

# SUSTAINING PEOPLE AND PLACE

15 Years of Conservation Finance in the  
Great Bear Rainforest and Haida Gwaii  
2007-2022



COAST  
FUNDS

Coast Funds is two separate organizations created to manage \$118 million in public and private funds for Indigenous-led conservation and economic development in the Great Bear Rainforest and Haida Gwaii:



**COAST  
FUNDS**

COAST CONSERVATION  
ENDOWMENT FUND  
FOUNDATION

Coast Conservation Endowment Fund Foundation, a registered Canadian charity, manages a \$2-million regional conservation planning fund and a \$56-million conservation endowment fund, created with contributions from six private foundations.

The Foundation also manages a \$1.2-million stewardship endowment fund set up with money contributed by First Nations.

Income generated from the two endowments provides ongoing support for First Nations to develop and strengthen stewardship programs, Guardian Watchmen efforts, and regional stewardship initiatives. Investment returns from the fund are allocated to participating First Nations annually.



**COAST  
FUNDS**

COAST ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT  
SOCIETY

Coast Economic Development Society, a not-for-profit society, manages a \$60-million economic development fund, set up with contributions from the Province of British Columbia and the Government of Canada, in support of First Nation communities and businesses.

The capital in this fund is invested in business development initiatives, targeting sectors with good potential to support sustainable development and strengthen community well-being. The Society also works with partners to deliver financing for community energy planning and sustainable energy projects.

COVER

Nisga'a citizens conduct research on saak *oolichan*, a traditional food harvested in early spring and processed into grease.

PHOTO COURTESY

Nisga'a Fish and Wildlife + LGL Environmental

“

**Working in stewardship and fisheries for over two decades, I've directly witnessed the value that Coast Funds provides to First Nations communities on the coast, including my own. Stable and increased stewardship funding is critical for our Nations to carry out our stewardship responsibilities while adapting to the impacts of climate change.**

**TS'XWIIIXW MEGAN MOODY**  
BOARD MEMBER, COAST FUNDS

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# Chair and CEO's Introduction

In the 1990s, it was clear that the status quo – industrial logging in temperate rainforests with few benefits for Indigenous communities along the coast – was no longer an option.

To protect the Great Bear Rainforest and build sustainable local economies, First Nations worked with Crown governments, environmental organizations, forestry companies, and private funders to chart a new path forward. Their collaboration led to the Great Bear Rainforest Agreement (2006) and the creation of Coast Funds (2007), one of the world's first successful efforts at sustainable conservation financing.

In their negotiations, Indigenous and non-Indigenous leaders recognized that the well-being of people and place are interwoven and must remain so for true social, environmental, and economic sustainability.

Today, Coast Funds serves as a successful model of Indigenous-led conservation finance, demonstrating that First Nations' leadership and self-determination are key to the permanent protection and stewardship of ecologically and culturally significant peoples and places.

In this impact report, we're celebrating First Nations' successes in creating jobs, building local economies, transitioning to sustainable energy sources, stewarding their territories, conserving sensitive ecosystems, and revitalizing their languages and cultural knowledge. We're also sharing Coast Funds' story and examples of the ways we work in service of First Nations and their goals for a healthy, thriving coast.

First Nations have ambitious goals for their stewardship programs. To help achieve these goals, Coast Funds continues to evolve to offer new services to document stewardship visions, forecast revenue and human resources needs, develop strategies to increase access to self-determined revenue, and manage investments for terrestrial and marine stewardship.

As biodiversity loss and the climate crisis shift patterns that Indigenous peoples have long relied on and understood, our future holds uncertainty and challenge. At Coast Funds, we work in service of First Nations who are meeting these challenges, collaborating with partners, leveraging stewardship financing, and charting a path for allies and generations to come.



**DALLAS SMITH**  
Chair, Board of Directors



**EDDY ADRA**  
Chief Executive Officer



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Our original philanthropic investments in Coast Funds have returned significant results. We are excited to see what comes next as the Indigenous Nations served by Coast Funds continue their success in conservation, stewardship and improving the well-being of their communities.

