

-The Q'anjob'al Maya People- Rebuilding our Nation and Institutions in the US and Maya Territory by Returning to our Spiritual Relationship with Mother Earth -The Maya Regeneration Project Feasibility Study Report-

THE NATIVE NATIONS INSTITUTE and THE HARVARD PROJECT ON AMERICAN INDIAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT present:

REBUILDING NATIVE NATIONS Strategies for Governance and Development

**NATIVE NATIONS
INSTITUTE**

Founded by the Udall Foundation
& the University of Arizona

Strengthening Indigenous Governance



INTRO TO NATIVE
NATION BUILDING



REMAKING THE TOOLS
OF GOVERNANCE



CONSTITUTIONS



JUSTICE SYSTEMS



ADMINISTRATION



CITIZEN
ENTREPRENEURSHIP



NATION-OWNED
ENTERPRISES



INTERGOVERNMENTAL
RELATIONS



PUBLIC-SPIRITED
LEADERSHIP



The Q'anjob'al Maya Government

The Q'anjob'al Maya
Economic
Development
Corporation

COMUNIDAD MAYA
PIXAN IXIM
REINFORCING OUR ROOTS, LIVING OUR MAYA HERITAGE

Five Core Principles of Native Nation Rebuilding

Five Core Principles of Native Nation Rebuilding

The Native Nations Institute's understanding of Indigenous nation building emerges from 30 years of research by the Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development (founded in 1986) and NNI (founded in 2001). Our research efforts have sought to understand the conditions under which sustained development can be successful in Indigenous nations. The results indicate that five elements are particularly important:



SOVEREIGNTY

The Nation Makes the Major Decisions:

Native nations that have been willing and able to assert self-governing power have significantly increased their chances of sustainable economic development.



CAPABLE GOVERNING INSTITUTIONS

The Nation Backs Up Authority with Competence:

The chances of sustainable development rise as Indigenous nations put in place effective, non-politicized dispute-resolution mechanisms and build capable bureaucracies.



CULTURAL MATCH

Governing Institutions Match Community Beliefs About How Authority Should Be Organized:

Institutions that build and innovate upon Indigenous conceptions of governing responsibilities fare better than those whose form departs from such conceptions.



STRATEGIC ORIENTATION

Decisions Are Made With Long-term Priorities in Mind:

Successful Native nations tend to approach development not as a quick fix for poverty but as a means of building a society that works.



PUBLIC-SPIRITED LEADERSHIP

Individuals Who Recognize The Need for Fundamental Change and Can Engage With Community to Make That Happen:

In successful Indian nations, there is typically a group of individuals who recognize the need for fundamental change in the way things are done and can bring the community along with them in building that future.

Indigenous nations are engaging in Native nation building as they work to embrace and apply these principles.

Four Core Principles of Maya Nation Rebuilding



Spiritual
Sovereignty



Territorial
Integrity



Political
Autonomy



Earth Based
Economy

What Makes us a Nation



Territory	By virtue of the International Legal Construct Known as the Doctrine of Discovery, Maya Territory is occupied by the southern parts of Mexico, the entire state of Guatemala and Belize and the northwestern portion of El Salvador and Honduras.
People	There approximately 15 to 20 million people on Maya Territory, approximately two million displaced to the United States including 8 thousand in Nebraska and two thousand in Omaha.
Worldview and Spirituality	Our mission is to live in harmony and equilibrium with Mother Earth, Humanity and the Universe.
Language	The Proto-Maya is the roots of all Maya languages spoken on Maya Territory today. Our languages embed the philosophical understanding of our Ancestors.
Government	Since time immemorial, Maya Spiritual and Political Authorities have governed with our peoples and territories. We have our systems and process to create law, administer justice and keep harmony and equilibrium.
Accomplishments	The Maya Civilization has astonishing accomplishments in Arts, Medicine, Agriculture, Architecture, Astronomy, Mathematics, Calendars to name a few sciences.



