



**Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) of North America
Traditional Ecological Knowledge Expert Group**

27–28 November 2023

Hotel Misión Oaxaca
Jalisco 15, San Felipe Del Agua
Oaxaca, Mexico
68020

Program of Public Events

27 November 2023

Trinational Forum on Indigenous Approaches to Freshwater Management in North America

Traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) plays a key role in ensuring the sustainable and responsible use of our planet’s most vital resource—fresh water. By recognizing the need to respect Indigenous rights and self-determination, the importance of TEK and by collaborating with Indigenous governments and communities, we can promote inclusive, equitable, and resilient freshwater management practices, protecting water for present and future generations.

The Trinational Forum on Indigenous Approaches to Freshwater Management seeks to explore the vital role of Traditional Ecological Knowledge, Indigenous stewardship practices and the intersection with Indigenous rights in freshwater management across North America.

Time Zone: Central Mexico

Location: Salón Tehuantepec, Hotel Misión Oaxaca

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| 8:00–9:00 | Registration of Public Participants |
| 9:00–9:15 | Welcoming Ceremony |
| 9:15–9:20 | Forum Overview by Julian Portilla , Forum Facilitator and Consultant in Mediation, Facilitation and Multistakeholder Consensus-building Processes |
| 9:20–9:30 | Opening Remarks by Kathy Hodgson-Smith , TEKEG Facilitator |
| 9:30–11:00 | Session 1 – Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) and Freshwater Management: CEC Case Studies

This panel will focus on how Indigenous communities in North America have developed and utilized traditional ecological knowledge to manage freshwater. It will feature the |

three project case studies and a concluding comparative analysis by the TEKEG Facilitator.

Presenters:

Opening remarks by Kathy Hodgson Smith, TEKEG Facilitator

- **Sarah James**, TEKEG member and **Edward Alexander**, Gwich'in Council International
- **Cessia Esther Chuc-Uc**, TEKEG member and **Eunice Uc Gonzalez**, Archeologist, INAH
- **Charmaine Thom**, Spokesperson of Taku River Tlingit First Nation

11:00–11:15 Break

11:15–12:15 Session 2 – Indigenous-led Water Restoration and Conservation Projects across North America: Strengthening Collaboration between Indigenous Peoples, Local Communities and Other Key Actors on Freshwater Management

This panel will showcase Indigenous-led freshwater governance. It will explore collaborative models of freshwater management that involve Indigenous Peoples and local communities, national and subnational governments, academia, industry and nongovernmental organizations. It will showcase examples of effective partnerships, co-management arrangements, and enabling mechanisms that respect Indigenous rights, knowledge, and sovereignty while fostering collaboration and shared decision-making.

Presenters:

Opening remarks by Amelia Reyna Monteros Guijon, TEKEG Member

- **Ernesto Santiago Martínez**, President, Coordinadora de Pueblos en Defensa del Agua (COPUDA)
- **Jeanette Wolfley**, Shoshone-Bannock Nation, Fort Hall Reservation, Idaho, USA

12:15–13:15 Lunch [provided]

13:15–14:45 Continuation: Session 2 – Indigenous-led Water Restoration and Conservation Projects across North America: Strengthening Collaboration between Indigenous Peoples, Local Communities and Other Key Actors on Freshwater Management

Presenters:

Opening remarks by María del Pilar García Hernández, TEKEG member

- **Sharon M. Day**, Founder and Executive Director of the Indigenous Peoples Task Force, Asabiikone-zaaga'iganiing Nation
- **Brandon Rice**, Project Support Technician, Kahnawá:ke Environment Protection Office
- **Cirila Angel**, Indigenous Leader, Machi-Ko, San Juanito, Chihuahua, Mexico

14:45–15:00 Break

15:00–16:55 Session 3 – Dialogue and Recommendations (*in-person only*)

This session will provide an opportunity to break out into smaller groups to discuss how the day's panel presentations differ from or relate to the experiences of participants. Facilitative questions will be used to develop recommendations for existing policy frameworks of national/subnational governments, industry and other key actors on freshwater governance.

Facilitated Discussion by **Julian Portilla**, Consultant in Mediation, Facilitation and Multistakeholder Consensus-building Processes

16:55–17:00 **Closing Remarks** by **Gail Small**, TEKEG member

17:00–18:30 **Networking Event**

28 November 2023

Time Zone: Central Mexico

Location: Salón Tehuantepec, Hotel Misión Oaxaca

8:00–9:00 **Registration of Public Participants**

9:00–9:15 **Reporting Back on Day 1 – Kathy Hodgson-Smith**, TEKEG Facilitator

9:15–10:45 **Session 4 – Applying and Co-Applying Indigenous-Science to Freshwater Management: Bridging Knowledge Systems**

This panel will explore the potential for bridging Indigenous knowledge systems, Indigenous science and western scientific approaches to freshwater management. It will discuss technical programming, data collection, and protecting TEK, as well as respectful methodologies for co-applying knowledge systems, and the challenges/benefits associated with combining Indigenous and scientific perspectives for understanding and addressing complex water-related challenges.

Presenters:

Opening remarks by **Kathy Hodgson-Smith**, TEKEG Facilitator

- **Paul MacDonald**, Director, Indigenous Science Division, Environment and Climate Change Canada
- **Gail Small**, TEKEG member
- **Gisela Herrerías**, Alternatives and Participation Processes, A.C. (*Alternativas y Procesos de Participación, A.C.*)

10:45–11:00 **Break**

11:00–12:45 **Session 5: The CEC's Mandate, Projects, Initiatives**

The CEC offers a unique platform to increase collaboration and knowledge-sharing between Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities in the three countries, which

share ecosystems and migratory species and can benefit from a continental approach to sustainable freshwater management.