**MEAGHAN CALCARI CAMPBELL**  
Program Officer, Marine Conservation Initiative,  
Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation



# OUR PLACE ON THE COAST

Established in 2007, Coast Funds partners with First Nations in the Great Bear Rainforest and Haida Gwaii to support their visions for healthy ecosystems and thriving coastal economies.

Through the 2016 Great Bear Rainforest Land Use Objectives Order, 85% of the forests in the Great Bear Rainforest are protected.

PHOTO BY  
Andrew S Wright

# Creating Coast Funds

The Great Bear Rainforest and Haida Gwaii contain one of the world's largest remaining coastal temperate rainforests. For millennia, these old growth forests have sustained complex ecosystems and rich human cultures.

Across generations, First Nations have cared for and relied upon the abundance of the lands, waters, and wildlife in their territories, using their intimate knowledge of seasonal cycles to sustainably harvest a wide variety of resources.

In modern times, newcomers came to the coast to log the old growth forests, fish the salmon, and hunt large mammals like bears, otters, and wolves. Settler-owned pulp mills, sawmills, logging camps, canneries, and mines extracted resources from First Nations' traditional territories, with few benefits to First Nations, whose communities suffered extensive economic, social, and cultural damage.

In the 1990s, First Nations began working with environmental groups, Crown governments, and private funders to chart a different path.

## IMPACT AT A GLANCE

Since 2008, First Nations have worked with Coast Funds to invest **\$109.2 million** in **439** conservation, sustainable energy, and economic development projects.

First Nations have used their investments with Coast Funds to **leverage an additional \$296.8 million** of investment in stewardship, businesses, and infrastructure within their communities.

## MILESTONES

**A NEW VISION:**  
First Nations, the BC Government, environmental groups, and forest companies announce land use management plans for a 6.4-million-hectare region known as the Great Bear Rainforest.

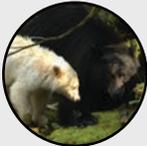
**COAST FUNDS:**  
Coast Funds established with \$120 million to support the development of sustainable coastal economies and stewardship of the region in perpetuity.

**FIRST INVESTMENTS:**  
Coastal First Nations invests to build capacity for economic development and stewardship through the Coastal Stewardship Network and Great Bear Business Corporation.

**FIRST GUARDIAN START-UP FUNDED:**  
Wuikinuxv Nation, with support from Coast Funds, starts a Guardian Watchmen program to monitor and protect important cultural and ecological resources.

**FIRST ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION FUNDED:**  
The Heiltsuk Tribal Council transfers its businesses to the newly-formed Heiltsuk Economic Development Corporation.

**100<sup>TH</sup> PROJECT:**  
Gitga'at First Nation invests in high-speed broadband internet for the community of Hartley Bay.



2006



2007



2008



2009



2010



2014

They envisioned a new kind of economy: based on conservation and stewardship, with Indigenous-owned businesses creating good local jobs and supporting cultural revitalization.

Through the Great Bear Rainforest negotiations, First Nations worked with Crown governments and philanthropic partners to secure protections for their lands and waters, along with financing for their conservation and economic development priorities.

Their hard work led to the creation of Coast Funds in 2007, one of the world's first conservation finance organizations, set up to manage \$120 million in conservation and economic development funding allocated between 27 First Nations.