The Shattering Impact of the International Legal Construct Known as the Doctrine of Discovery

- Since the European invasion of Abyayala, known today as the Americas, Indigenous Peoples have suffered multiple cycles and multiple forms violence starting with the dehumanization and demonization of our identity-spirituality to justify genocide against our peoples and the taking of our lands.
- States on Maya Territory by virtue of the Doctrine of Discovery have policies of Extermination, Exclusion and Forced Assimilation towards the Maya Nation.
- Between 1960 and 1996, the state of Guatemala burned down over 600 Maya villages, tortured, killed or disappeared over two hundred thousand people and displaced over a million.
- Without widespread recognition of this genocide, the Majority of the Maya live in extreme poverty, dealing with historical trauma, alcoholism, diabetes chronic malnutrition among women and children as well as well as ongoing displacements and political persecution against Maya Spiritual and Political Authorities and Maya citizens.

The Maya Nation and Its Institution



The Maya Nation

The Maya Nation Exercise its Inherent and Inalienable Power to Spiritual Sovereignty, Territorial Integrity, Political Autonomy and Earth Based Economy of Life and Creates Institution to back up that power.

The Q'anjob'al Maya Government

The Q'anjob'al Maya Government is the Spiritual and Political Institution of the Q'anjob'al Maya Nation in charge of Celebrating Maya Ceremonies for Creating Law and Administering Justice to Keep Harmony and Equilibrium

Comunidad Maya Pixan Ixim (CMPI)

CMPI is the 501 C3 Organization of the Q'anjob'al Maya with the Mandate Implement Community Development Programs in Arts, Education, Health, Regenerative Agriculture and Human Rights.

The Q'anjob'al Maya Economic Development Corporation

The Economic Development Corporation has the mandate to create stacked economic enterprises for the Maya community including but not limited to a Maya Chamber of Commerce, Agrarian Commons, Insurance Cooperatives/Commons, Housing Development



The Return of the
Maya Nation to Our
Spiritual Relationship
with Mother Earth
Through Regenerative
Agriculture
&
The Maya
Regeneration Project

Vision:

Heal our Nation and Territory from the shattering impact of the international legal construct known as the Doctrine of Discovery as prerequisite to living in harmony and equilibrium with Mother Earth, Humanity, and the Universe.

Mission:

In Q'anjob'al Maya Territory, we will secure our territorial integrity, regain stewardship of our Sacred Sites, and implement our agroforestry systems on communal lands to alleviate chronic malnutrition in women and children and prevent massive migration to the United States. In the United States, we will implement our Regenerative Agriculture Program following Indigenous Peoples laws and protocols as well as well as US Government's laws and regulations governing agriculture.

Goal:

To anchor the Q'anjob'al Maya community's ancient relationship with the land in Maya Territory and Nebraska, create employment, build collective wealth, ensure access to healthy food, restore traditions, and culture, and support holistic physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual health.



Planting our Sacred Seeds at the Maya Community Center



A group of five young people, four girls and one boy, are sitting on large tree stumps in a grassy field. They are all smiling and looking towards the camera. The background shows a chain-link fence and some buildings. The scene is outdoors during the day.

The Maya Regeneration Project our Four Step Implementation Process

Plant our Sacred Seeds from Spring to Fall at the Maya Community Center

Purchas the Building that houses the Maya Community Center as it has Become a Sacred Site for the Maya Nation

