



INDIGENOUS LEADERSHIP.
NATURAL SOLUTIONS.
SHARED PROSPERITY.



CULTIVATING CAPACITY:

INDIGENOUS-LED NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

BUILDING THE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS
AND RESOURCES NATIONS NEED TO
LEAD **NATURE SOLUTIONS** THAT LAST.



KNOWLEDGE
& AWARENESS



FUNDING
& RESOURCES



PEOPLE &
SKILL-BUILDING



DATA &
MEASUREMENT



COLLABORATION
& ALLIANCES



HOLISTIC VISION
& ALIGNMENT

STRONG NATIONS. HEALTHY LANDS. **RESILIENT FUTURES.**





BIRCH CARBON PROGRAM

INDIGENOUS LEADERSHIP. NATURAL SOLUTIONS.
SHARED PROSPERITY.

BIRCH CARBON PROGRAM SUMMARY

KEY INSIGHTS. REAL IMPACT. STRONGER COMMUNITIES.

Birch Carbon Program Summaries provide Indigenous Nations with quick, easy-to-understand insights from important resources — highlighting what matters most and how it can support environmental stewardship, community priorities, and long-term prosperity.

WHAT YOU'LL FIND INSIDE



KEY TAKEAWAYS

The most important points from the original resource.



INDIGENOUS FOCUS

Why it matters to your Nation, your lands, and your future.



BIRCH CARBON PERSPECTIVE

Our insights on opportunities, benefits, and real-world impact.



COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITIES

How this information can create value for your people and territory.



ORIGINAL SOURCE

Direct links to the full document and official resources.



OUR COMMITMENT

We are committed to making complex information accessible and relevant for Indigenous Nations so you can make informed decisions, protect your lands, and build prosperity for future generations.



PROTECT
OUR LANDS



SUPPORT
OUR PEOPLE



BUILD
PROSPERITY



SECURE OUR
FUTURE

[BIRCHCARBONPROGRAM.COM](https://www.birchcarbonprogram.com)

BIRCH CARBON PROGRAM SUMMARY

About This Summary

The RAD Network examines the opportunities, resources and capacity challenges facing Indigenous Nations pursuing **nature-based solutions**.

Its central idea: nature-based solutions can direct financing toward Indigenous-led conservation, but successful projects need Indigenous rights and self-determination at the centre.

Original Publication

Cultivating Capacity

Restore, Assert and
Defend Network
April 2024

How It Was Made

A review of existing resources plus interviews with five environmental organizations and five people working for Nations.

THE STARTING POINT

Why This Matters

The terminology is new. The practice is not.

The report observes that although the language around nature-based solutions is relatively recent, Indigenous Peoples have practised relationships with lands and ecosystems consistent with these principles for generations.

WHY IT MATTERS TO INDIGENOUS NATIONS

The opportunity is not to fit Nations into a new environmental marketplace. It is to advance self-determined visions for land relationships.

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KEY CONCEPTS EXPLAINED



AT A GLANCE

Six Areas of Capacity

- Knowledge and awareness
- Funding and resources
- People and skill-building
- Data and measurement
- Collaboration and alliances
- Holistic objectives and vision alignment

THEY CANNOT BE SEPARATED

The report is explicit that these needs sit inside questions of Indigenous rights, jurisdiction, Nation-building, self-determination and enabling policy.

KEY CONCEPT 01

Nature-Based Solutions

They work with natural systems to address environmental and social challenges. Natural climate solutions are the subset focused on protecting, conserving and improving the management of carbon-storing ecosystems.

- Forests and wetlands
- Grasslands and peatlands
- Coastal ecosystems

MORE THAN CARBON

They also recognize water purification, flood protection and climate resilience.

KEY CONCEPT 02

Knowledge & Funding

Different audiences

Leadership needs a concise picture. Land managers and technical teams need depth. Guardians, youth and community members need something else again.

Balanced information

So Nations can weigh opportunities against their own priorities, not those of governments, industry or NGOs.

ON FUNDING

The report calls for stable, flexible, longer-term funding, including for relationship-building, and notes the administrative burden when connected work must be financed through many separate programs.

KEY CONCEPT 03

People & Skill-Building

Capacity is not only about money. Lands and resources departments often already carry many priorities, leaving little staff time to evaluate complex nature-based projects.

- Feasibility assessment
- Market participation and negotiation
- Project development
- Professional development and peer mentorship

KEY CONCEPT 04

Data & Sovereignty

Reliable information underpins any carbon project. The report highlights work to improve how communities measure, map and monitor ecosystem carbon, and connect field measurements to carbon values.

WHO CONTROLS THE INFORMATION

Data platforms and knowledge-sharing systems should recognize data sovereignty and First Nations ownership, control, access and possession.



