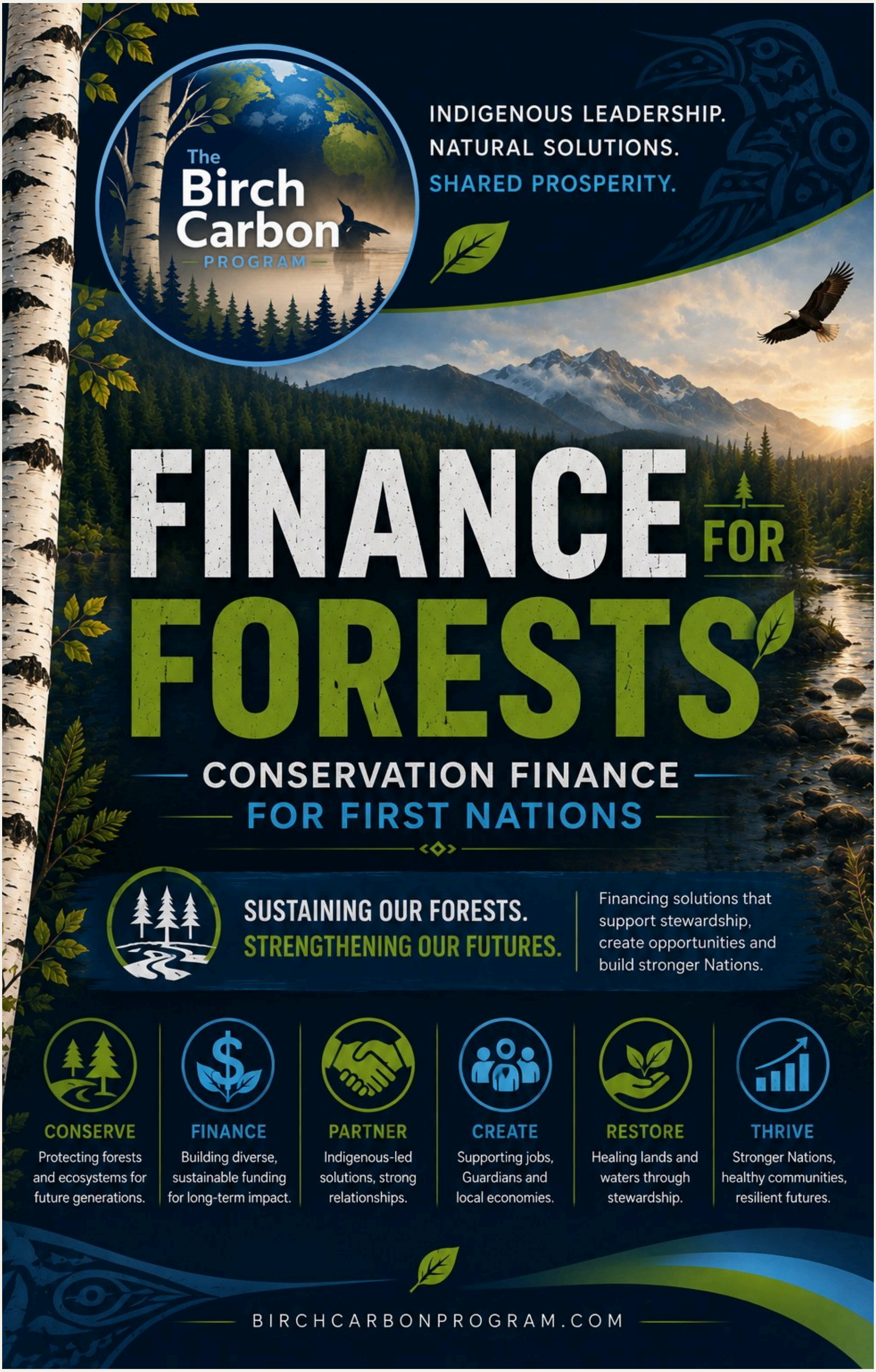
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PROGRAM
INDIGENOUS LEADERSHIP.
NATURAL SOLUTIONS.
SHARED PROSPERITY.
FINANCE FOR FORESTS
CONSERVATION FINANCE
FOR FIRST NATIONS
SUSTAINING OUR FORESTS.
STRENGTHENING OUR FUTURES.
Financing solutions that support stewardship, create opportunities and build stronger Nations.
CONSERVE
Protecting forests and ecosystems for future generations.
FINANCE
Building diverse, sustainable funding for long-term impact.
PARTNER
Indigenous-led solutions, strong relationships.
CREATE
Supporting jobs, Guardians and local economies.
RESTORE
Healing lands and waters through stewardship.
THRIVE
Stronger Nations, healthy communities, resilient futures.
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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.

