



RESOURCES LEGACY FUND®
CREATIVE SOLUTIONS. LASTING RESULTS.

SUPPORTING INDIGENOUS-LED CONSERVATION: OUR APPROACH

Indigenous-led conservation and Tribal sovereignty are essential to solving our world's greatest environmental challenges and reversing the devastating effects of colonialism on the natural world and on the Indigenous Peoples who have stewarded lands and waters since time immemorial. Indigenous Peoples currently make up less than five percent of the world's population and live on 22 percent of the earth's surface, supporting 80 percent of the planet's remaining biodiversity. Resources Legacy Fund (RLF) is committed to supporting Indigenous Peoples in stewarding and restoring lands and waters, including coastal and marine resources, through domestic and international programmatic initiatives such as our Boreal Conservation Initiative, Open Rivers Fund, Sustaining California's Oceans program, and through fiscally sponsored projects such as the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition.

As a non-Indigenous-led organization, we have much to learn as we engage with Indigenous communities. We are striving for a deeper understanding of the pathways necessary for charting change with Tribal nations, Indigenous peoples and communities. There is no one size fits all solution. We will share the influence of networks and relationships we have established over 20 years to build bridges and advance new alliances between Indigenous Peoples, funders, governments, and other groups invested in creative solutions with multiple benefits for people and nature.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

The following principles guide our work with Indigenous Peoples:

Trust: We will invest the time and effort required to demonstrate our respect and earn the trust of Indigenous Peoples.

Continuous Learning: We are committed to expanding our understanding of the countless contributions Tribal Nations and Indigenous Peoples have made to care for the land and water through traditional ecological knowledge and cultural practices. We seek their guidance to more broadly integrate and support these approaches within the broader conservation field.

Elevating Indigenous Perspectives: We value storytelling, Indigenous narratives, and Indigenous traditional knowledge as critical components of restoring and preserving natural and cultural resources, and commit to elevating Indigenous voices and Indigenous cultural restoration and reclamation.

Community-Driven Solutions: We follow the lead of Indigenous Peoples and communities, and will support their vision, amplify their work, and collaborate when they invite.

OUR WORK WITH NATIVE AND INDIGENOUS NATIONS AND COMMUNITIES INCLUDES:

Land Return and Co-Management: Providing grants and loans, and advancing new funding and policies, that support return of ancestral lands to Tribal entities. Supporting opportunities for co-management of public lands and waters, including ocean and coastal resources.

Federal and State Funding: Supporting the creation of federal and state funding for Tribal and Indigenous engagement regarding ancestral land management and co-management of public lands and waters.

Watershed Restoration: Supporting ancestral fish recovery and cultural practices through dam removal and watershed and wildfire restoration.

Equitable Policies: Facilitating Indigenous engagement to advance equitable policies related to 30x30 biodiversity protection, defense against offshore drilling, forest health and fire management, water policy development, and access to lands and waters, harvest of marine and terrestrial resources, and more.

Communications: Elevating Indigenous communications through grants and technical support for Indigenous-led campaigns, documentaries, videography, websites, blogs, and other forms of storytelling and advocacy.

Community Building: Supporting Inter-Tribal coalitions, Indigenous leadership, and Indigenous engagement to advance Indigenous land management and the restoration of cultural practices.

Knowledge Sharing: Supporting youth education programs, convenings, Indigenous gatherings and knowledge sharing across Indigenous-led organizations and Tribes and with state agencies.

Fiscal sponsorship: Serving as fiscal sponsor to several Indigenous-focused projects such as the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition, providing administrative, accounting, and legal services, allowing projects to focus on their mission.

Indigenous-led conservation and Tribal sovereignty efforts have been and continue to be on the frontlines of solving our world's greatest environmental challenges. As we work toward a more just and equitable future for people and the planet, Resources Legacy Fund is committed to supporting restoration of Indigenous rights and sovereignty over ancestral lands and waters.

www.resourceslegacyfund.org