

Tribal Nations Conservation Pledge & Funding Collaborative

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

Globally, there is a crucial effort underway to protect 30 percent of the earth's lands, oceans, and waterways by 2030 to stop some of the worst effects of climate change and our loss of biodiversity. In the United States, President Biden's administration is leading our contribution to this effort through the America the Beautiful initiative.

Through nation-to-nation relationship with the federal government and deep knowledge of the ecosystems that they steward, Tribal leaders and Tribal program staff bring unique tools and resources to the 30x30 movement. In the U.S., Tribes control approximately 5% of the country's landmass; the 95 million acres of land managed by 574 federally recognized tribal nations encompass some of the continent's most critically important wildlife habitat, resilient landscapes, and irreplaceable cultural assets. Indigenous Peoples have been deeply connected to these ecosystems since time immemorial and have developed generations of environmental knowledge that has helped them nurture and steward lands and waters.

Philanthropic support in the U.S. for Tribal governments, their conservation staff, and programs has long been largely non-existent or has been approached through a Western lens of conserving the environment without regard for Indigenous Peoples. Now, as conservation and stewardship of indigenous lands are increasingly recognized as critical to achieving the national goals of 30x30, it is time for that to change. Recent federal announcements recognize the need to include Tribal Nations in conservation work and offer an unprecedented opportunity to match public and private funds to support conservation work lead by Tribes.

About the Collaborative

Our goal is to dramatically increase investments by private philanthropy in biodiversity and conservation programs lead by Tribal Nations. To do this, Native Americans in Philanthropy (NAP) is partnering with the Christensen Fund and Biodiversity Funders Group to launch a new Tribal Nations Conservation Pledge & Funding Collaborative that calls on the philanthropic sector to commit to significant investments in projects lead by Tribal Nations. Our goal is to reach \$100 million in new commitments. This pledge and fund will provide a centralized platform to inform, coordinate and fund Tribal Nation conservation work. The components include:

- The collaborative fund housed at NAP that will directly fund Tribes, inter-Tribal organizations, and Tribal consortia working on biodiversity and conservation efforts.
- The pledge where funders can commit to allocating a specific amount of programmatic dollars or a percentage of annual programmatic spending over the next three (3) years toward Tribes, inter-Tribal organizations, and Tribal consortia working on biodiversity and conservation efforts.
- The learning circle hosted in partnership with the Biodiversity Funders Group. Funders who commit to funding through the pledge or pooled fund will have the opportunity to join regular meetings with other funders and ongoing learning opportunities lead by tribal experts in the field.

The Pledge

To join the pledge, donors can commit to allocating a specific amount of programmatic dollars or a percentage of annual programmatic spending over the **next three (3) years** toward **Tribes, inter-Tribal organizations, and Tribal consortia working on biodiversity and conservation efforts. These include**

- Tribal Nation natural resource and conservation programs and projects
- Inter-Tribal projects, regrant, and/or technical assistance programs
- Tribal consortia
- Native-led conservation NGOs working in direct partnership and service of Tribes or Tribal-led initiatives
- Non-profit fiscal agent recommended by a Tribal Nation for conservation projects

Collaborative Fund

To assist donors in deploying support, The Christensen Fund and NAP are also announcing **a new collaborative fund housed at NAP that will directly fund Tribes, inter-Tribal organizations, and Tribal consortia working on biodiversity and conservation efforts.** Through its Tribal Nations Initiative, NAP will develop an advisory committee of Tribal leaders, inter-tribal organizations, and staff to develop a funding strategy that invests in Tribal projects across the country. NAP will also work with its partners to identify projects that are leveraging partnerships with federal agencies to maximize the impact of public-private partnerships. A portion of this fund can be combined to help leverage federal matching funds, such as the recent announcement from NFWF to prioritize 10% of conservation funding for Tribal Nations.

Learning Circle

In partnership with The Christensen Fund and Native Americans in Philanthropy, Biodiversity Funders Group (BFG) will offer donors the opportunity to participate in a Tribal Funding Learning Circle as a complement to their financial commitment. A network of some of the most influential environment and conservation funders in the US, BFG's mission is to support and grow a community of biodiversity grantmakers that pursues complementary and collaborative strategies. BFG will work closely with NAP to convene a series of learning opportunities that seek to engage philanthropic and tribal leaders around emerging issues and opportunities.

How To Get Involved

Philanthropic donors can join this effort in one of three ways:

- Donors can commit to the Tribal Nations Conservation Pledge by designating an amount of programmatic dollars or a percentage of programmatic spending for tribal conservation through grants that donors make on their own.
- Donors can make a monetary contribution to the fund.
- Donors can commit to the pledge *and* make a monetary contribution to the fund.

For more information or to join the Pledge and the Fund please contact Greg Masten at gmasten@nativephilanthropy.org