



INDIGENOUS LEADERSHIP.
NATURAL SOLUTIONS.
SHARED PROSPERITY.



IPCA KNOWLEDGE BASKET

INDIGENOUS-LED CONSERVATION
& STEWARDSHIP



INDIGENOUS LEADERSHIP

Nations leading
solutions for their
lands and waters.



PROTECT & CONSERVE

Safeguarding
ecosystems for
generations.



STEWARDSHIP & KNOWLEDGE

Blending Indigenous
knowledge and science
for stronger decisions.



CONSERVATION ECONOMIES

Creating opportunities
that benefit people,
lands and cultures.



RESILIENT FUTURES

Building healthy
communities and
a sustainable future.



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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 IPCA Knowledge Basket is an Indigenous-led digital knowledge-sharing platform for Nations, governments and communities pursuing Indigenous-led conservation, including **Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas**.

It gathers free stories, reports, planning resources, toolkits, policies and videos so Nations can learn from existing experience and build approaches suited to their own lands, laws, knowledge and priorities.

Original Publication

IPCA Knowledge Basket

An Indigenous-led knowledge platform

This Edition

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

THE STARTING POINT

Why This Matters

Indigenous Peoples are not stakeholders in conservation. They are the leaders.

That principle sits underneath the whole platform, and it changes what a protected area is for and who decides how it works.

WHY IT MATTERS TO INDIGENOUS NATIONS

Protecting land does not mean removing economic value from a territory. It can create different value, built on stewardship, ecosystem protection and long-term sustainability.

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KEY CONCEPTS EXPLAINED



AT A GLANCE

What the Platform Covers

- Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas
- Nationhood and governance
- Stewardship, Indigenous laws and knowledge
- Conservation financing
- Guardians and monitoring
- Planning and nature-based climate solutions

WHO IT IS FOR

Primarily Indigenous Nations, governments and organizations, with guidance for conservation-sector partners and supporters.

KEY CONCEPT 01

What Is an IPCA?

A land or water area where Indigenous Nations, communities or governments hold the primary role in protecting and conserving ecosystems, through Indigenous laws, governance and knowledge systems.

Culture and language are treated as fundamental to the approach, not as additions to it.

MORE THAN A PROTECTED AREA

An IPCA can represent Indigenous governance, cultural continuity, conservation, land-based relationships and locally driven economic development, working together.

KEY CONCEPT 02

Conservation & Economy

The Knowledge Basket carries a whole theme on **Financing and Indigenous-led Conservation Economies**, covering revenue generation, conservation economies, nature-based climate solutions and Indigenous-led tourism.

THE UNDERLYING PRINCIPLE

Protecting land can also support sustainable economic opportunity.

KEY CONCEPT 03

Nature-Based Climate Solutions

The platform connects Indigenous-led conservation directly to climate work. Forests, wetlands, peatlands and other ecosystems can deliver climate benefit through carbon storage and sequestration while also supporting biodiversity, water, wildlife, culture and community.

DIRECTLY RELEVANT TO CARBON

It now includes resources on Improved Forest Management and Indigenous participation in carbon markets.

KEY CONCEPT 04

Guardians & Monitoring

A major area covers biocultural monitoring and community-based stewardship, including Indigenous Guardians programs, Indigenous Knowledge, community monitoring and approaches such as Two-Eyed Seeing that bring knowledge systems together respectfully.

WHY THIS BECOMES CRITICAL

Serious conservation and climate initiatives depend on Nations having reliable information about what is actually happening across their territories.



Birch Carbon INSIGHTS



MORE THAN A BOUNDARY

Planning an IPCA

Creating an IPCA involves far more than drawing a line on a map. The platform covers visioning, community engagement, planning, declarations, negotiations and relationship-building with partners, with tools and templates for those leading the process.

THE LESSON UNDERNEATH

Successful Indigenous-led conservation requires planning, governance, community support and long-term capacity.