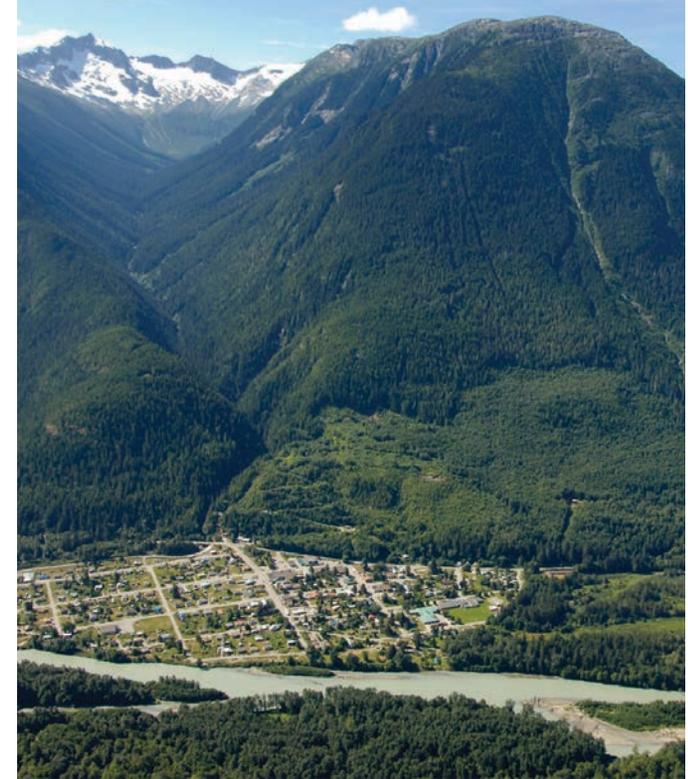
Through project investments, partnerships, and knowledge sharing, Coast Funds works to support First Nations' visions for ecological stewardship, community well-being, and self-determination.



LEARN MORE:  
**GREAT BEAR RAINFOREST  
AND COAST FUNDS**

Bella Coola, the largest community within Nuxalk territory.

PHOTO BY  
Michael J Wigle



**GREAT BEAR RAINFOREST LAND USE ORDER:**

First Nations sign the Great Bear Rainforest land use order which ensures 85% of the forests in the region will be protected from industrial-scale logging.



2016

**RENEWABLE ENERGY FOR REMOTE COMMUNITIES:**

The Province of BC and Coast Funds announce a \$7.9M fund to support First Nations transitioning from diesel grids to renewable energy.



2019

**NEW STRATEGIC GOAL:**

At the request of First Nations, Coast Funds begins working with communities to increase their endowments and access to stable revenue.



2020

**HITH'ALIS AGREEMENT:**

Kwikwasut'inuxw Haxwa'mis First Nation becomes the first Nation to join Coast Funds' stewardship endowment, investing \$721,000 for future stewardship projects.



2021

**DECOLONIZING GOVERNANCE:**

Through a change to Coast Funds' governance structure, private funders relinquished their voting rights, further empowering the First Nations we serve.



2022

**COMMUNITY ENERGY DIESEL REDUCTION:**

The Province of BC, New Relationship Trust, and Coast Funds announce a \$29M fund for sustainable energy projects in remote, diesel-reliant communities.



2022



Kitasoo and Xai'xais children take part in research on traditional foods, like crab.

PHOTO BY  
Rosie Child

# Vision, Mission, and Strategic Goals

## VISION

As we look to the future, we are guided by our Indigenous-led board, and our Vision:

**That First Nations exercise their inherent rights to self-determination, ensuring healthy and thriving communities and ecosystems.**

## MISSION

Learning from the past and looking to the future, we remain committed to our core Mission:

**To partner with First Nations in achieving their goals for conservation, stewardship, and economic development centered in the Great Bear Rainforest and Haida Gwaii.**

## STRATEGIC GOALS

Our strategic plan for 2023-25 challenges us to continue, expand, and improve delivery of financing and services in support of Indigenous-led stewardship and economic development along the coast.

- 1 To transition the operating model to continue providing valued services to First Nations and financial stewardship of the funds entrusted to Coast Funds.
- 2 To support First Nations' stewardship of terrestrial and marine ecosystems, culture, and protected areas.
- 3 To support First Nations in building healthy and resilient economies.
- 4 To partner with First Nations to proactively facilitate the sharing of knowledge.