Birch Carbon INSIGHTS



HOLISTIC VALUATION

Carbon Is Only Part of the Value

A landscape's value may include carbon, biodiversity, water, culture, community, ecosystem services and economic opportunity together.

The report examines approaches that go beyond carbon-only valuation and consider the ecological, cultural and socioeconomic values associated with Indigenous territories.

OUR READING OF IT

A carbon project should support a Nation's vision, not define it.

READ THIS CAREFULLY

Carbon Rights & Jurisdiction

Discussing the federal Greenhouse Gas Offset Toolkit, the authors argue that the treatment of Crown rights to carbon is contested, and note that some Nations assert their own jurisdiction. They contrast this with the B.C. Assembly of First Nations' position asserting First Nations' rights to carbon stored and absorbed within their territories.

HOW TO HOLD THIS

The report is presenting a rights and jurisdiction perspective. It is not establishing a settled legal rule applicable to every Nation in Canada.

THE KEY TAKEAWAY

Successful Indigenous-led nature-based solutions require far more than carbon calculations.

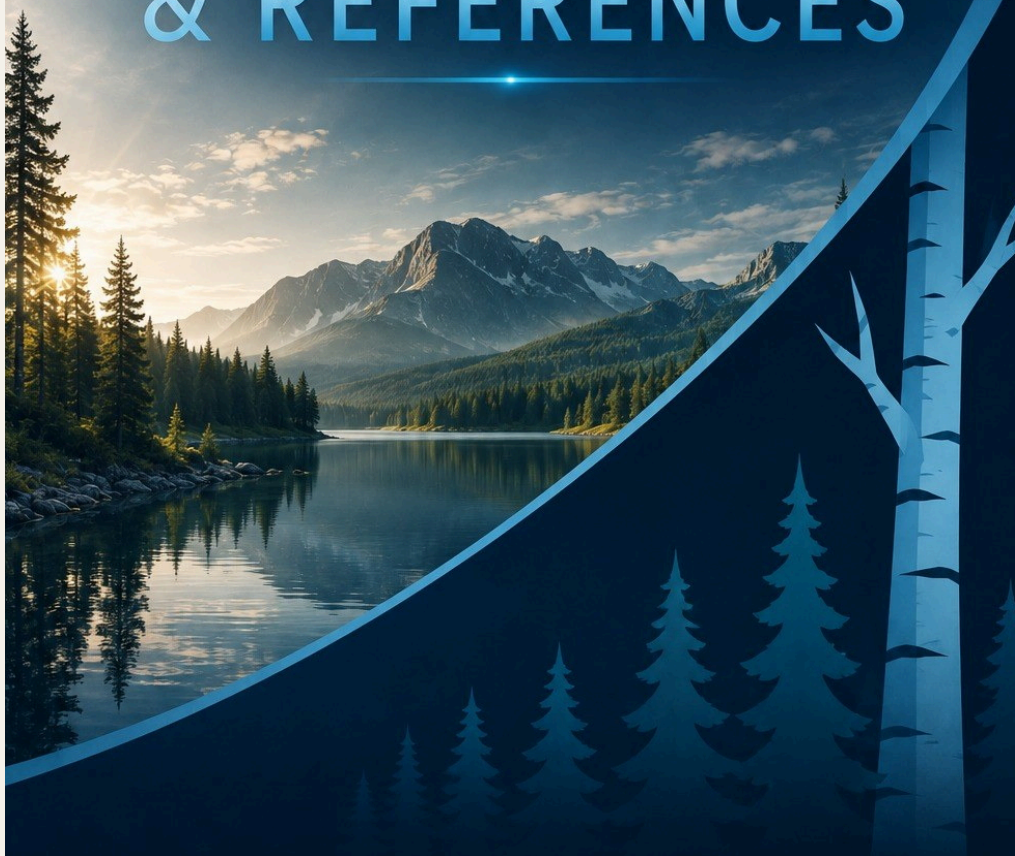
They require capacity, knowledge, financing, data, skills, partnerships and, above all, Indigenous self-determination.

WHAT THE REPORT ASKS FOR

Nature-based solutions that support Indigenous-led conservation and regenerative economies, while staying connected to each Nation's broader vision for its lands, people and future.



RESOURCES & REFERENCES



ORIGINAL SOURCE

Resources & References



RESTORE, ASSERT AND DEFEND NETWORK
· APRIL 2024

Cultivating Capacity: A Scan of Needs and Resources for Indigenous-led Nature-based Solutions

[Read the complete report ↗](#)

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About this summary. This Birch Carbon Program Summary has been prepared as an educational companion to the original publication. It is intended to improve accessibility and understanding while encouraging readers to consult the complete report. It is not legal, financial, or technical advice.



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Part of the Indigenous Carbon Knowledge
Centre. Plain-language summaries of the
publications that matter most to Nations.

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