Purchase 310 Acres of Land in Lyons Nebraska

Implement our Regenerative Agriculture

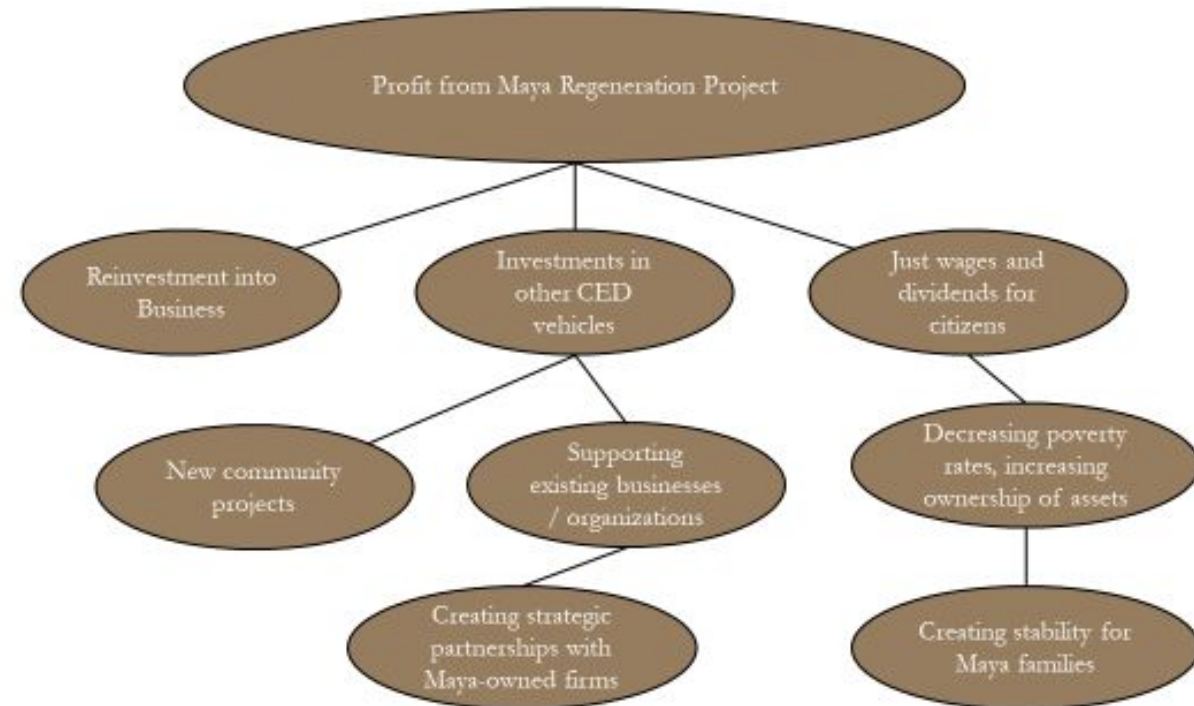
Maya Q'anjob'al Economic Development Corporation

The Option for Public-Private Partnership (Worden 2020)



Maya
Regeneration
Project Revenue
Re-investment
Strategy
(Worden 2021)

Uses of Cash



Land Stewardship Strategy: Collaborating with Agrarian Trust



**AGRARIAN
TRUST**

The Agrarian Commons initiative is a collaborative, community-led endeavor working to develop community land ownership to support next-generation farmers.

- The commons are nonprofit land-holding entities connected to farmers and Agrarian Trust.
- Farmers operate independent farming enterprises with land security through the commons.
- Agrarian Trust leverages national resources and capital to support local land-holding and investment in local agriculture.
- A commons permanently removes land and assets from commoditized markets and conveys long-term, affordable tenure to benefit farmers and their communities.
- Agrarian Trust has legal resources such as land purchase and donation agreements and stewardship agreements, as well as state-specific legal counsel, and is actively engaged in real estate due diligence and fundraising for farm acquisition and investment.
- Funding comes from a combination of fundraisers, grants, major gifts from donors (land and capital), donor advised funds, and investment capital from mission-aligned investors.

A Land Stewardship Approach Based on Equity



AGRARIAN
TRUST



Agrarian Commons centers people who have been marginalized from access to land, nutritious food, and good health. Farms serving these communities are prioritized.



LAND EQUITY



Agrarian Commons actively stewards and protects biodiverse ecosystems, including healthy soil and watersheds.



Agrarian Commons prioritizes land and communities that have been subject to extraction and exploitation.



Local communities hold equity in natural resources and benefit from local ownership and control.

Community Equity



AGRARIAN
TRUST

HUMAN & COMMUNITY EQUITY



Commons Board
holds title and maintains the
farm as a community asset.



Leaseholder farmers
and stewards represent
land and social justice.



Agrarian Commons handles high
infrastructure and permitting
costs to ensure viable farms
and communities.



Farmland is held for
diversified food production,
shared ecological stewardship,
education, and cultural resources.



Agrarian Commons
and the community
invest in soil, habitat
and renewable energy.