DOWNLOAD:  
COAST FUNDS' 2023-25  
STRATEGIC PLAN

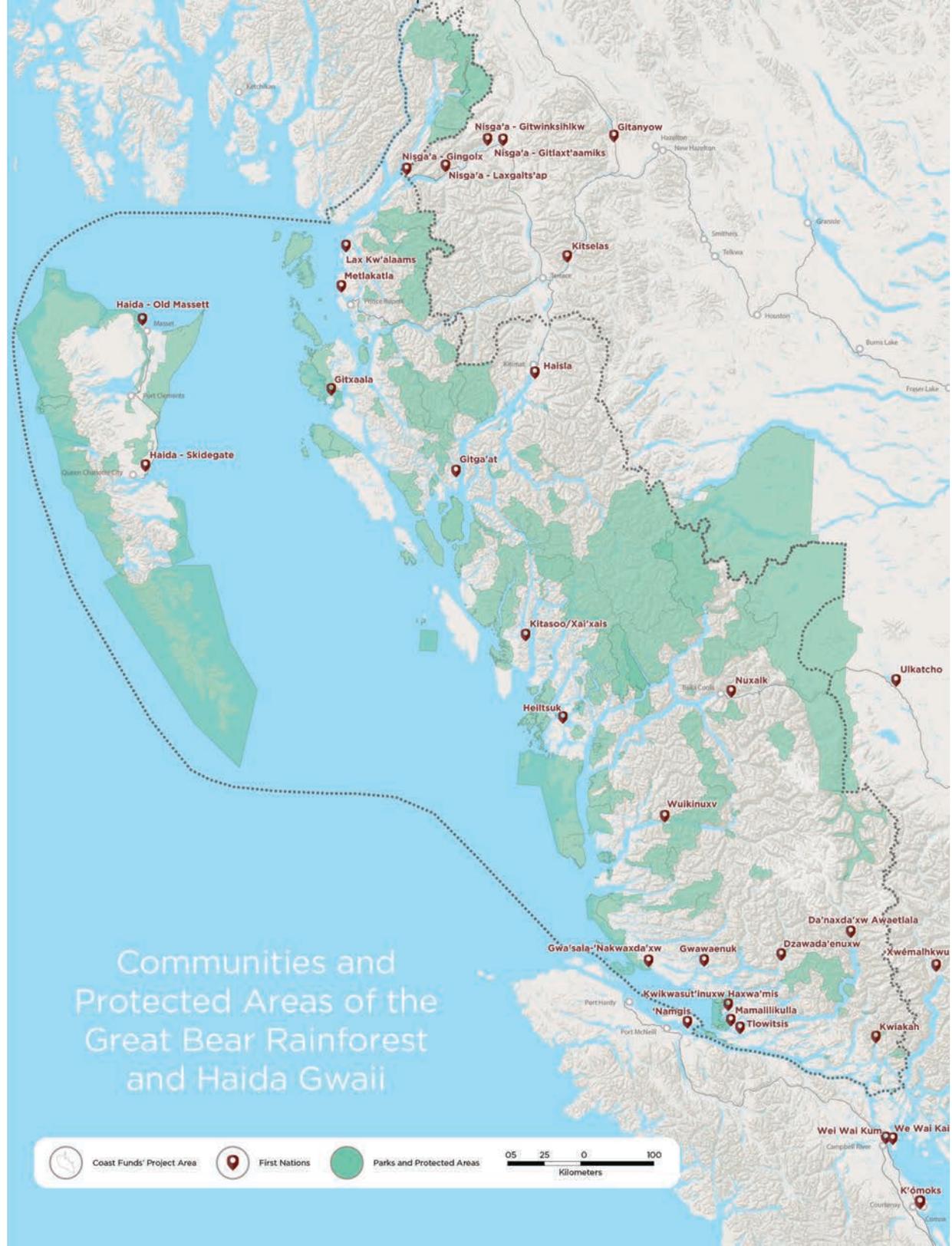


# The Great Bear Rainforest and Haida Gwaii

The Great Bear Rainforest and Haida Gwaii represent one of the world's largest remaining coastal temperate rainforests.

These old-growth forest ecosystems – with their towering trees, mist-shrouded mountains, and sparkling streams – sustain a complex and interconnected web of life that includes Indigenous peoples, wild salmon, genetically-unique wolves, grizzly bears, and the white spirit (Kermode) bear.

