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
“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
“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
“...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

Deschutes River Oregon, Traditional Fishing, June 2007

photo by Mark McBrearty

INTERNATIONAL INDIAN TREATY COUNCIL
Consejo Internacional de Tratados Indios
The United Nations General Assembly Adopts the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples September 13th, 2007

Geneva, 1977

New York, September 13th, 2007
“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.
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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Consejo Internacional de Tratados Indios
“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.”

-- Article 32, para. 2

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

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

Smoking Salmon, Alaska
“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
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…”

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."
“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 10th 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
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.
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
“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
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

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

INTERNATIONAL INDIAN TREATY COUNCIL

CONSEJO INTERNACIONAL DE TRATADOS INDIOS
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
Cheoque Utesia, Thank you

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