**Indigenous Peoples’ Conservation Advisory Network**

March 2023

Objective:  To support the leadership of Indigenous Peoples in their conservation, restoration, and sustainable management efforts in terrestrial, coastal, and ocean ecosystems, and to facilitate achievement of global goals on climate and biodiversity. These goals include:

* Reducing ecosystem loss and associated greenhouse gas emissions
* Enhancing community and ecosystem resilience
* Halting deforestation by 2030
* Conserving 30 per cent of land and oceans by 2030 (30 X 30)
* Achieving net zero emissions by 2050
* Fostering social inclusion across these efforts, including through promoting Indigenous co-stewardship of land and waters, recognizing Indigenous stewardship is a form of conservation, and incorporating Indigenous Knowledge in land and water management decisions.

Overview:  The IP-CAN will seek to advise on global issues supporting Indigenous Peoples’ stewardship of lands and waters to address the climate and biodiversity crises and their impacts.  The network will facilitate experience- and knowledge-sharing across global indigenous communities and promote voluntary and culturally appropriate exchange with partners on indigenous approaches to the threats facing terrestrial, ocean, and coastal systems. The advisory network will provide an opportunity for Indigenous Peoples to discuss current initiatives, identify gaps, and propose capacity building measures for select Indigenous-led conservation efforts.

Background:

IP-CAN would complement indigenous-led efforts working to address environmental degradation at local and regional levels as well as U.S. federal agency efforts to engage Tribal leaders and indigenous communities domestically. Many U.S. Federal agencies have their own efforts to engage Tribal issues but IP-CAN could facilitate increased interagency coordination.

IP-CAN Areas of work:

1. **Consolidating a Reference of Indigenous-led Conservation Organizations:** The IP-CAN will facilitate development of a global reference of organizations working to promote Indigenous-led conservation through knowledge sharing, engagement, policy development, technical capacity building, and other means.
2. **Identifying Areas in Current Conservation Landscape:** The IP-CAN will identify areas in the current global conservation landscape that affect indigenous stewardship of lands and waters and advise on possible areas for enhanced collaboration or capacity building.
3. **Network Building and Enhanced Engagement:** The IP-CAN will facilitate ongoing exchange among global Indigenous Peoples and serve to strengthen connections and networks.
4. **Elevating Indigenous Knowledge:**  Support the recognition of Indigenous Knowledge as a form of knowledge that can and should inform policy and decision making where appropriate and to improve engagement of Indigenous Peoples around the world.

USG Partners:   The IP-CAN is a project proposal of the Department of State and the Environmental Protection Agency with the guidance of the Department of Interior.  Additional agencies may be consulted when they have relevant capacity and programming depending on the priorities of the IP-CAN.