



Tribal Communities and Natural Resources

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Global Issues in Governance of Natural Resources

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Grey Towers National Historic Site, Pennsylvania



Tribal Communities and Natural Resources


- Definition
- International Context
- The Harvard Project
- Tribal Land Tenure
- Tribal Forestry
- Working with Tribes today



Definition: *Indigenous*

Globally, Indigenous peoples or indigenous communities are:

- People who have a historical continuity or association with a given geographical area
- Inhabited an area before colonization
- Maintain characteristics distinct from those of the dominant culture
- Self-identify as distinct and different from the dominant culture and/or must be recognized as such by other groups.



UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

- 2007: 143 nations voted in support
- 2009-2010: Department of State and other Federal agencies reviewed
- 16 December 2010: President Obama announced US support
- Next steps: Understanding how to implement the declaration within member countries



Indigenous Americans (US)

- Indian
 - Hundreds of groups
- Alaska Native
 - Inupiat
 - Yupik
 - Aleut
- Pacific Islander
 - Native Hawaiian
 - Fijian

Historical, legal, and social contexts create different mechanisms for relating with and serving different categories of Native Americans

The FS and Indigenous Peoples

F S	Treaties
	Trust
	FS Sphere
All Federal Agencies	Uncategorized
	Non-Federally Recognized Tribes/Groups
	Federally Recognized Tribes
	US
	Global





The Harvard Project

- Founded by Harvard Professors in 1987
- Aims to understand and foster the conditions under which sustained, self-determined social and economic development is achieved among American Indian nations
- Core activities include research, education and the administration of a tribal governance awards program




The Harvard Project

- **Sovereignty Matters.** When Native nations make their own decisions about what development approaches to take, they consistently out-perform external decision makers on matters as diverse as governmental form, natural resource management, economic development, health care, and social service provision.
- **Institutions Matter.** For development to take hold, assertions of sovereignty must be backed by capable institutions of governance. Nations do this as they adopt stable decision rules, establish fair and independent mechanisms for dispute resolution, and separate politics from day-to-day business and program management.



The Harvard Project

- **Culture Matters.** Successful economies stand on the shoulders of legitimate, culturally grounded institutions of self-government. Indigenous societies are diverse; each nation must equip itself with a governing structure, economic system, policies, and procedures that fit its own contemporary culture.
- **Leadership Matters.** Nation building requires leaders who introduce new knowledge and experiences, challenge assumptions, and propose change. Such leaders, whether elected, community, or spiritual, convince people that things can be different and inspire them to take action.



Tribal Land Tenure in the US by the Numbers

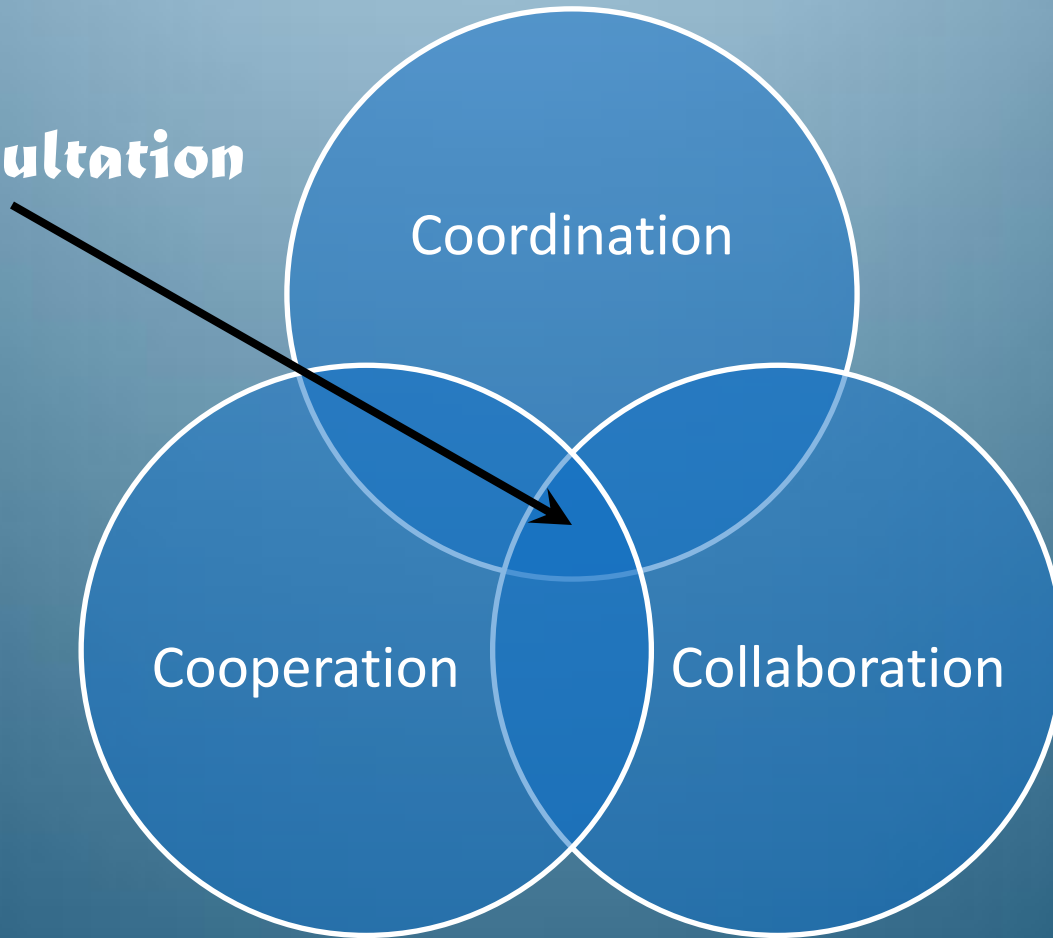
- **565:** federally-recognized sovereign Indian Tribes
- **56 million:** acres held in trust by the federal government for the Indian beneficiaries
- **11 million:** acres held in individual allotments
- **40 million:** non-trust acres held in Alaska by Alaska Native Corporations
- **> 100 million:** acres beyond tribal boundaries, where Tribes have rights to manage and/or use (hunt, fish, gather, perform spiritual and cultural practices), where Tribes have Treaty Rights