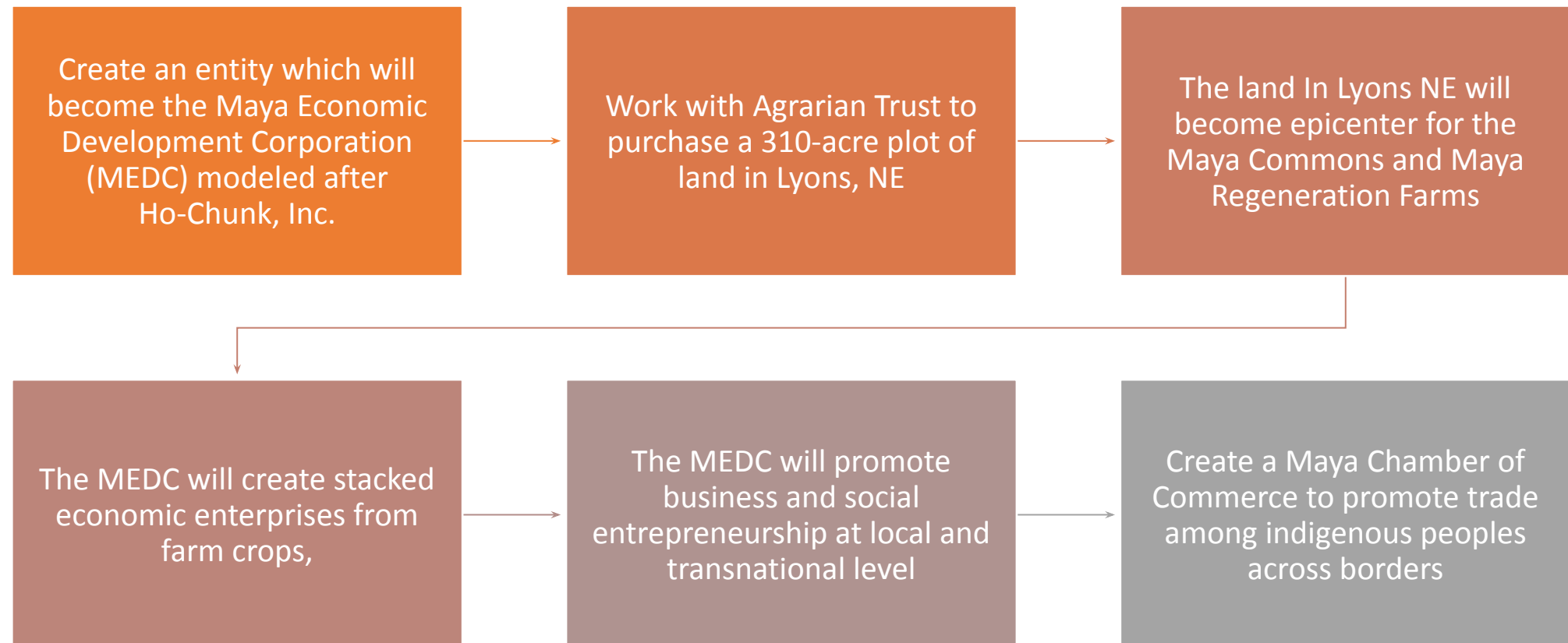


Nutritious food
is grown for
people in the
community.



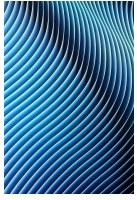
And more possibilities
to be created together...

Next Steps



Sources Consulted & Reference Works

- Preliminary Study of the Doctrine of Discovery on Indigenous People:
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1fnl72CZsqRY06VobvAc0U-42bmvZnD6x/view?usp=sharing>
- Guatemala Memory of Silence:
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1fnl72CZsqRY06VobvAc0U-42bmvZnD6x/view?usp=sharing>
- United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples:
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1vYfEgN-wOMJerxS5AhHmpjrB3Y3qKI9z/view?usp=sharing>
- Economic Development on Indigenous Lands: Tribal Sovereignty and the Catholic Social Justice Tradition within the Tribal Economic Development Corporation August 21, 2021 Perry et al,
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1uMvUSPZEGOGqK3tXlchfUVJ9pZG_wsIi/view?usp=sharing
- Making Indigenous Self-Determination Work: What the Nation Building Principles and Three Case Studies from Chile Teach Us About Implementing Indigenous Human Rights, Laura M. Seelau, Project for Indigenous Self-Determination, Ryan Seelau, Native Nations Institute for Leadership, Management and Policy, University of Arizona,
https://drive.google.com/file/d/15Racqo0IjyI_lBlv3OVBgALZPm9P5L5f/view?usp=sharing
- Indigenous Peoples Rights in the Context of Borders
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1U8za84KeOOsilMOSLc-NnYYuSylDx2Fv/view?usp=sharing>
- International on Civil and Political Rights
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Qf4o6UF_KjfUFXwJ1OjrywC88WvO5_EZ/view?usp=sharing
- International Convention on Social, Economic and Cultural Rights
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/18pztJvUxHQx7i2wdrZEQVjjMaztWy-G/view?usp=sharing>



