



The
**Birch
Carbon**
PROGRAM

INDIGENOUS LEADERSHIP.
NATURAL SOLUTIONS.
SHARED PROSPERITY.



GREAT BEAR FOREST CARBON PROJECT



INDIGENOUS-LED CARBON CREDITS

Protecting the **Great Bear Rainforest** creates climate value. Together, we turn that value into lasting benefits for our lands, waters and communities.



PROTECT

Old-growth forests store carbon and support biodiversity.



MEASURE

Measurable climate benefits through forest conservation.



GENERATE

Carbon credits are generated through verified outcomes.



EARN

Carbon credits are sold in global carbon markets.



REINVEST

Revenues support Guardians, research, and community priorities.

OUR FORESTS. OUR FUTURE. OUR BENEFIT.



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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

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BIRCH CARBON PROGRAM SUMMARY

About This Summary

The Great Bear Forest Carbon Project is an Indigenous-led forest carbon initiative in the Great Bear Rainforest, on British Columbia's North and Central Coast and Haida Gwaii.

Its foundations date to 2009, when Coastal First Nations and British Columbia entered into **Atmospheric Benefit Sharing Agreements**. Coastal First Nations describes these as giving participating Nations ownership and the right to sell carbon offsets generated in their territories.

Original Publication

Carbon Credits

Coastal First Nations,
Great Bear Initiative

This Edition

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

THE STARTING POINT

Why This Matters

Indigenous-led carbon finance tied to stewardship is not theoretical.

Great Bear shows how conservation agreements, forest management, carbon measurement, Indigenous ownership, market participation and community reinvestment can work together in one place.

WHY IT MATTERS TO INDIGENOUS NATIONS

The structure is the lesson. The Nation's lands, the Nation's stewardship, the Nation participating directly in the value created by protecting those lands.

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KEY CONCEPTS EXPLAINED



AT A GLANCE

At a Glance

Indigenous Ownership

Participating Nations secured rights to own and sell offsets associated with their territories.

Forest Carbon

Old-growth forests and soils in the Great Bear Rainforest hold enormous stores of carbon.

Conservation Finance

Offset revenue provides an ongoing mechanism supporting conservation and stewardship.

Community Benefit

Revenue has supported Guardians, research, monitoring and other priorities.

KEY CONCEPT 01

Why the Forest Matters

The Great Bear Rainforest is one of the world's largest remaining coastal temperate rainforests, roughly **6.4 million hectares**, with extraordinary cultural and ecological diversity.

Coastal First Nations states that its old-growth trees and soils store exceptionally high amounts of carbon. Protecting them from intensive logging keeps that carbon stored while the landscape continues capturing more.

KEY CONCEPT 02

From Extraction to Conservation

For decades, Nations on the coast worked to move away from unsustainable industrial extraction toward ecosystem-based management, Indigenous stewardship and sustainable economic development.

WHAT THE AGREEMENTS SET UP

A framework protecting large areas while carefully managed forestry continues in designated areas, intended to conserve 85 per cent of the forest and 70 per cent of old-growth over time.

KEY CONCEPT 03

How Carbon Credits Fit In

The project generates offsets through changes in land-use management and conservation practice, where those changes produce greenhouse-gas outcomes meeting the requirements of the applicable methodology and program.

- Protect forests
- Measure the climate benefit
- Generate carbon credits
- Sell into carbon markets
- Reinvest in stewardship and communities

KEY CONCEPT 04

Where the Revenue Goes

Coastal First Nations reported in 2020 that the project had generated more than **\$40 million** in sales over the preceding decade.

65%

Of net revenues back to communities for conservation.

35%

Supporting human wellbeing and other projects.

READ THESE AS HISTORY

Those are historical figures rather than current revenue projections. They show what an Indigenous-led carbon project has already converted into community financing.



Birch Carbon INSIGHTS



THE STRUCTURE IS THE STORY

Indigenous Ownership

The carbon opportunity was not developed around First Nations territories with Nations on the sidelines. Coastal First Nations describes the agreements as giving Nations ownership and the right to sell offsets in their territories.

WHERE IT LED

Its latest annual report describes Great Bear Carbon, a 100 per cent Indigenous-owned entity that markets and sells the offsets and generates long-term revenue for coastal communities.

