### Advancing Climate Adaptation Initiatives for Indigenous Tribes within the Great Lakes Region

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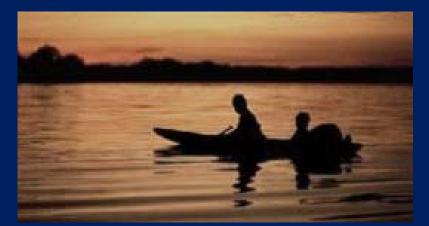






## Motivation

- Assist the Great Lakes Tribal Nations in the protection of the environment and their traditional ways of life in light of a changing climate
  - Tribal Fisheries
  - Clan Animals
  - Medicinal Plants
  - Solution Natural materials for crafts
  - Ancient burial grounds and sacred sites
- Great Lakes Tribal Nations expressed interest in a regional climate camp



Source: Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan

# Engaged Partner

#### Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan (ITCMI)

- Robin Clark Primary Contact
- GLISA had previously supported other ITCMI efforts
  - Tribal Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Plan development (2016)

Michigan Tribal Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Planning: Project Report

Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan, Inc.

December, 2016

Source: Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan

#### ITCMI's Expressed Needs

- Assist with facilitation of a workshop to:
  - Follow-up on progress related to 2016 Vulnerability Assessment
  - Help Tribal Nations prepare for the potential impacts of extreme precipitation events in their communities
    - Example: Bad River Band July 2016



Source: http://www.badriver-nsn.gov/

Graham Sustainability Institute's Catalyst Grant program supports the facilitation of workshops which build partnerships and determine next steps.

# Tribal Climate Workshop

- When: October 9-11, 2017
- Where: Bay Mills Community College
- Tribal Nations from Michigan and other Great Lakes States
- Workshop design:
  - <u>Monday</u>:
    - *Each Tribal Nation will share their stories* related to successes and challenges experienced in developing climate adaptation plans
    - Tribal environmental experts will present their research
  - <u>Tuesday</u>:
    - *Extreme precipitation*: personal experiences, introduction to "Game of Floods" training exercise and one potential adaptation planning tool
  - <u>Wednesday</u>:
    - Impact of the *impact of climate change on the role of women* caretakers of water and as educators

- Solution For success, one needs to understand, and be sensitive to, the unique challenges of the partner
  - For Tribal Nations, challenges in environmental and climate adaptation planning have included:
    - Self-governance
    - Protection of Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK)
      - Informed, prior consent
    - History of lack of inclusion of Tribal Nations in all phases of environmental planning
    - Building bridges within individual Tribal Nations

#### Benefits of working with engaged partner

- Tribal Council of Michigan has...
  - Aided in trust-building between the project team and Tribal Nations
  - Insured the needs of the Tribal Nations have been put first
    - ITCMI has first hand knowledge of these needs
  - Insured local Tribal expertise is included in the workshop

#### Benefits of working with engaged partner

- Collaboration insured that ...
  - Project tasks directly addressed clearly-stated needs of the partner
  - Project deliverables were designed to be actionable by project partners
  - Clearly defined needs and deliverables made for a stronger and more focused proposal!

# Student Opportunities



#### Description: Section 2018 Control of the section of the section

- Doris Duke Conservation Fellow
- Assisted in review of current tribal adaptation planning efforts within Great Lakes Regions
- Obtained understanding of how of Indigenous populations creatively address environmental changes in their communities



#### Ellie Masters – Oberlin College

- Supported by outside funding
- Assisted in development of community education/outreach materials for Tribal youth