Tribal Forestry

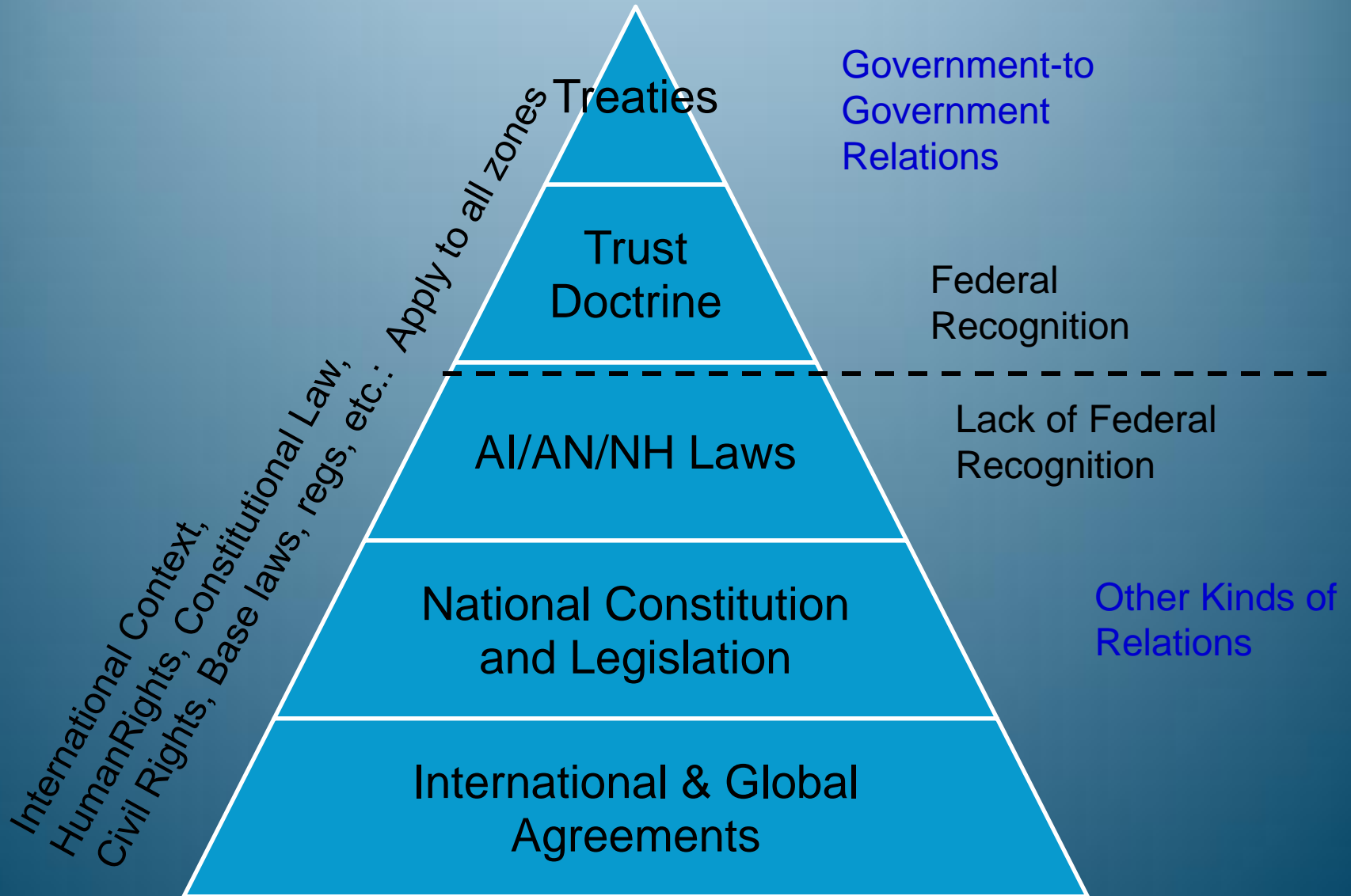
- Tribes may operate their own forestry departments, or may have the Bureau of Indian Affairs manage their resources
- Tribes manage about **18 million acres** of forest lands
- These lands are well-managed and stable, leading to the concept of “Anchor Forests” that support surrounding ownerships and economies
- Focus on partnerships, cross-boundary ecosystem management, adaptation to climate change, green energy, cultural continuity, and economic development

The US Forest Service's Relationships with Tribes

Consultation



Sources of FS Relations



OTR Strategic Goals





Current National Consultations

- Indian Sacred Sites
- Planning Rule
- Burned Area Emergency Response
- Wilderness Management
- Bighorn Sheep Management
- Threatened and Endangered Species Animal and Plant Habitat Biodiversity Guidance
- Invasive Species Management -Handbook Revision
- Recreation Sites
- Groundwater Resource Management



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QUESTIONS?

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