



Louisiana Hub's Declaration of Principles

Rising Voices, Changing Coasts

The National Indigenous and Earth Sciences Convergence Hub

These principles are based on collaborative problem-solving and co-learning as a dynamic process in which all participants collaborate, with the goal of balancing the differences in power among the collaborating parties. All partner organizations, large and small, commit to collaborating with the community in just, ethical, equitable, respectful, and socially responsible ways.

All parties participating in the Louisiana Hub for the Rising Voices, Changing Coasts (RVCC) Hub project strive to adhere to these core principles:

Openness and Honesty

We strive to clearly explain the strengths and limitations of our participation, taking care not to make claims of results that exceed our true abilities. Such openness is intended to foster a true two-way trustful relationship. We will be transparent about our abilities and aims and open to input and advice from the FPCC leadership and member Tribes.

Clear Communication

We commit to clear and inclusive communication using shared common language among all participants. Partners commit to learning about each other and using language that is understood and culturally appropriate. We will distribute information to all those participating in the process. We will regularly assess the adequacy of sharing of information with other members of the collaboration.

Commitment against Harm to the FPCC member Tribes and a commitment to do Good.

The collaborative seeks to improve the lives and capacities of all involved. We agree that no harm should ever come to the FPCC member Tribes due to financial, intellectual, or other interactions among the collaborators. If disagreements should occur between these organizations or individuals, it is imperative that the FPCC member Tribes' visions and well-being not be negatively affected. A partner should never benefit unless the FPCC member Tribes benefits. No actions nor use of the FPCC or member Tribes' names should be taken without their consent. Full disclosure of mention, use, or association with the Louisiana Hub in the RVCC Hub Project must be honored and that association vetted with the Louisiana Hub team, including the FPCC leadership.

Commitment to Resources and Capacity sharing

Within the context of limited resources, all parties are committed to helping the FPCC member Tribes with any available resources and capacity sharing at our disposal and locating other resources in community climate resilience.

Valuing of Local Tribal Knowledges and Input

We honor and embrace the value and importance of the knowledge and life-ways held by FPCC member Tribes' residents about their physical, natural, spiritual, and social environments. We fully intend to respect and consider such knowledge, and to actively seek it out in order to more fully comprehend the needs, values, capabilities and gifts of the community. Local and traditional knowledge, reciprocal input, and a sharing of an understanding of each participating groups' respective values are the foundations upon which this ethical, just, and collaborative work is built.

Inclusion of the Entire Community

We aim to be inclusive of all parts of the community; this includes humans and all living relatives (flora, fauna). This also includes respect for understanding that communities are not homogenous and have diverse perspectives and focus, and that communities are more than geographic, being connected through kin, relations, culture, and more. Our projects are for multiple generations, and partners will share a commitment to the ancestors and future generations and relations, honoring the past in connection to looking towards the future, for All Our Relations. Though email and meeting calls will be a primary means of communication, we recognize that not everyone has access to email or the availability of time for conference calls, thus we will make every attempt to ensure that we have some means to be in touch with and involve all parties who wish to be involved in the collaborative work process. A very basic goal of Participatory Action Research (PAR) is to assist in developing personal/collaborative capacity among as many members of the participating organizations and communities as is possible.

Flexibility

We aim to be flexible in all of our collaboration work, not only with the time and scheduling of meetings, but also with the approach of the work we are collaborating to do. Our deliverables will be described in locally-relevant terms so that the collaboration is flexible and the 'products' useful. We will be adaptive, so that a change in course can occur if that is needed or is perceived as beneficial.

Consideration of Time

We recognize that the FPCC member Tribes are busy, and that time spent in collaboration is time spent away from family, work, leisure or other activities devoted to community well-being. Collaborative work must be conducted in a manner that complies with the time schedule and needs of the community. The FPCC member Tribes' representatives on the project will have priority in setting times, places, and durations of activities.

Placing the Vision of the Community First

We recognize that the FPCC member Tribes' willingness to collaborate in this project is a gift the Tribes give, a privilege and not our right. External resource people and organizations will never let our concerns impede the FPCC member Tribes' vision, working together in true partnership. The highest priority will always be placed upon the needs and concerns of the FPCC Tribes.

Reflection

We are committed to continual and collaborative evaluation of whatever course the collaborative work takes to ensure that best collaborative practices are being followed and that collaborative work is consistently asking the questions that are most relevant to the FPCC member Tribes.

Sharing of Collaborative Work

Any products that result from the Louisiana Hub work will be made accessible and available to the FPCC member Tribes for their use in future endeavors. This includes any media or press about our project or collaboration. With the concurrence of the FPCC Tribal leadership, we will seek to benefit other communities experiencing similar challenges by sharing outcomes of the partnerships.

Confidentiality

RVCC researchers will maintain the confidentiality of information that FPCC tribal leaders and members determine to be kept confidential. Any materials that are to be publicly released related to the Louisiana Hub work will first be reviewed by the FPCC Tribal leadership to ensure the maintenance of confidentiality and protection of sensitive information. Any photographs, filming, or images used for the project will require written consent.

Data Agreement

To respect Indigenous data sovereignty and best principles of Indigenous Data Governance, and to ensure constructive collaboration among participants, all parties strive to adhere to the **CARE Principles for Indigenous Data Governance** (<https://www.gida-global.org/care>);^[1] CARE is **C**ollective Benefit, **A**uthority to Control, **R**esponsibility, **E**thics. The RVCC Hub's Indigenous Data Sovereignty & Ethics Working Group and Data Management Working Group will be engaged with, as needed.

Community conversations or engagements held that could contribute to this project will comply with the best practices of free, prior, and informed consent and provided with any informed consents related to the project. Any data or information that is to be shared publicly will first be reviewed by FPCC Tribal leadership to ensure appropriate use of data and representation.

The data ecosystem for this project will be designed and function to enable the FPCC Tribes to derive benefit from the data. The FPCC Tribal leadership and members will maintain control over the data they have generated or been involved in generating for research related to the

Louisiana hub. Material that is shareable to the full RVCC Hub will be housed in the RVCC Hub's shared digital space. Material that is deemed of sensitive nature by the FPCC Tribal leaders will be housed in workspace with the FPCC and/or Lowlander Center, as appropriate. Any material that is produced by Louisiana Hub researchers related to this project will provide copies to FPCC Tribal leadership.

To support the FPCC member Tribes' ownership, access, and culturally appropriate conditions for sharing data and information, the Louisiana Hub is exploring options such as the use of [Local Contexts](#), for what will be most beneficial and appropriate; this aspect will be revisited and updated in this document as the work progresses.

This agreement will be maintained as a living document. The team will revisit this agreement at least once every quarter throughout the project and discuss and evaluate the extent to which it is being followed, and if any revisions or updates are needed.