



# EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY

COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

WASHINGTON, D.C.



March 4, 2022

Dear Tribal Leader,

The White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) and the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) invite you to a Tribal consultation to discuss the development of Guidance for Federal Agencies on Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge (ITEK). The consultations will take place at the following times:

- Tribal Consultation 1: Tuesday, April 5, 2022. 3:30-5:30 pm EDT  
Register in advance for the meeting here:  
[\(b\) \(6\)](https://pitc.zoomgov.com/(b) (6))
- Tribal Consultation 2: Friday, April 29, 2022. 3:00 – 5:00 pm EDT  
Register in advance for the meeting here:  
[\(b\) \(6\)](https://pitc.zoomgov.com/(b) (6))

At the Biden Administration's 2021 Tribal Nations Summit last November, OSTP and CEQ issued a memorandum recognizing the importance of ITEK and committing to elevating its role in Federal scientific and policy processes.<sup>1</sup> Since then, OSTP, CEQ, and the White House Domestic Policy Council have convened an Interagency Working Group on ITEK and are starting to explore ways to develop Federal guidance on ITEK for release at the end of the year.

At this early stage, we anticipate that the guidance will include best practices on collaborating with Tribal Nations and knowledge holders to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes, recommendations on how to address potential Federal barriers around working with ITEK, and advice on how to appropriately respect the knowledge holders' rights to decline invitations to collaborate.

The Administration recognizes that the Federal Government should engage with ITEK only through relationships with Tribal Nations and knowledge holders. To that end, we are eager to hear your thoughts while we are still in the early stages of developing the guidance. Questions to guide our discussion are listed below.

- What would you like Federal employees to know about ITEK?
- Thinking about the areas where you engage with the Federal government, how would you like to work with Federal departments and agencies in the future to ensure that ITEK properly informs Federal processes and policies? What challenges do you foresee?
- What terminology should be used (e.g., Indigenous Knowledge, Traditional Ecological Knowledge) when referring to this body of work in the Federal context?
- Are there existing guidance documents, agreements, or practices that provide good examples of how ITEK should be elevated in Federal processes and policies?
- How can the Federal government work with Tribal Nations and knowledge holders to value and protect this knowledge? What ethical considerations should guide efforts to elevate ITEK?

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/111521-OSTP-CEQ-ITEK-Memo.pdf>.