



# **Resilience Dialogues**

**Final Synthesis Report**

**Menominee**

**Reservation, USA**

July 2017

## Dialogue Participants

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# Resilience Dialogues Final Synthesis Report

## Menominee Nation

### Introduction

This report captures the key outcomes from the Menominee Reservation Resilience Dialogues process, which took place between May 15 and May 26, 2017. The Resilience Dialogues partners with communities to explore their risks from climate variability and change. Using a professionally facilitated, online process to connect community leaders to a network of vetted national experts, the Resilience Dialogues helps them work together to understand risks and lay the groundwork for long-term resilience. The service connects communities with the most appropriate resources, whether from Federal agencies, regional networks, or the private sector. The Resilience Dialogues builds on recent Federal efforts, such as the Partnership for Resilience & Preparedness, the Climate Data Initiative, the Climate Resilience Toolkit, and the National Climate Assessment. It also leverages nonprofit programs, including the Thriving Earth Exchange and the Community and Regional Resilience Institute. This report captures the following outcomes from the Menominee Resilience Dialogues process:

- List of Key Questions that Menominee community leaders are seeking to answer regarding how to proceed with building climate resilience;
- Highlights of the exchanges between community leaders and subject matter experts (SMEs) from throughout the dialogue;
- Annotated list of tools and resources that could help community leaders answer their key questions;
- Dialogue participant list; and
- Next steps for the consideration of community leaders

### Framing Dialogue: List of Key Questions

An initial list of questions Menominee community leaders developed in advance of the Resilience Dialogues served as the starting point for the development of the list below. The list presented reflects a number of refinements and additions derived from the exchange between community leaders and SMEs during the course of the dialogue. In particular, Menominee is interested in communicating about climate change and cultural resources. The purpose of the questions is to establish a foundation and general direction for Menominee's climate adaptation and resilience building efforts following the conclusion of the community's participation in the Resilience Dialogues.

### Threats to Local Cultural and Natural Resources

- 1) What specific threats does climate change pose to Menominee forest management?
- 2) What adaptive measures can the Menominee implement to minimize future climate impacts to high-value/high-risk cultural resources (e.g., timber industry (old growth), wild rice, sugar maple and grain)?
- 3) Will traditional Menominee resource management practices remain viable and effective if the climate gets hotter, drier or wetter?

## Communicating Climate Change

- 1) What resources that can the Menominee use to improve communication about climate variability and change?
- 2) How might climate change impact Menominee culture and language?
- 3) What are communication strategies the Menominee could implement to enhance the effectiveness of climate communication among different departments, community members, and tribal government?
- 4) What demographics need the most education or communications regarding climate change and resilience planning (e.g., community members, resource managers, Tribal Council)?

## Dialogue Highlights

The following bullets highlight key points and information shared during the course of the Menominee Resilience Dialogues process:

### Threats to Local Cultural and Natural Resources

- Climate change threatens the forest the Menominee value and manages. Menominee forestry practices combine guidance from contemporary forestry science and traditional knowledge. The Menominee forest is made up of timber, fauna, lakes and streams, swamps and many other organisms all of which are important aspects of a healthy forest and, in turn, healthy surrounding communities.
- Potential Future climate impacts, such as species migration, increased temperatures, and more precipitation could change the landscape of the Menominee Reservation. Such change could greatly impact natural resources and management practices, disrupting economic infrastructure and cultural practices.
- It is important to get community input on management actions, such as conducting a needs assessment and ecological assessments. To do that, the Menominee need buy-in and active participation by a greater number of community members. Therefore, the community needs to be well-informed about climate impacts on the forest.

### Communicating Climate Change

- Communicating climate science is a major hurdle. Therefore, resources and education are essential in order for the community to better understand the impacts of climate change.
- Menominee leaders can communicate climate change messages through the channels of various tribal programs. (e.g., Facebook, websites, meetings).
- Communicating climate change needs to be done from a “bottom up” approach rather than “top down”. Menominee experts on forestry, biology, water quality, etc. can give presentations, write newsletter articles, and spark community discussions. Instead of using the phrase “climate change”, it can help to use phrases like “increasing climate resilience”, “stewardship”, or “new best management practices.”

