

The Tribal Adaptation Menu

Reflecting indigenous perspectives in climate change adaptation



Photo credit: Charlie Rasmussen (GLIFWC) and Katy Bresette (Red Cliff Tribe)

What is it?

The Tribal Adaptation Menu is an extensive collection of climate change adaptation actions for natural resource management, organized into tiers of general and more specific ideas. The Menu also includes a companion Guiding Principles document, which describes detailed considerations for working with tribal communities.

Why was it created?

Traditional and indigenous knowledge and perspectives have not often been recognized in climate adaptation for natural and cultural resources. The Tribal Adaptation Menu was created to help integrate tribal and traditional values with climate adaptation planning processes, such as the Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science Adaptation Workbook. The Menu may be used as a tool to brainstorm appropriate adaptation actions, to connect specific actions to a larger intent and purpose, and as a communication tool. In particular, the Menu may be useful to bridge communication barriers for non-tribal persons or organizations interested in indigenous approaches to adaptation and the needs and values of diverse tribal communities.

Who is it for?

The Menu is for indigenous communities, tribal natural resources staff, and non-indigenous partner organizations. This first version of the Tribal Adaptation Menu was intentionally created from Ojibwe and Menominee languages, concepts, and values. The Menu can be customized for other communities using their language and cultural knowledge.

Who is involved?

This tool has been created by a core team of collaborators, representing a variety of organizations: the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission, 1854 Treaty Authority, Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan, College of Menominee Nation Sustainable Development Institute, Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Michigan Technological University, Northern Institute of Applied Climate Science, and the USDA Forest Service.

Learn More

Many individuals have dedicated time and energy to creating the Tribal Adaptation Menu. Two initial contacts to learn more are Rob Croll (GLIFWC; rcroll@glifwc.org) and Chris Swanston (USDA Forest Service and NIACS, cswanston@fs.fed.us).



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