BIRCH CARBON PROGRAM PERSPECTIVE

A Model, Not a Template

Carbon revenues have supported the Coastal Guardian Watchmen, environmental monitoring, salmon research and wildlife studies. Carbon finance can pay for the people and systems that steward a landscape over the long term.

ONE IMPORTANT CAUTION

This should not be presented as a formula to copy from one Nation to another. Carbon rights, land tenure, methodologies, additionality, provincial policy, project economics and governance all differ across Canada.

THE KEY TAKEAWAY

An intact forest can be seen through more than the value of what can be taken out of it.

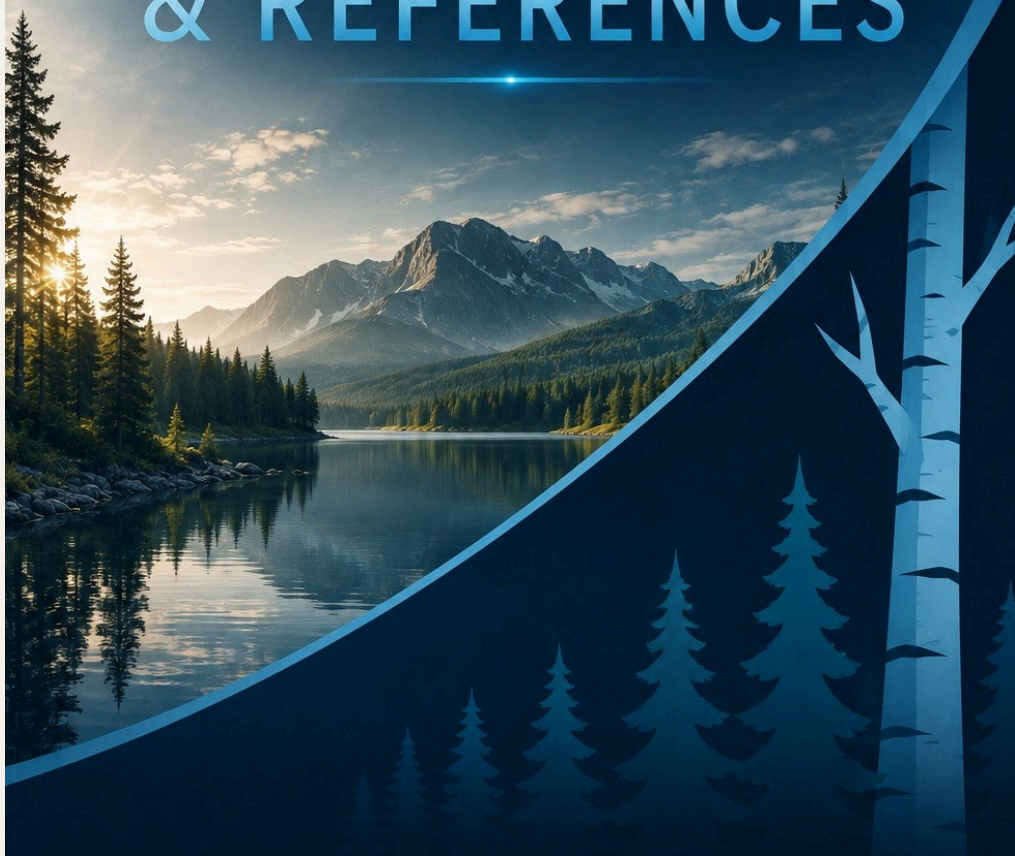
Great Bear challenges the idea that Nations must choose between protecting ecosystems and creating economic opportunity. Carbon financing sits within a broader conservation economy alongside renewable energy, ecotourism, fisheries and aquaculture.

THE OBJECTIVE

Healthy lands, Indigenous leadership, sustainable revenue, strong communities.



RESOURCES & REFERENCES



ORIGINAL SOURCE

Resources & References



COASTAL FIRST NATIONS · GREAT BEAR INITIATIVE

Carbon Credits

[Read the original publication ↗](#)



COASTAL FIRST NATIONS · ANNUAL REPORT 2024 TO 2025

Great Bear Carbon and the Atmospheric Benefit Sharing Agreements

[Open the annual 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 original materials. 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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