## Inter-tribal Leadership

- There are differing views on climate change at the tribal leadership level, resulting in inaction. Led by local natural resource departments and the Tribal Government, potential adaptation planning and a strategic process could unify involvement from all levels.
- Young adults understand there is a problem, but it is difficult for them to get their voices heard in the tribal political system. Therefore, there is a need to create opportunities for youth leaders to share their views and foster broader community understanding about the potential impacts of climate change.
- The Sustainable Development Institute (SDI) had hoped to increase their knowledge on community engagement and climate resiliency. Combining this new knowledge and these new resources will help them integrate resilience planning with leaders and other departments.

## Connecting Dialogue: Compilation of Resources

### Menominee Internal Resources and Information

- [The Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin](#): Federal Register of the Tribal Resilience Fact Sheet
- [Sustainable Development Institute](#): examines sustainability issues and applies them to the Menominee model of sustainable development
- [Menominee Tribal Enterprises](#): sustainable forest management website
- [Menominee Facts and Figures](#): statistical information of general organizational interest and application
- [Draft Mitigation plan-emergency planning](#): 2017 Menominee Draft Mitigation Plan
- [“Sustainable development education, practice, and research: an indigenous model of sustainable development at the College of Menominee Nation”](#) by Michael J. Dockry, Katherine Hall, William Van Lopik, and Christopher Caldwell: provides a detailed description of the SDI model and its development and concludes with short examples illustrating how the model has been used for course design and delivery in higher education, interdisciplinary community planning, and participatory research.

### Threats to Local Cultural and Natural Resources

- [Menominee tree species](#): An overview of the Menominee forest and species
- [Forest Management Plan](#): Reaffirmation of the approved forest management plan for 2012-2027
- [Climate change response framework with ecological vulnerability assessments for different forested regions](#): provides tools, partnerships, and actions to support climate-informed conservation and forest management
- [Northern Institute of Climate Science](#): provides information and resources for land managers in northern Wisconsin
- [Adaptation Workbook](#): a climate change tool for land management and conservation

- ["Tribal" landowner type demo projects](#): real-world examples of how managers have integrated climate considerations into forest management planning and activities
- [Visualizing Future Forests](#): links Traditional Knowledge (TK) with modeling and visualization techniques to better understand the human values of forests and how forest management decisions can be made more robust under uncertainty

#### Communicating Climate Change (resources provided by Margaret Herzog)

- [Psychology of Climate Change Communication](#): a guide for scientists, journalists, educators, political aides, and the interested public .
- [Connecting on Climate](#): guide that leads to a better understanding of American responses to climate change and explains how anyone can better communicate with and engage the American public on the issue.
- [ecoAmerica](#): research to understand which Americans will move on climate and how to speak with them in ways that motivate action.
- [Let's Talk](#): a guide that synthesizes the latest academic research and messages testing on climate communications from across the social sciences into a practical guide to support communities and meaningful discussions of climate change.

#### Incorporating Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) into climate science and forming tribal alliances

- [Guidelines for Considering Traditional Knowledge in Climate Change Initiatives](#) : These guidelines are intended to examine the significance of TEK in relation to climate change and the potential risks to indigenous peoples in the U.S. associated with sharing TEK in federal and other non-indigenous climate change initiatives.
- [Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals Climate Change Website](#): provides useful information and tools to help better understand climate change, educate others on the issue, and develop strategies for dealing with climate change.
- [Rising Voices: Collaborative Science with Indigenous Knowledge for Climate Solutions](#): program facilitates cross-cultural approaches for adaptation solutions to extreme weather and climate events, climate variability and climate change.
- [Tribal climate change vulnerability assessments and planning documents](#): EJ Isaac included these as a Google Doc during the Resilience Dialogue. These documents highlight other Indigenous climate change adaptation plans.
- [The Department of Energy's Office of Indian Energy](#): provides federally recognized Indian tribes, tribal energy resource development organizations, and other organized tribal groups and communities, with technical assistance to advance tribal energy projects.

## Next Steps for Consideration

The following list of next steps was distilled from the dialogue, for the consideration of community leaders as they proceed with their resilience building efforts:

- 1) Hold interactive workshops in which youth and elders share their perspectives on climate change.
- 2) Work through potential forest management changes for prospective future scenarios with Menominee Tribal Enterprises and then present the resulting options to local stakeholders and receive feedback at community events.
- 3) Conduct an ecological data collection, guided by highly visible community input.
- 4) Coordinate with Menominee language program to convene a community summit as a platform for interested stakeholders to learn about and discuss how to approach climate resilience.