

## National EPA-Tribal Science Council (TSC)

Collecting Examples of Indigenous Research Frameworks, Protocols and Methodologies

Materials for Discussion with the R10 RTOC

March 2021

#### TSC Mission

"...the mission of the National EPA-Tribal Science Council is to provide a forum for the interaction between Tribal and Agency representatives of mutual benefit and responsibility to work collaboratively on environmental science issues...The Tribal Science Council is committed to the development of sound scientific and cultural approaches to meet the needs of tribes."

-TSC Organizational Overview Document

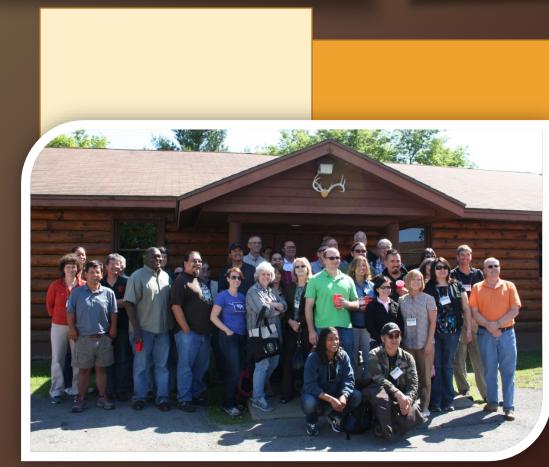
#### TSC Overview

- Established in 2001 at National Tribal Caucus (NTC) request to provide scientific support in Indian country
- Forum for interaction between tribes and EPA to collaborate on key science issues
- Supported by the Office of Research and Development (ORD)
- Only tribal partnership group with both EPA and tribal scientists and expertise
- Coordinates with National Tribal Caucus to integrate science priorities into EPA's annual planning and budget process



## TSC Membership

- Members include representatives from:
  - A federally recognized tribe in each EPA region, plus a member from the Alaska Native communities
  - Each EPA program and regional office
- Current Co-Chairs
  - Neil Patterson, Jr.,
    Tuscarora Nation, Region 2
  - Brenda Rashleigh, EPA ORD, Narragansett, RI



## Purpose of This Effort

- Better Understand Data and Research Needs From a Tribal Community Perspective
  - Exploring Indigenous Research Frameworks
  - Data Sovereignty—Collection, Ownership and Application (<u>usindigenousdata.org</u>)
- 2. Identify Examples of Data Partnerships Between EPA and Tribes
- 3. Gather Available Tribal Data Agreements and Protocols
  - Assessing Tribal Research Capacities: How Many Tribes Assert Sovereignty Over Data?
- 4. Analyze Gathered Information
  - Identify Threads and Focus Areas
- 5. Collate Information to Serve as a Repository
  - Share and Make Available for Tribes and Data Partners (EPA)

#### Tribal Research Policies

Tribal research frameworks and policies for engagement with non-tribal scientists are expressed in many ways, including:

- Tribal Resolutions
- Research Agreements
- Data Management Plans
- Quality Assurance Project Plans
- Cultural Committee Review Process
- Institutional Review Board (IRB) Agreements
  - Tribal College and University IRBs
- Non-Disclosure Agreements

## Request for Action

- Please help the TSC to identify any such research frameworks and policies employed in Indian country
  - Do you know of any?
  - Can you share this request with your networks?
  - Are there other resources/actions you can think of?

# Why develop an Indigenous research framework?

- PROTECT Tribal knowledge
- CENTER Tribal research priorities
- ASSERT Tribal sovereignty
- CONTROL access to Tribal data
- BENEFIT Tribal communities
- SUPPORT ethical research in Tribal communities

### Contacts

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