Internal Community Consultation Process

Phase II of the Maya Health Assessment Study done in collaborative efforts with Creighton University's Social and Cultural Studies and University of Nebraska Medical Center's Center for Reducing Health Disparities,

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/15-OrquOT9IR9Ky0kX-GlbAmFev9BRw8k8Uwj1jfZaF0/edit?usp=sharing>

World Café style meeting with the Maya community conducted in Spring 2020 by Dr. Athena Ramos CMPI Board Member and Ellen Struve, CMPI Co-President, where among other things, the Maya community expressed desires to have its own building, implement environmental stewardship programs, advance Maya Medicine and have food security programs,

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1n4JNHoehtFJO-mwWMMK_XIPYlhLJD6mYsyFV51rqgCA/edit?usp=sharing

Visioning session with Maya Community Leaders

Maya Community Center, Omaha, NE;

The Maya Regeneration Study Process Illustrated

- [Regi \(Northfield and Omaha visits\)](#) (Reginaldo Haslett-Marroquin is a board member of CMPI and here is the link to his regenerative business model <https://www.regenpoultry.com/>)
- Omaha Tribe of Nebraska High School Garden Tour (Suzi French) (no pictures due to students working, etc)
- [Randy Ruppert and Nancy O'Connor controlled prairie burn, 2nd visit to see regrowth](#)
- [Ho-Chunk Farms and Tribal Garden Tour \(Aaron LaPointe\)](#)
- [Arbor Day Foundation hazelnut harvest and tour of alley cropping, etc\(Brad Kindler\)](#)
- [Mark Shepard and Karen Vanek tour at New Forest Farms in Viola, WI and the Organic Valley](#) cooperative model employing 4,200 people in the previously economically depressed region
- [Shane New Visit in Holton, KS](#) (Laura and Graham toured the rotational/adaptive grazing model Shane uses that the Maya is interested in as well)
- Great Plains Regeneration Event (Lawrence, KS) - Connected Juana and Luis to more regional/national regenerative agriculture network people/orgs
- [Visioning session with Maya Community Leaders](#) Maya Community Center, Omaha, NE
- Visited with Dr. Renzo Rosales on his Maya Health Assessment Research that can help serve as a great resource
- [Luis went to Guatemala and Mexico to visit with Maya elders, community members, discuss indigenous farming and cooperative business models, etc \(videos\)](#), more [#1 folder of pictures from Luis](#) [#2 folder of pictures from Luis](#)
- Luis established communications with Dr. Anabel Ford on her research on milpa farming (so very exciting!) - the ancient sustainable forest farming method of the Maya people. Here is the video link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=96rlEVptFwo>
- Dr. Ford (and her colleagues) research articles on Maya milpa farming: ["Different Ways of Knowing and a Different Ways of Being: On a Path to Reawakening Legacy of the Maya Forest"](#) and ["Conserving the American Tropics: Exploring the Cropscape of the Ancient Maya"](#)





With our Deepest Expressions of Gratitude to:

CMPI Board of Directors for Supporting the MRP Feasibility Study

The MRP Steering Committee

–Jill Wells with the Nature Conservancy-
-Graham Christensen with RegeNErate Nebraska-
-Laura Thomas with RegeNErate Nebraska-

Perry Worden for his research on Economic Development on Indigenous Land.

And

Farmers who allowed us to visit their farms during our Feasibility Study

Thank you

Gracias

Yuj Wal Tiox