

# Diné Good Governance and Leadership Framework

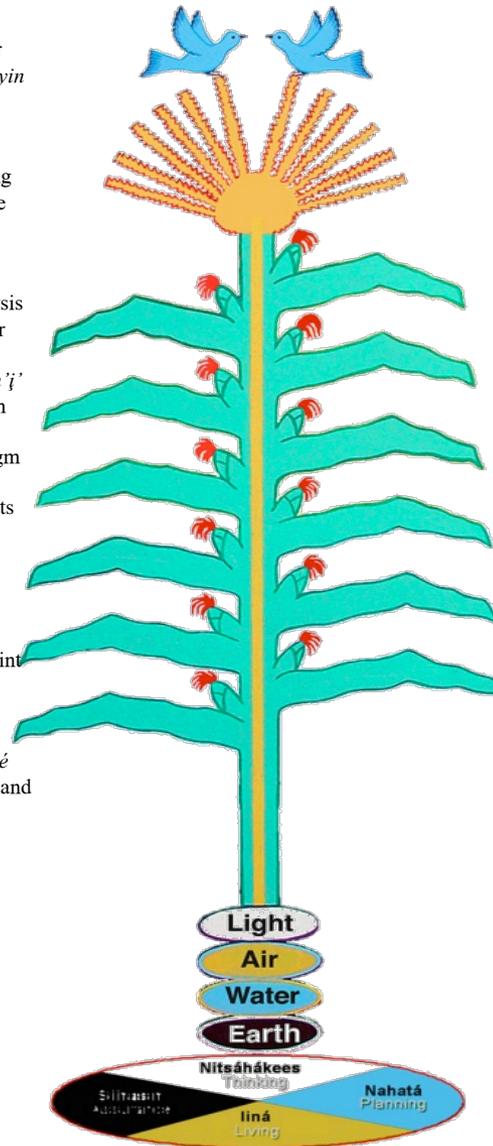
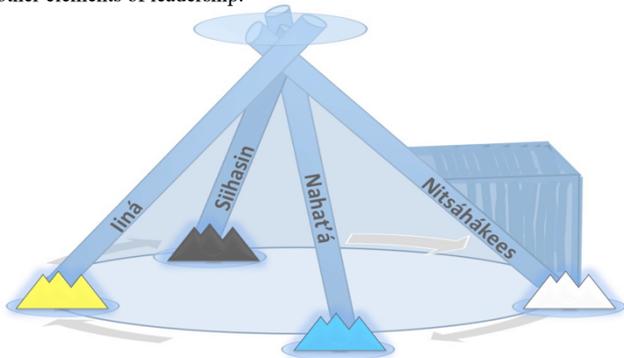
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## Abstract

*Diné bi beenahaz'áanii* (The Fundamental Law of the Diné) is the foundation for Diné-based research methods and analyses. *Diné bi beenahaz'áanii* embodies *Diyin bits'ááde'í' beenahaz'áanii* (Traditional Law), *Diyin Diné'é bits'ááde'í' beenahaz'áanii* (Customary Law), *Nahasdzáan dóo Yádiht'í bits'ááde'í' beenahaz'áanii* (Natural Law), and *Diyin Nohookáá' Diné bi beenahaz'áanii* (Common Law). *Diné* philosophy uses a holistic approach, rather than segmenting and categorizing subjects as in Western thought. This paper will discuss how core ancient *Diné* principles and values can frame and be integrated into *Diné* Good Governance Principals and Leadership Framework.

The *Sq'ah Naghái Bik'eh Hózhóón* paradigm, *Diné* Lifeway, grounds *Diné* analysis in *Nitsáhákees* (thinking), *Nahat'á* (planning), *liná* (life) and *Siihasin* (stability or restoration of balance and harmony through reflection) using *k'é* (principle of guiding conduct), *hózhóóji* (positive forces), *hashkéiji* (negative forces), and *at'ch'í silá* (duality of life). The *Sq'ah Naghái Bik'eh Hozhoon* paradigm is derived from *Hajíinéi Bahane'* (*Diné* emergence story), songs, and prayers. The restoration of *Hózhó*, requires the implementation of the *Sq'ah Naghái Bik'eh Hózhóón* paradigm to be utilized to define the problem, to investigate, to analyze problems, to reach *bee'alkee'* (consensus) and *hózhó'náhodoodleet* (solve problems). These concepts are interconnected to *Diné* values and principles embedded in the *Diné bi beenahaz'áanii*.

*Diné* Good Governance principles and leadership framework recognizes *Diné* culture as a foundation to examine current government structures. *Diné* cultural foundations guide the interpretation of Higher Law and provide the beginning point for restructuring. *Diné* exercise their leadership and decision-making traditions through *Naat'áanii* (leaders); *Hashkéiji Naat'áanii* (war leadership); *Hózhóóji Naat'áanii* (peace leadership); and the *Naa'chid* (a gathering of both war- and peace-leaders). *Diné* Leadership Framework, rooted in *Diné bi Beehaz'áanii Bitsé Siléi* is participatory democracy, respect-driven leadership, planning, consensus, and other elements of leadership.



## Principles of Diné Good Governance

*Nahat'á* principles are the basis of enacting policies and laws for the Navajo Nation. The principles are *Nahat'á Bibee Haz'áanii Bitsé siléi Bee Na'anish* (The principles of *Nahat'á* constitute the foundation of good Navajo governance).

*Nahat'á bii'yistijn bibee haz'áanii bee na'anishgii bike'ehgo hoot'áá l.* The core attributes and living essence of *Nahat'á* provide the basis for strategic planning and improving the quality of life.

*Hózhóóji dóo Hashkéiji Nahat'á bii' silá. Hiná dóo ba'at'e' hóló.* *Nahat'á* has positive and negative aspects. Life, energy and movement come from *Nahat'á* which contains both beneficial and harmful attributes necessary for good governance.

*K'é nahat'á bil hadit'éego dilzin dóo baa hódzq'go bee hoot'áá.* Respect, reverence and moral values are inherent in the principles of *Nahat'á*. *Nahat'á* observes obligation for individuals to others and to the community. *Nahat'á* also outlines the benefits of obligation others (individuals and the community) owe to individuals.

*Nahat'á bii'yistinii bá'ahodzisingo bee na'anish.* The elements of the *Nahat'á* leadership one should as the roots and principles of *Nahat'á* in the manner in which it applies to leadership.

*Nahat'á hqah yisziidgo bee nazhni'tá dóo baa áhojilyáago bee nijilnish.* *Nahat'á* is a matter of duty to uphold *Diné Bi Nahat'á* a continuous dialogue of the people and seek out the best outcome to the needs and desires of the people. Continuously improve the government system by evaluating and accessing outcomes.

*Nahat'á úshjánt'oolzin. Nahat'á doo nanilin dah.* *Nahat'á* requires transparency, a free flow of information, and a duty to communicate and make known to the public at large the issues at hand.

*Naabik'iyáti' aheillt'éego bee ahaa nitsáhákees ba ahil naanish.* As a process, *Naabik'iyáti'* requires the equal and equitable treatment. All ideas are considered and collaboration is of the utmost importance. Collaboration is the basis for thinking and working together.

