

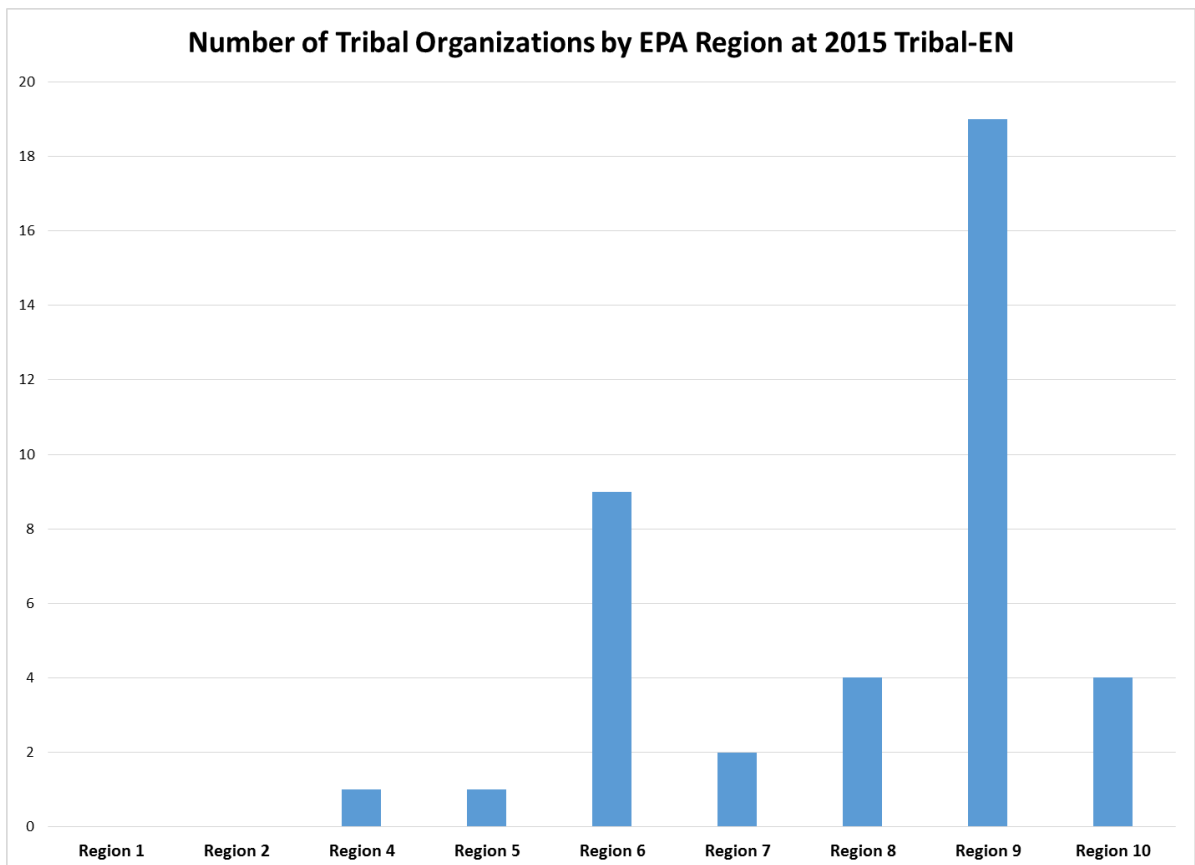
2015 Tribal Exchange Network Conference
Summary Report

The **2015 Tribal Exchange Network Conference (Tribal-EN)**, hosted by the Gila River Indian Community, was held February 4 and 5 just outside of Phoenix, Arizona. Attended by nearly 100 people representing over 40 tribal organizations and a dozen public and private entities, this year's Conference was the most well attended offering in its history. A summary of attendance data and conference feedback follows.

Attendance numbers:

