

IPCCA.

Indigenous Peoples' Biocultural Climate Change Assessment Initiative

Creating Connections Between Local Indigenous Biocultural Realities and Complex Global Systems



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

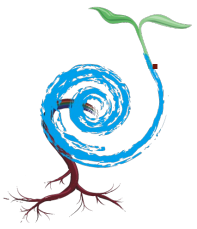
My name is Dennis Martinez, my cultural heritage is O'odham/Chicano. I represent the Indigenous Peoples Biocultural Climate Change Assessment Initiative (IPCCA) Steering Committee. Our mission is to promote collaborative local community climate change assessments in Pacific North America. We also work with Indigenous communities in Peru, Ecuador, Kuna Yala (Panama), Kenya, Saami (northern Scandinavian Arctic), India, Thailand, and the Philippines. I am also a Senior Advisor to the Fur Institute of Canada, an organization with similar objectives as the IPCCA in assessing climate change impacts on the people and the land. For more information please see the attached Bio and our IPCCA website at <http://www.ipcca.net> and the Indigenous Peoples' Restoration Network (IPRN) at www.ser.org/iprn

This letter is to invite your community to help in 1) developing the overall vision for assessing past, present, and future impacts of climate change; and (2) helping build response strategies. Unlike the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) that only recognizes Western science methodologies and an exclusively scientific peer-review process in assessing *global* climate change, our goal is to empower Indigenous communities to use their own *local* frameworks and information. The methodology stems from the holistic vision of the relationships of human beings to their ecosystems. Local

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Indigenous partners will use their own cultural understanding of an interconnected world to guide their process of inquiry.

The desired result is to build local adaptation strategies. The process is based in the implementation of the UN Declaration for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and ensuring that Indigenous positions that come from local biocultural realities feed into global processes; and that local and regional communities get support from national and international networks.

Over the coming year, I will be meeting with community leaders interested to identify key people who would be willing to join a regional Pre-Assessment Steering or Coordinating Committee. IPCCA would welcome your advice and insights on how to identify community leaders in the region who (1) are interested in serving on the Pre-Assessment Steering or Coordinating Committee and (2) whom I could talk to about climate change impacts. Over the next year or so, the Pre-Assessment or Coordinating Committee would select a Permanent Community Steering Committee and a Regional Coordinating Committee. We need enough formal structure to facilitate inter-community information sharing about climate change impacts and responses.

This will be a community-driven process with IPCCA assisting in adaptive capacity building, developing future monitoring needs, inter-community information sharing, establishing regionally, nationally, and internationally connected networks, and development of an Indigenous Knowledge Base Portal (IKBP).

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Be Well,

Dennis Martinez

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