

Tribal Nations Technical Center of Expertise

«Company»  
«Title» «First\_Name» «Last\_Name» «Suffix»  
«Address\_Line\_1», «Address\_Line\_2»  
«City», «State» «Zip\_Code»

Dear «Title» «Last\_Name»:

On behalf of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Tribal Nations Technical Center of Expertise (TNTCX), the USACE Network for Engineering with Nature (N-EWN), and the University of Georgia (UGA), we are writing to invite your participation in one or more facilitated discussions regarding a project which seeks to incorporate Indigenous perspectives in the development of a collaborative guide to water resource communication and planning. The purpose of this project, entitled **Engineering with Empathy: Enhancing Western and Non-Western Nature-Based Solutions And Relationships**, is to develop co-production methods to overcome systemic inequities in water resource planning in addition to integrating Indigenous and engineering ontologies, knowledge, and ways of managing resources.

USACE recognizes current knowledge and practice gaps in equitably engaging Tribes in ways that recognize the intrinsic value of varied perspectives and worldviews while considering these perspectives from a place of equality, translating them for other stakeholders and project planners in ways that build empathy, and incorporating them into the technical and procedural aspects of decision making. These challenges are present in any planning arena but are particularly salient when working with individuals and groups who hold Indigenous, non-western understandings of nature and infrastructure.

This project seeks to increase Tribal participation in the nature-based solutions (NBS) decision making process, outlining methodologies and tools that will contribute to better designs and be applicable across a variety of decision-making contexts in the US and internationally.

In the spirit of this collaborative approach, the TNTCX will email your Tribe details for upcoming listening sessions designed to provide a welcoming environment for Tribal communities and leaders to guide the project outcomes. While only two initial regional listening sessions are planned for the East and West regions, you are welcome to submit comments, questions, or concerns related to the outcomes of this research to the TNTCX at any time.

If you do not wish to be part of the listening session or do not want to receive further correspondence regarding this project, please notify the TNTCX project POC: Mr. Brian Zettle, [Brian.A.Zettle@usace.army.mil](mailto:Brian.A.Zettle@usace.army.mil). It is our sincerest hope that you will provide us with comments and input to make this research beneficial to all involved.

Please address any physical correspondence to:

Mr. Brian Zettle  
TNTCX Senior Biologist  
USACE Tribal Nations Technical Center of Expertise (Nationwide)  
University of Alabama  
Tom Beville Building Suite 1005  
BOX 870215

Tuscaloosa, AL 35487-0328

In Service,

Dr. Ron Kneebone  
Director  
USACE Tribal Nations Technical Center of Expertise