

# ***Addressing the Adverse Impacts of Climate Change on the Full Enjoyment of Human Rights, 23-24 February 2012***

***Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland***

***Andrea Carmen, International Indian Treaty Council***



INTERNATIONAL INDIAN TREATY COUNCIL

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***“Human rights are integral to the promotion of peace and security, economic prosperity and social equity... A major task for the United Nations, therefore, is to enhance its human rights programme and fully integrate it into the broad range of the Organization's activities”.***

-- Report of the Secretary-General on Renewing the United Nations: a Programme for Reform , to the UN General Assembly, July 1997



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# Food, Health and Well Being are Human Rights

**“Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself & of his family...including food...”**

***--- Universal Declaration of Human Rights***



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**Deschutes River Oregon, Traditional Fishing, June 2007**

photo by Mark McBrearty



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**“...In no case may a people be deprived of its own means of subsistence.”**

*-- Article 1 in Common, International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights and on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*

# The United Nations General Assembly Adopts the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples September 13th, 2007



Geneva, 1977



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New York, September  
13<sup>th</sup>, 2007

# Lands, Territories and Resources



**“Indigenous peoples have the right to the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned, occupied or otherwise used or acquired...”**

***--- Article 26, para 1.***

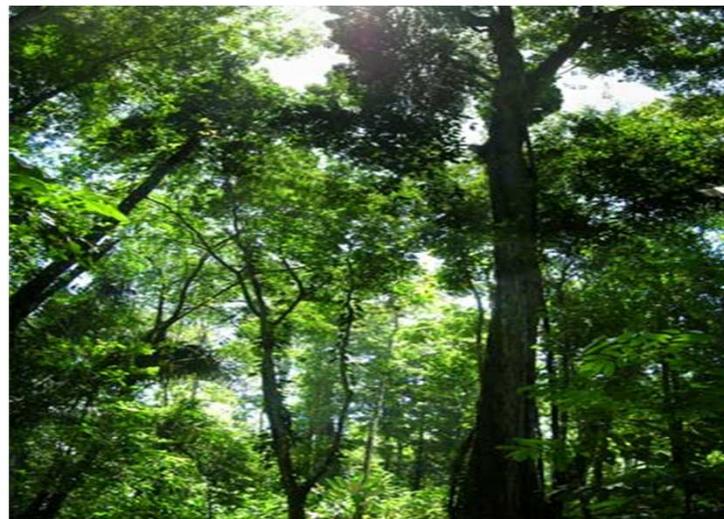
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# Environmental Protection

**1. Indigenous peoples have the right to the conservation and protection of the environment and the productive capacity of their lands or territories and resources...**



**-- Article 29**



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# FPIC and Development

“States shall consult and cooperate in good faith with the indigenous peoples concerned through their own representative institutions in order to obtain their free and informed consent prior to the approval of any project affecting their lands or territories and other resources, particularly in connection with the development, utilization or exploitation of their mineral, water or other resources.”

*On February 22, 2008 the Treaty Chiefs of Alberta adopted a resolution calling for a Moratorium on expansion of tar sands extraction.*



-- Article 32, para. 2

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Syncrude's Mildred Lake Tar Sands mine  
Northern Alberta Canada

# The Right to Subsistence

“Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and develop their political, economic and social systems or institutions, to be secure in the enjoyment of their own means of subsistence and development, and to engage freely in all their traditional and other economic activities.”

-- *Article 20,  
paragraph 1*



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**Smoking Salmon, Alaska**

# Forced Relocation, Article 10

“Indigenous peoples shall not be forcibly removed from their lands or territories. No relocation shall take place without the free, prior and informed consent of the indigenous peoples concerned and after agreement on just and fair compensation and, where possible, with the option of return.”



