Using Indigenous knowledge to prevent and respond to disasters



Photo: Jose Luis Molero / The Wayuu Taya Foundation



Heidi Schultz

Program Manager, Midwest Early Recovery Fund

Center for Disaster Philanthropy









HOW TO PARTICIPATE

Submit questions.

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Land Acknowledgment

"Acknowledgment is a simple, powerful way of showing respect and a step toward correcting the stories and practices that erase Indigenous people's history and culture and toward inviting and honoring the truth."

https://usdac.us/nativeland

CDP's Land Acknowledgment is inspired by Dawn Knickerbocker, Native Americans in Philanthropy.



GOALS

At the end of the webinar, funders will:

- 1. Have an increased understanding of traditional Indigenous knowledge related to the environment.
- 2. Develop an enhanced understanding of how to support Indigenous communities.
- 3. Think about climate change and disasters from a more holistic perspective.



Photo Credit: Cante Heart



What is Indigenous Knowledge?

• Indigenous knowledge is the unique, local knowledge that has been passed down through generations and developed through history, experience, experiments and understanding of the environment.

• "A body of knowledge built up by a group of people through generations of living in close contact with nature (Johnson 1992). Generally speaking, such knowledge evolves in the local environment, so that it is specifically adapted to the requirements of local people and conditions. It is also creative and experimental, constantly incorporating outside influences and inside innovations to meet new conditions. "

Source: Hoda Yacoub



Indigenous/Traditional Knowledge Key Characteristics

- It is dynamic, systematic and universal in principle. It is unwritten and known through the oral traditions.
- It is practical, common sense, based on teachings and experience passed on from generation to generation.
- It is holistic it cannot be compartmentalized, and it is rooted in the spiritual health, culture and language of the people.
- It sets out the rules governing the use of resources respect: an obligation to share. It is dynamic, cumulative and stable.
- It is a way of life wisdom is using knowledge in good ways. It is using the heart and the head together. It comes from the spirit in order to survive.
- It gives credibility to people.
- It is based on experience, acquired from observations over time it is argued that it may be most useful for local scale decision making.
- It can show an understanding of the complex relationships between these individual components and the dynamic ecosystems within which they act.
- It is frequently linked with the sustainable use of local resources.
- It describes the health of the local environment, wildlife, etc., promotes consideration of the relationships between human and biological systems.
- It often describes these symbiotic relationships and provides the basis for life sustaining decisions about how to relate to the environment.

Source: Hoda Yacoub



By the Numbers

- 370 million Indigenous peoples
- 4-5% of the world's population
- Inhabit 22-25% of the earth's surface
- Support about 80% of global biodiversity.
- The World Bank says, "Some of the most biologically important lands and waters are intact as a result of Indigenous Peoples' stewardship. Their knowledge and expertise on how to adapt, mitigate, and reduce risks from climate change and natural disasters are considered vital."

Source: National Geographic



Photo: Randy Dockendorf



Speakers

Thank you to our guests for joining us today. #CDP4Recovery



Patricia Velásquez

President and Founder

The Wayuu Taya Foundation

@wayuuprincess



Chele Rider

Division Disaster State Relations Director

American Red Cross

@redcross



Patricia Velásquez

President and Founder
The Wayuu Taya Foundation











Indigenous communities have lived in harmony with nature for millennia.



We need to recognize that the existence of the indigenous cultures and peoples is important to humanity for their immense contribution to development, plurality, and cultural diversity.





About 500,000

Wayuu people

live on the
border between

Venezuela and

Colombia.

You take only what you need and you feed it back because nature needs to be in perfect balance.



Indigenous communities are some of the best environmental stewards.



But what more can we do?



Every small action you can individually take connects us and creates a ripple effect for all of us.

For generations Wayuu women have learned to create hand-woven **S U S U bags.**







10,264 Bags sold benefited 678 women. Sold in many outlets all over the world like Bloomingdales, Barney's and Saks.

2 GRANTS FROM CDP

COVID 19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE

175 Oximeters.

20,500 3-layer adult masks.

14,500 3-layer Kids masks.

1,500 Face Shields.

1,750 Safety glasses.

500 Reusable biosecurity suits.

500 Gallons of Hand Sanitizer gel.

Masks for 7,750 children.















RECOVERY AND REBUILD

Serving over 1,400,000 meals 46,850 people.

Purchased a well that initiated "The Water and Sustainable Farming Program".









Wayuu Taya benefited over 140,000 people during 2021.





