



# Tribal Science Council National Tribal Science Priorities Process

TSC Fall Business Meeting

Tulsa, OK

December 6-8, 2011

# National Tribal Science Priorities Process

**Purpose:** Establish a new set of national tribal science priorities in Indian country



# National Tribal Science Priorities Identification Process

- How it worked

- Collaborative engagement between EPA and Tribes
- Coordinated effort among TSC Tribal Caucus and EPA Programs and Regions
- Template submissions



- Benefits

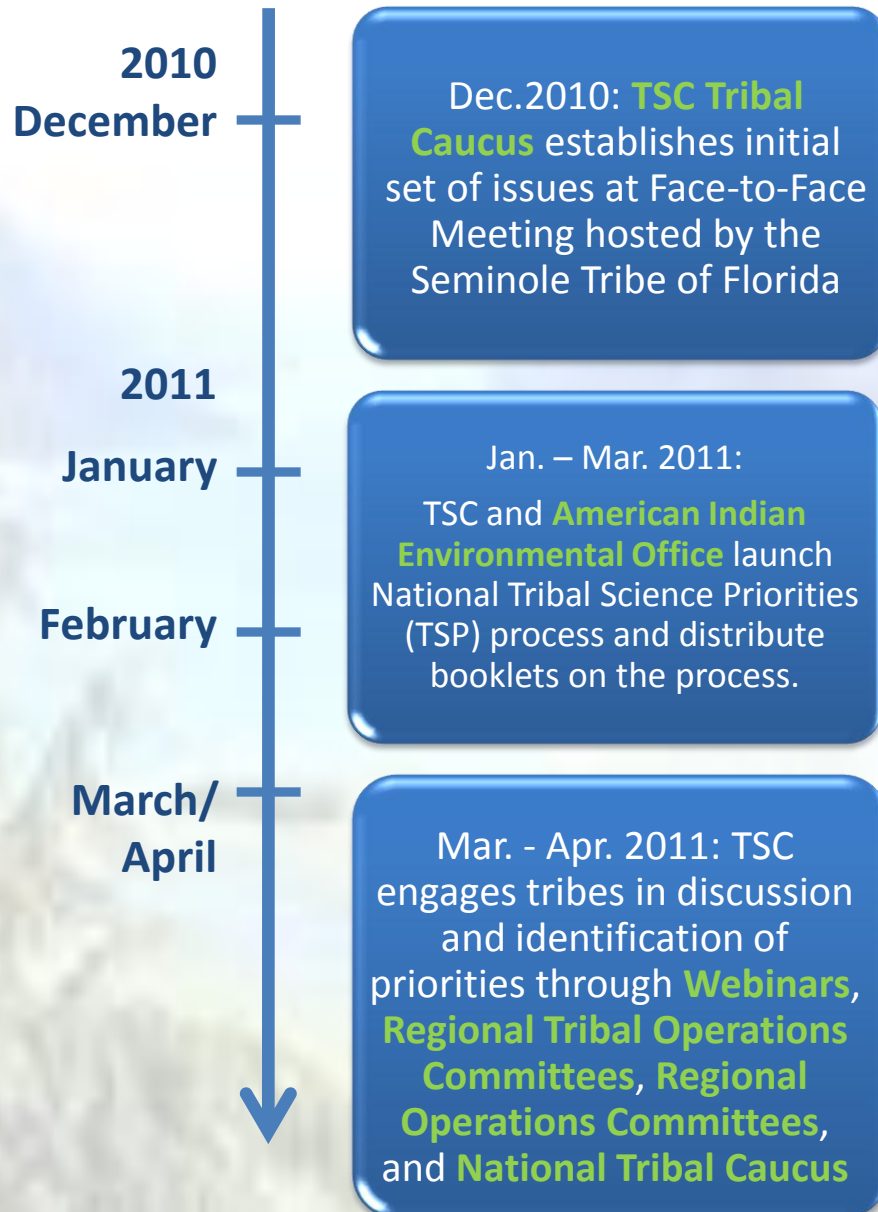
- Broad engagement of Tribes
- Ability to address national priority issues at the community level

# National Tribal Science Priorities Identification Process (cont'd)

- **Objectives** (requirement to fulfill at least one criteria below)
  - Advance the field of Tribal and Alaska Native environmental science
  - Provide methods to understand and address environmental issues faced by smaller Tribal and Alaska Native populations
  - Foster a new generation of Tribal and Alaska Native researchers and scientists



# Timeline for Identifying the Priorities



# Timeline for Identifying the Priorities (cont'd)



# National Tribal Science Priorities

- Climate Change

- Integration of Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) in Environmental Science, Policy and Decision-Making



# Integrating Climate Change and TEK into EPA Research

- Inclusion of TEK in the Office of Research and Development's Research Action Plans
- Development of tribal-focused climate change curriculum in Office of Children's Health Protection climate initiative
- Emphasis on TEK in Office of Water research activities



# Climate Change and TEK: Implementation in Indian Country

- What are the regional issues related to the priorities that need to be addressed?
- Identify case studies and/or current Tribal initiatives to address climate change and TEK at the community level.
- What are the ways that Tribes are already addressing environmental and health needs as they relate to TEK and climate change?



# Climate Change and Traditional Ecological Knowledge

“The NTC is in our full support of the process used to identify the priorities and endorse both Climate Change and Integration of Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) in Environmental Science, Policy and Decision-Making as national tribal priorities.”

Clay Bravo, Chairman, National Tribal Caucus,  
Letter to the Tribal Science Council, August 11, 2011

# Questions?