BIRCH CARBON PROGRAM PERSPECTIVE

Learn From Those Ahead

The Knowledge Basket exists so a Nation does not have to start from nothing. Other Nations have already worked through visioning, governance, financing and monitoring, and shared what they learned.

HOW WE READ IT

Carbon work belongs inside a conservation and governance strategy, not bolted onto the side of one.

THE KEY TAKEAWAY

An IPCA is a governance decision as much as a conservation one.

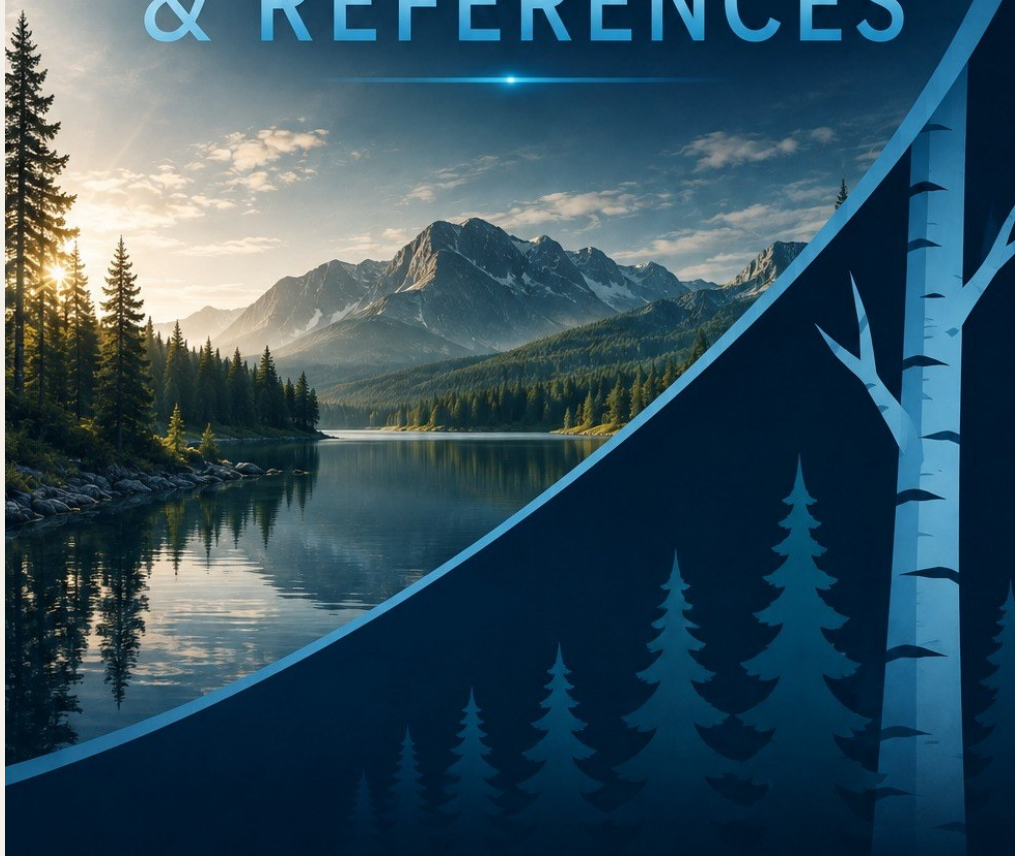
It sets who decides how lands and waters are protected, managed and used, and it does so through Indigenous laws, governance structures, cultural priorities and knowledge systems.

WHERE TO START

The platform is free, and it is organized by theme so a Nation can go straight to the part that matches where it currently is.



RESOURCES & REFERENCES



ORIGINAL SOURCE

Resources & References



IPCA KNOWLEDGE BASKET

Indigenous-led conservation and stewardship[Explore the Knowledge Basket ↗](#)

IPCA KNOWLEDGE BASKET · LIBRARY

Resources by theme[Open the resource library ↗](#)

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About this summary. This Birch Carbon Program Summary has been prepared as an educational companion to the original resource. It is intended to improve accessibility and understanding while encouraging readers to explore the platform directly. 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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