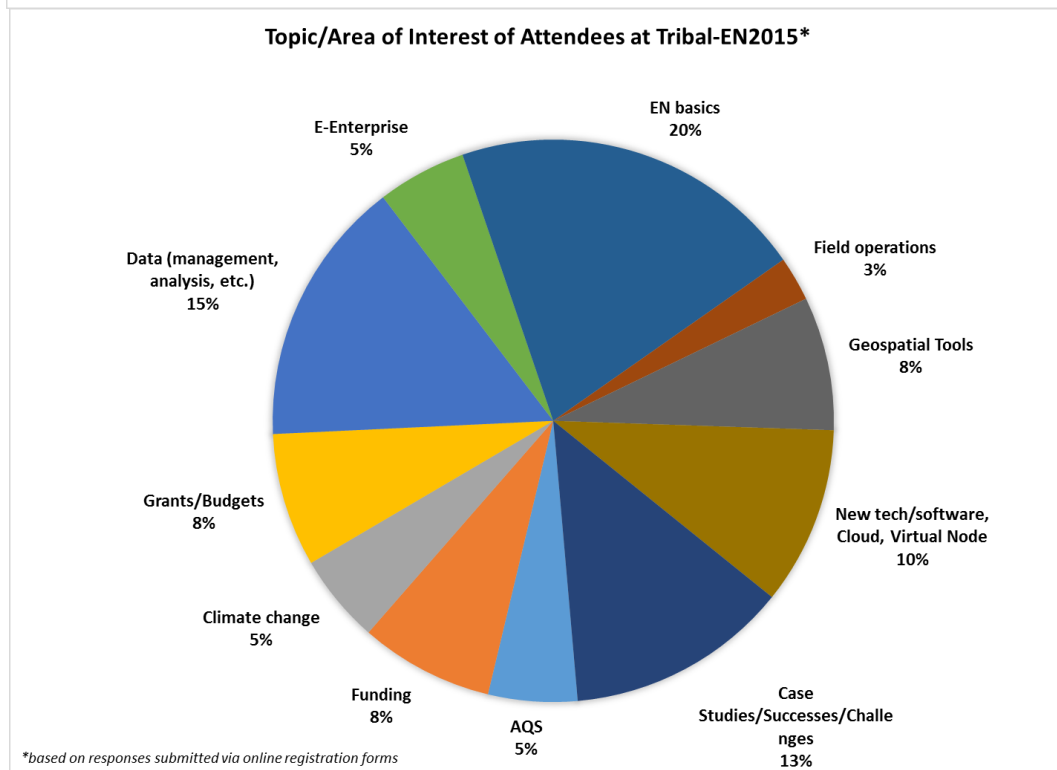
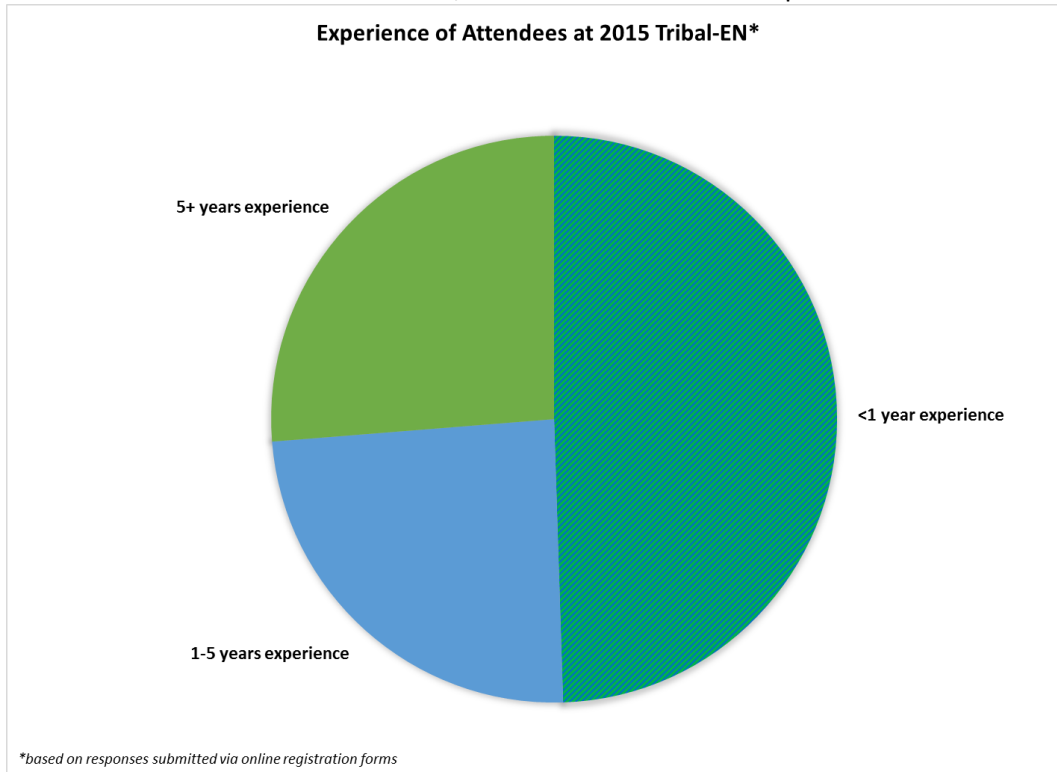
- 100 attendees (67 tribal representatives)
- 41 tribal organizations
- 7 public organizations
- 7 private entities
- 7 EPA Regions represented by tribes

Attendees are depicted by EPA Region in the chart below; seven regions were represented by tribal personnel. Staff from EPA Headquarters (Office of Water and Wetlands, Office of Environmental Information) and EPA Region 9 also attended.



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Nearly half of the attendees had little to no experience and attended to learn more about the Exchange Network, how to fund projects, and tribal success stories. The charts below depict the areas of interest of conference attendees, as well as their levels of experience with the EN.



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Attendee Feedback:

The conference agenda boasted a variety of presentations and short training sessions, along with a Poster/Vendor Reception designed to help foster networking among conference attendees as well as exhibitors. Favorite sessions, as identified by attendee feedback forms, were as follows:

- Seldovia Village Tribe's Update and Spatial Viewer Demo;
- Northeast Oklahoma Tribes Exchange Network;
- Hualapai Tribe's Virtual Node Experience;
- Clear Lake Cyanotoxin Monitoring.

Attendees generally noted the following as the most positive aspect of the Conference:

- Learning how different tribes approach EN activities;
- The choice of concurrent sessions (presentations vs. training);
- One-on-one training opportunities;
- Participation and turnout.

When asked "What would you like to see ***more*** of at this Conference?" attendees (via conference evaluation form) identified the following top five choices:

- Tribal case studies
- Interactive discussions
- Short (<2hr) training sessions
- EPA involvement
- Breakout/Concurrent sessions

Other comments and suggestions included:

- *The conference was well worth my time. Thank you!*
- *Really excellent--as with all of ITEP! I learned a ton--mostly how little I know about this subject.*
- *Would like to see a grant writing help session with EPA input.*
- *More involvement by EPA staff (OEI and Regions)!*

The two-day conference was followed by a full-day in-person meeting of the Tribal Governance Group (TGG). Topics addressed on the TGG meeting agenda included:

- 2015 conference debrief and initial discussion on 2016 conference
- Finalize and sign TGG Charter
- Finalize TGG Workplan for FY15
- Discuss EN2015 roles and activities
- Identify priorities for ENLC/NTB meeting and NCAI-NTC-EPA outreach

A detailed agenda, list of attendees, and many of the presentations delivered are available through the Tribes and the Exchange Network website (www.tribalexchangenetwork.org).