM.HRS\\_APP\\_SCHJOB.GBL?FOCUS=Applicant&Siteid=2&FolderPath=PORTAL\\_ROOT\\_OBJECT.HC\\_HRS\\_CE\\_GBL2&IsFolder=false&IgnoreParamTempl=FolderPath%252cIsFolder](https://hr.peoplesoft.nau.edu/psp/ph92prta/EMPLOYEE/HRMS/c/HRS_HRAM.HRS_APP_SCHJOB.GBL?FOCUS=Applicant&Siteid=2&FolderPath=PORTAL_ROOT_OBJECT.HC_HRS_CE_GBL2&IsFolder=false&IgnoreParamTempl=FolderPath%252cIsFolder)

American Indian Education: A History, Revised Edition, 2017  
<https://www.oupress.com/books/14731841/american-indian-education-2nd-edition>

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