

Mexican Indigenous Engagement in Climate Actions

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Regional Tribal Operations Committee (RTOC)
Border Workgroup
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YUMAN LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

Kumeyaay territory





Contemporary Kumeyaay and Paipai communities in Baja California



TRADITIONAL LANDS IN BAJA CALIFORNIA





TRANSMISSION OF TRIBAL KNOWLEDGE TRANSCENDS BORDER





2022 Southwestern Tribal Climate Change Summit

May 16 – 18th, 2022
Pala, CA

www.climatesciencealliance.org/2022-tribal-summit



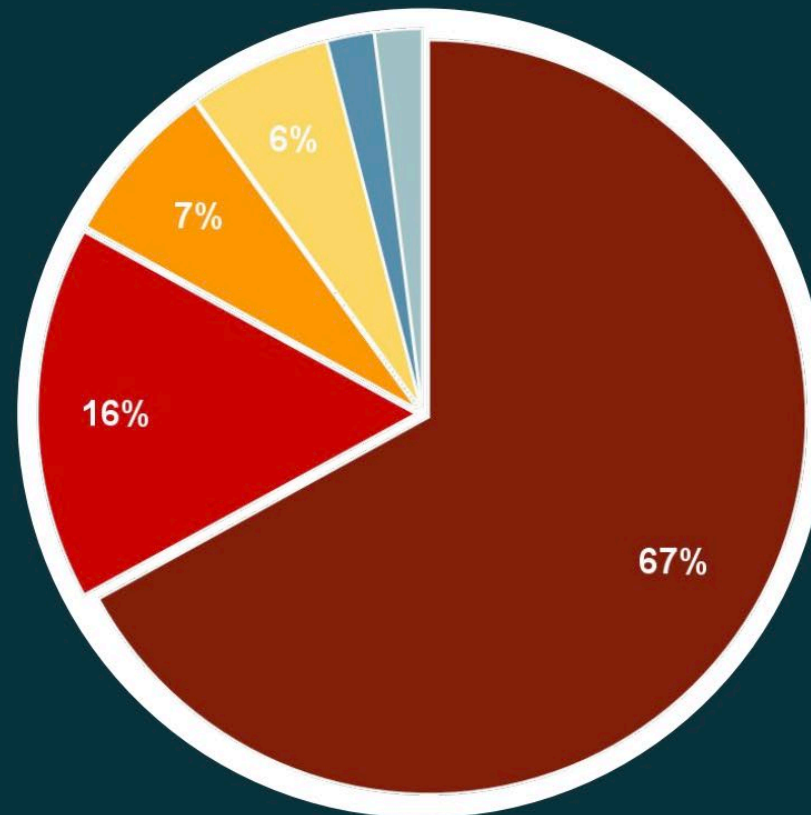


Summit Impact

250

Attendees Representing both Tribal and non-Tribal Communities

- Tribes
- Federal/State/Local Government
- University
- NGO
- Baja
- Business



Summit Highlights | *Translation*

Real time translations provided at the Summit created an inclusive space for Baja partners to engage in conversations and share their own Traditional Knowledge with the community



Summit Highlights | *Small Group Circles*

Participants rotated through 4 concurrent circles to discuss different topics related to the fire within us.

“The sharing done in smaller group circles was so helpful and inspirational!”



Moving Forward Together

For the final session, Elders shared reflections, ideas, and guidance for taking this work forward and supporting each other beyond the Summit. Two of the speakers, Elders from Baja California, were supported with live translation.



Photo by Carlos Bravo



SOME OF THE INPUT FROM BAJA CALIFORNIA PARTICIPANTS:

- Climate change is contributing to greater water scarcity, with streams and aquifers having less and less water.
- Sand and gravel mining and pits near local streams is exacerbating the problem of water scarcity, by redirecting streams away from communities that need it and altering riparian ecosystems.
- Pollutants to local streams are making the problem worse.
- Acknowledge the need for healing from past trauma as a step to build trust.
- Understand cultural barriers, including cultural keepers
- Fire is used to survive, build community, cook, stay warm, and necessary for ecosystem regeneration.
- Address fears around fires and climate change.
- Educate the educators about “fire cultural practices”.
- Inter-generational knowledge exchange is important.
- Some are warriors, some are spiritual in their approach.
- We have different ways to acknowledging nature and creation, we refer to being “plant and animal” but acknowledge the different and beautiful references made by the Navajo of “Mother Earth and Father Sky”.

Follow-up activities relevant to the binational Border 2025 Program

The Border 2025 Program will address various ways to inform other Border 2025 Program coordinators about the Summit and facilitate future engagement in binational events with Mexican indigenous groups and US Tribal groups, including:

- Obtain additional information from Baja California cultural specialists about request for assistance to address issues of sand and gravel exploitation impacting access to water in their community.
- Explore hosting a binational Border 2025 Tribal leaders forum to facilitate opportunities for dialogue on environmental issues, with an emphasis on EJ and climate change.
- Identify best ways to transmit information to indigenous groups about the Border 2025 program meetings, activities, NADB grant opportunities, and other information that may be of benefit.
- Communicate with SEMARNAT and INPI on ways to facilitate outreach to indigenous groups in the Mexico border region.

Kumeyaay Ethnobotany

Shared Heritage of the Californias



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