

Indigenous Medicine Declaration

This is a summarization of a declaration presented at the MAPS (Multidisciplinary Association for Psychedelic Studies) conference in 2023. View the original declaration here: <https://imc.fund/journal/declaration>

Indigenous communities are guardians of the medicines, lands where they grow, and traditional knowledge for effective and safe use, and have been since time immemorial. Today, 80% of the planet's biodiversity and land essential for climate mitigation is under the care of Indigenous peoples. The knowledge and spiritual systems these medicines come from have been kept and passed on, generation after generation, through Indigenous communities and lineages who have worked tirelessly in their preservation in the face of colonization and cultural extermination.

- Most ceremonial practitioners and traditional healers receive 20 or more years of training
- These medicines and protocols are intimately linked to place and language, and extracting them from those contexts has harmful consequences
- We must establish pathways to respectful interaction so that our ancestral knowledge does not fall prey to colonization and cultural misappropriation
- Raising interest in our medicines globally has unintended consequences that bring harm to our communities
- True healing is a multifaceted process. It is not a quick fix and requires addressing the source of the illness (modern society/Western civilization). The speed and urgency of this movement, the 'de-sacred-izing' of the sacred, the repeated patterns of seeking fast routes to healing, and the transactional and profit-driven nature of the growing industry speaks to a context that does not serve true healing.
- Traditional medicine communities must be prioritized in their own process of healing using their own methods before the psychedelic movement presses forward
- Indigenous knowledge holders must be included in the debate/conversation
- We insist on Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) as it pertains to the use of these medicines as stated in the United Nations Rights of Indigenous Peoples and Biodiversity Protocols
- True consent and consultation concerning our medicines must be given
- Conservation, reparation, restorative justice, and acknowledgement must be built into the ways in which medicines are harvested
- It is important to exercise reflection on our areas of privilege when interacting with Indigenous communities in a Western and capitalist exchange/framework
- We exist for our future generations
- Conservation is best directed by Indigenous people