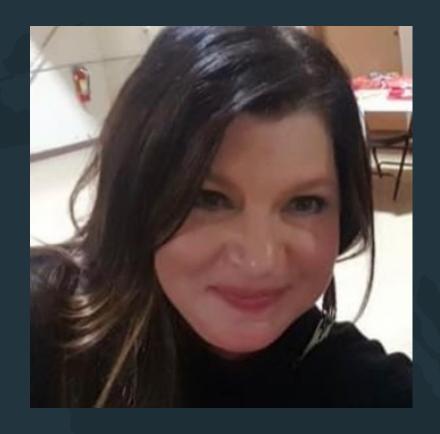




Chele Rider

Division Disaster State Relations Director

American Red Cross







Increasing Pace of Disasters

- We've experienced more climate disasters over the past two decades than any other nation, and nearly
 - 8 million people have been displaced by disasters since 2010
 - Over the last 3 years, we've seen a sixfold increase in the annual number of billion-dollar disasters compared to 40 years ago.
- More than 40% of Americans some 130 million people live in a county/parish/tribal land struck by a climate disaster in 2021.
- Over the last 30 years, the number of acres burned by wildfires has more than doubled and the intensity of storms and hurricanes has progressively increased.
- During 2020 and 2021 alone, we averaged a new, major disaster response every weekand-a-half





Impact on Vulnerable Communities

- Climate change is disproportionately affecting the most vulnerable — lowincome families, older adults, communities of color and people with disabilities.
- When these families are forced from their homes by disasters, they tend to remain displaced for longer periods of time, experience an increased risk of poverty and suffer from worsening chronic housing, hunger and health challenges.
- This displacement can be catastrophic as it pushes people who are on the brink of poverty into a freefall.
- Health, Housing and Hunger





Indigenous Time and Land Management

- In Indigenous cultures time isn't just about today/tomorrow but looks at 100 years or 7 generations, depending upon the tribe.
- For Native people time is cyclical not linear. Past, present and future are all connected
- Decisions are made with the wisdom and guidance from the Elders and ancestors, and how it would impact future generations
- Agrarian Tribes at contact
- The Removal land loss and gain





The Iroquois Confederacy Food Sovereignty and Disaster

- Food access can play a role in reducing poverty and needs after a disaster
- Food Sovereignty comes from the ability for the Nations to invest in their own communities and not rely on federal funding
- Food access has to include foods that the communities decide that are important to them and not dependent on outside organizations to determine what foods they receive
- Food access also include cultural preservation and involves the passing on of traditions and the passing on of knowledge of how to grow, harvest, preserve and serve traditional and ancestral foods





Funding for Indigenous Communities



- It is important to dispel the misperceptions that the public has with Native communities (government or casinos cover all expenses for tribes, free college education, etc.)
- Less than 1% of all charitable contributions nationally go to support Native American causes
- Many tribes are located in not only food deserts, but are in housing, healthcare, education and employment deserts
- Many Native Americans living on reservations do not own the land they live on (nor does the tribe) so collateral to get funding or loans start businesses or invest in local assets do not exist and many Native Americans have little or no credit to access funding
- Native Americans have the solutions to the issues they face (food insecurity, unemployment, housing, etc.) but lack the resources to address them
- Climate Change
- **Pushmataha



Avenues of Support

- Promote Tribal Sovereignty
- Invest in initiatives that have positive impacts in the communities
- Invest in the Grassroots leaders and youth by building their skills and opportunities to grow as leaders
- Understand that disaster preparedness and response are just one spoke in a wheel of many issues that are equally important.
 We must take a holistic view and build a team of resourcing stakeholders





Q & A

Submit questions using the Q & A box at the bottom of your screen. #CDP4Recovery



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Program Manager, Midwest Early Recovery Fund

CDP

@funds4disaster



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NEXT STEPS AND ACTIONS

- 1. Invest the necessary time to build relationships.
- 2. This work is about repairing past wrongs and building new future relationships.
- 3. Science does not have all the answers. Trust Indigenous knowledge.

Expert Resources



Disaster Philanthropy Playbook



Special Reports

- Measuring the State of Disaster Philanthropy
- COVID-19 and Philanthropy
- U.S. Household Disaster Giving Report



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June 9, 2 p.m. ET/1 p.m. CT

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Thank You

For additional information, contact: **Tanya Gulliver-Garcia**Tanya.Gulliver-Garcia@disasterphilanthropy.org

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