This session will assess potential opportunities to utilize the CEC's mandate to advance the interests of Indigenous peoples, as well as apply TEK directly to the CEC's operations and policy recommendations and will also identify key areas of collaboration with Indigenous and local communities. A CEC representative will provide an overview of the CEC's activities and decisions to contextualize the CEC's work so that participants can offer concrete ideas and recommendations.

Presenters:

- **Julian Portilla**, Consultant in Mediation, Facilitation and Multistakeholder Consensus-building Processes
- **Jorge Daniel Taillant**, CEC Executive Director

12:45–13:00 Closing Remarks by **Amelia Reyna Monteros Guijon**, TEKEG member

13:00–14:00 Lunch [provided]

14:00–17:30 Field trip



**Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) of North America
Joint Public Advisory Committee (JPAC) Regular Session 23-02
29 November 2023**

Hotel Misión Oaxaca
Jalisco 15, San Felipe Del Agua
68020 Oaxaca, Mexico
(Hybrid Event)

Program of Public Events

Wednesday, 29 November 2023

**JPAC Public Forum on Community-based Conservation of Freshwater Resources: Forging
Alliances for Water Stewardship**

The environmental challenges our nations face today, as a result of climate change, are impacting society as a whole but, in particular, Indigenous and local communities, as well as underserved populations. Properly managing freshwater resources to address increased pollution, habitat degradation, and extreme weather events, has never been more critical. Across North America, managing this precious resource is a shared concern for communities, governments, and industry. Community-led conservation to shape and manage land and waters, as well as drive biodiversity outcomes, has never been more critical.

This JPAC public forum will bring together community leaders, nongovernmental organizations, and other key actors to discuss water management strategies and highlight community-led efforts to address the multifaceted aspects of freshwater conservation and its sustainable use, with a strong focus on partnerships and alliances.

Time Zone: Central Time

- 8:00–9:00** **Registration of Public Participants**
- 9:00–9:15** **Welcoming Ceremony**
- 9:15–9:20** **Opening Remarks by Octaviana V. Trujillo, JPAC Chair**
- 9:20–9:30** **Welcoming Remarks by Jorge Daniel Taillant, CEC Executive Director**
- 9:30–11:00** **Session 1: Restoring Access to Water - The Long Road**

This session will provide an overview of the challenges and opportunities for equitable water management, including different approaches to water rights/tenure/title and efforts to restore historical access and legal title to waters.

Moderator: Felicia Marcus, JPAC member

- **Canada:** Kathy Hodgson-Smith, TEKEG Facilitator

- **Mexico:** Rodrigo Gutiérrez Rivas, Researcher and Coordinator of the Human Rights Area, UNAM (National Autonomous University of Mexico) Legal Research Institute
- **United States:** James Hopkins, Associate Clinical Professor, Indigenous Peoples Law and Policy Program, and Affiliated Professor of American Indian Studies & Latin American Studies, University of Arizona

11:00–11:10 Break

11:10–12:45 Session 2: Responsible Watershed Management Practices

Sustainable water management practices are essential for maintaining the delicate balance between human water needs and environmental preservation. By implementing sustainable strategies and collaborating with different sectors, we can mitigate the adverse effects of water pollution, habitat degradation, and climate change. This session will explore the intricate relationship between forests and upper watershed management.

Moderator: Esteban Escamilla Prado, JPAC member

- **Canada:** Leila M Harris, Professor, University of British Columbia and Director, UBC Program on Water Governance
- **Mexico:**
 María Luisa Soto Moreno, Coordinator, Topia Comprehensive Forest Conservation and Development Unit (*Unidad de Conservación y Desarrollo Forestal Integral Topia S.C.*)
 Ana Tejero Aranda, Environmental Unit Coordinator, Oaxaca State Coordinator of Coffee Producers (*Coordinadora Estatal de Productores de Café de Oaxaca, CEPCO*)
- **United States:** Jennifer Pitt, Colorado River Program Director, National Audubon Society

12:45–12:55 Report from the National and Governmental Advisory Committee Representatives

12:55–14:10 Lunch [Provided]

14:10–14:30 Overview of SEM Process by **Paolo Solano**, Director, Submissions on Enforcement Matters and Legal Unit

14:30–16:00 Session 3: Water Restoration: Collaborations between Communities and Governments

This session will highlight successful community-driven initiatives for sustainable water resource management, emphasizing the importance of local involvement and ownership, the interconnectedness of water with biodiversity, shared environments, and sustainable practices. Speakers will showcase successful collaborations involving governments, industry and local communities.

Moderator: Robert Varney, JPAC member

- **Canada:** Annie Fironski, Environmental Disaster Recovery Coordinator, Energy, Infrastructure and Resource Management, Manitoba Métis Federation—National Government of the Red River Métis
- **Mexico:** Nadir Hernández Quiroz, Coordinator, Center for Indigenous Rights Flor y Canto A.C. (*Centro de Derechos Indígenas Flor y Canto A.C.*), and Coordinator of

Peoples United for the Defense of Water (*Coordinadora de Pueblos Unidos por la Defensa de Agua, Copuda*)

- **United States:** Nick Wobbrock, Co-Founder and Chief Operating Officer, Blue Forest Conservation

16:00–16:10 **Break**

16:10–17:15 **Open Dialogue on Opportunities for Environmental Trilateral Cooperation and other issues**

This segment will provide an opportunity for invited experts, NGOs, government representatives and the public at large, to share other examples of successful collaborations/alliances and to raise other issues they wish to share with JPAC.

17:15–17:30 **Closing remarks by Octaviana V. Trujillo, JPAC Chair**

17:30 **Adjournment**