**Shishmaref, Alaska**



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# Article 18: The Right to Participate in Decision-Making

***“Indigenous peoples have the right to participate in decision-making in matters which would affect their rights, through representatives chosen by themselves in accordance with their own procedures...”***



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**Chief Wilton Littlechild,  
Rapporteur UN Permanent Forum  
on Indigenous Issues, 2007**

# The Declaration Obligates All States and the UN System

## Article 42:

***"The United Nations, its bodies, including the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, and specialized agencies, including at the country level, and States shall promote respect for and full application of the provisions of this Declaration and follow up the effectiveness of this Declaration."***



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***“Climate change constitutes the single most important threat to food security in the future”***

**2009 Report, UN Rapporteur on the Right to Food to the UNHRC 10<sup>th</sup> session, March 2009**

**Peru**



**Philippines**



**Alaska**



**Tuvalu**



**Maple Syrup gathering on one Anishnabe Reserve in Canada decreased from 20 – 30 days per year to 2 – 3 days per year 2008 – 2009**



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**Climate Change results in changing weather patterns including decreasing summer rainfall, directly impacting traditional agriculture. Growing capacity of traditional crops such as corn is decreasing dramatically in many areas**

**México, 2010**



# Salmon in Northern California

**More than a million spring-run Chinook used to live in the waters of the Central Valley. Today there are fewer than 10,000 - a decline of 99 percent.**

**In 2010, Researchers at UC Davis created environment models to predict the effect of climate change on the Chinook salmon. In all the scenarios, even the hopeful ones, spring run Chinook failed to survive until 2099.**



**Traditional Salmon Smoking  
in Northern California ,**

photo by Alyssa Macy 2007



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***“Water is life... to Indigenous cultures and to many other cultures of the world, water is sacred. Our sacred springs are drying up now, and our sheep can’t find water to drink and our corn needs the water to grow”  
-- Kee Watchman, Dineh (Navajo) Elder***



**Ella and Anna Begay,  
Cactus Valley/ Red  
Willow Springs Dineh  
community, Arizona**



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# A rights-based approach and the understandings of our Elders are essential for Adaptation and Survival

*“As long as the sun shines, the river flows and the grass grows” – Treaty No. 6, 1876, between the Crown and the Plains Cree*



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Ki'sikaw Ksay-yin,  
elder, Ermineskin  
Cree Nation

# Community Adaptation and Resilience Strategies applying Indigenous Traditional Knowledge & Practices



**Traditional Elders', farmers' and healers' Climate  
Change discussion, Rio Yaqui, Sonora Mexico**

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# The UNFCCC process and the “Rio + 20” World Conference in June 2012

*Indigenous Peoples propose sustainable solutions and development models that:*

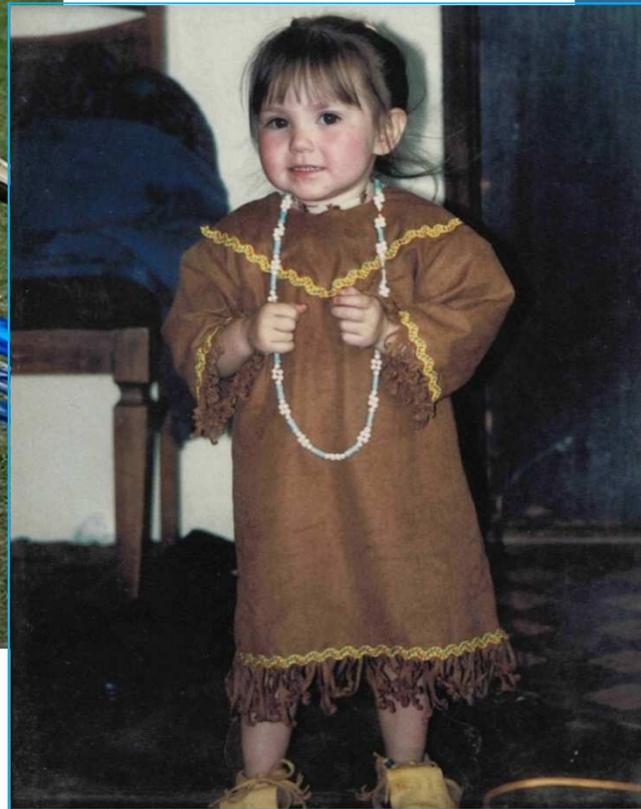
- Respect Mother Earth and Nature
- Recognize Rights to Lands & Resources, Treaties, FPIC, Subsistence & Traditional Knowledge as affirmed in the UNDRIP
- Include our full & formal participation



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# Cheoque Utesia, Thank you



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