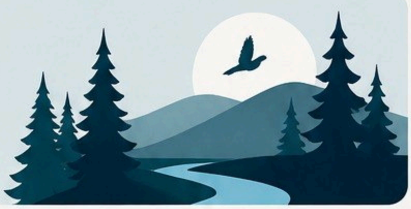
BIRCH CARBON PERSPECTIVE
Our insights on opportunities, benefits, and real-world impact.

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

BIRCH CARBON PROGRAM SUMMARY

About This Summary

Finance for Forests was developed by Coast Funds, an Indigenous-led conservation finance organization working with First Nations in the Great Bear Rainforest and Haida Gwaii since 2008.

It gives Nations objective information about financing options that can support forest conservation, restoration, stewardship and Guardian programs, alongside broader community economic priorities.

Original Publication

Finance for Forests
Coast Funds
June 2024

This Edition

An educational companion prepared by the Birch Carbon Program for Indigenous Nations.

THE STARTING POINT

Why This Matters

Protecting forests requires long-term financing.

Forests hold tremendous environmental value, but protecting them takes people, infrastructure, monitoring, planning and money that lasts longer than a grant cycle.

WHY IT MATTERS TO INDIGENOUS NATIONS

The report notes that forested lands surround more than 80 per cent of Indigenous communities in Canada, while Nations have stewarded those territories for thousands of years.

CONTENTS

What's Inside

The Birch Carbon PROGRAM

KEY CONCEPTS EXPLAINED

KEY CONCEPT 01

Conservation Finance

Using financial mechanisms to support the long-term protection, restoration and stewardship of lands and ecosystems.

THE SHIFT THE REPORT IS ARGUING FOR

Away from relying on a single source of money, and toward a portfolio of mechanisms that together fund both immediate conservation and long-term stewardship.

KEY CONCEPT 02

The Financing Options

- Government funding
- Philanthropic funding
- Conservation trusts and endowments
- Project finance for permanence
- Carbon credits
- Payments for ecosystem services and biodiversity finance

THE POINT OF LISTING THEM TOGETHER

Each mechanism carries different strengths, limitations, risks and timelines. None is simply better than the others.

KEY CONCEPT 03

How Options Are Judged

Amount & flexibility
How much it raises, and how freely it can be spent.

Risk & certainty
How likely the money is to arrive, and to keep arriving.

Effort & project stage
What it costs to pursue, and when in a project it fits.

Self-determination
Its effect on Nation control and on Indigenous retention of value.

KEY CONCEPT 04

No Single Solution

No conservation finance mechanism meets every need.

Nations will likely need to combine two or more to build a sustainable funding model. Government or philanthropic funding might carry early planning, while longer-term mechanisms carry ongoing stewardship.

KEY CONCEPT 05

Where Carbon Credits Fit

The report identifies carbon credits as **one** potential conservation-finance mechanism among several. That placement matters.

WHY IT MATTERS TO INDIGENOUS NATIONS

Carbon does not have to finance everything. Carbon revenue can be one component of a diversified portfolio supporting a Nation's broader stewardship objectives.

The Birch Carbon Program

Birch Carbon INSIGHTS

NOT JUST THE NUMBER

Self-Determination Matters

Coast Funds does not rank financing mechanisms only by how much money they raise. It also weighs their effect on First Nations self-determination and on Indigenous retention of financial value.

> **THE LINE WORTH REMEMBERING**
>
> The highest-paying mechanism is not automatically the best one if its conditions conflict with a Nation's governance, stewardship responsibilities or long-term priorities.

BIRCH CARBON PROGRAM PERSPECTIVE

Building a Portfolio

The report presents sample portfolios showing how mechanisms can be assembled across different time horizons.

- Some funding suits planning and project development
- Other financing supports implementation and restoration
- Other mechanisms generate the long-term revenue stewardship needs

WHY THIS BEATS GRANT-HUNTING

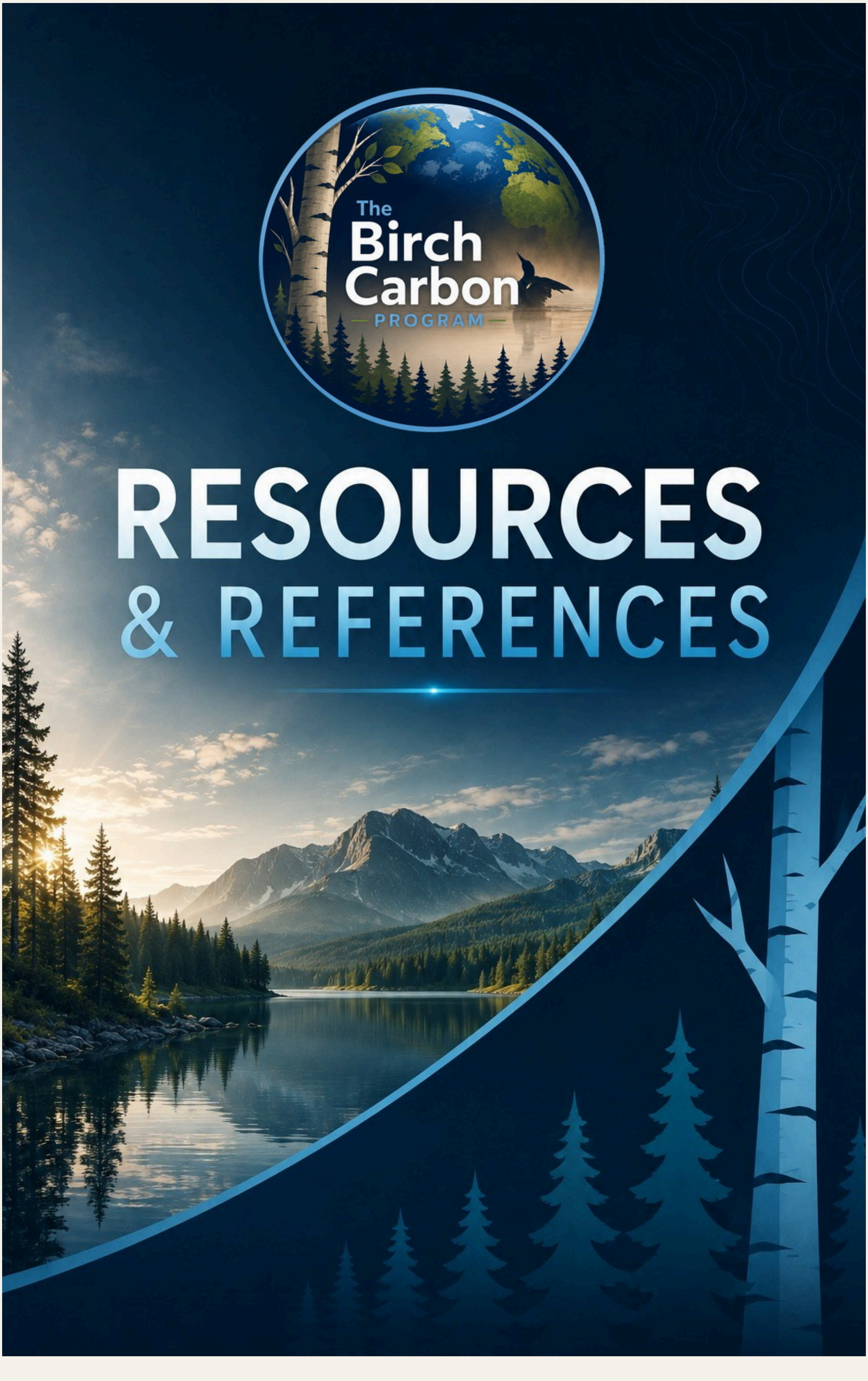
It is a strategy rather than a search. Carbon finance sits inside a larger Indigenous conservation economy.

THE KEY TAKEAWAY

The question is not conservation or economic development. It is conservation and economic opportunity.

Protecting ecosystems can support employment, Guardians programs, restoration and sustainable businesses, provided the long-term financing is there to pay for it.

> **WHAT THE REPORT SERVES**
> Conservation finance should ultimately serve the priorities of the Nation: environmental, social, cultural and economic wellbeing together.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RESOURCES
& REFERENCES

ORIGINAL SOURCE

Resources & References

COAST FUNDS · JUNE 2024

Finance for Forests: A Guide to Conservation Finance Options for First Nations

Read the original report ↗

COAST FUNDS · ANNOUNCEMENT

Finance for Forests report

Open the announcement ↗

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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