Through the 2016 Great Bear Rainforest Land Use Objectives Order, 6.4 million hectares (85 per cent of the forested land) have been conserved.



# First Nations We Serve



**'Namgis**  
Alert Bay



**Coastal First Nations**  
North and Central Coast



**Da'naxda'xw Awaetlala**  
Knight Inlet



**Dzawada'enuxw**  
Kingcome Inlet



**Gitanyow**  
Kitwanga River



**Gitga'at**  
Hartley Bay



**Gitxaala**  
Kitkatla



**Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw**  
Smith and Seymour Inlets



**Gwawaenuk**  
Watson Island



**Haida**  
Haida Gwaii



**Hałtzaqv (Heiltsuk)**  
Bella Bella



**Haisla**  
Kitamaat



**K'ómoks First Nation**  
Comox



**Kitasoo Xai'xais**  
Klemtu



**Kitselas**  
Terrace



**Kwiakah**  
Phillips and Frederick Arm



**Kwikwasut'inuxw Haxwa'mis**  
Gilford Island



**Lax Kw'alaams**  
Tsimshian Peninsula



**Mamalilikulla**  
Village and Compton Islands



**Metlakatla**  
Prince Rupert



**Nanwakolas Council**  
South Central Coast



**Nisga'a**  
Nass Valley



**North Coast Skeena First Nations Stewardship Society**  
North Coast & Lower Skeena



**Nuxalk**  
Bella Coola



**Tlowitsis**  
Johnstone Strait



**Ulkatcho**  
Anahim Lake



**We Wai Kai**  
Quadra Island



**Wei Wai Kum**  
Campbell River



**Wuikinuxw**  
Rivers Inlet



**Xwémalhkwu (Homalco)**  
Bute Inlet

# Indigenous Leadership at Coast Funds

Since the first negotiations for the Great Bear Rainforest agreements, First Nations have led in the development of protected areas and the creation of Coast Funds.

Recognizing that human well-being and ecological stewardship are interconnected, First Nations leaders urged their partners to blend investments in terrestrial conservation with financing for sustainable economic development.

Over the last 15 years, First Nations' vision and leadership have shaped the evolution of Coast Funds from conservation trust to trusted partner.

## FINANCING MODEL

Coast Funds is entrusted to manage funds on behalf of the 27 First Nations we serve. As both the economic fund and stewardship endowment are pre-allocated, First Nations have access to predictable financing and do not compete with one another.

First Nations take the lead in determining which projects to invest in, when to use their allocations, and how best to deliver projects to meet their goals.

## GOVERNANCE, OPERATIONS

Coast Funds is governed by a board of directors who are appointed by and accountable to Members, who represent the interests of regional First Nations, funders, and Crown governments.

In 2022, the six private funders that contributed to the conservation fund consolidated their governance role and relinquished their voting rights as Members. With this change, First Nations hold equal voting share with Crown governments and have greater influence over the future direction of Coast Funds.

Our board develops strategic plans, approves funding applications, and ensures compliance requirements are met. Since 2010, our board has been led by an Indigenous Chair and, currently, five out of nine directors are Indigenous.

Our staff team includes Indigenous people and allies, who work on day-to-day operations and deliver on the board's strategic plan goals.



Through Coast Funds, we've seen how funders can decolonize and rally in support of Indigenous leaders and communities. In the Great Bear Rainforest, First Nations have leveraged these funds to grow their Guardian and stewardship programs, and create good, local jobs.

### JENNY BROWN

Director of Conservation Programs,  
Nature United



Gitlaxt'aamiks interpretive centre,  
Nisga'a territory.

PHOTO BY  
Coast Funds

PHOTO BY  
Christina Mittermeier

# SERVING FIRST NATIONS

Coast Funds supports First Nations with:

- Financing for conservation, economic development, and sustainable energy
- Long-term stewardship planning
- Fundraising to increase self-determined revenue for stewardship
- Storytelling and knowledge sharing



# Stewardship and Economic Development Financing

Coast Funds was created to manage \$120 million\* in financing for First Nations' stewardship and economic development priorities.

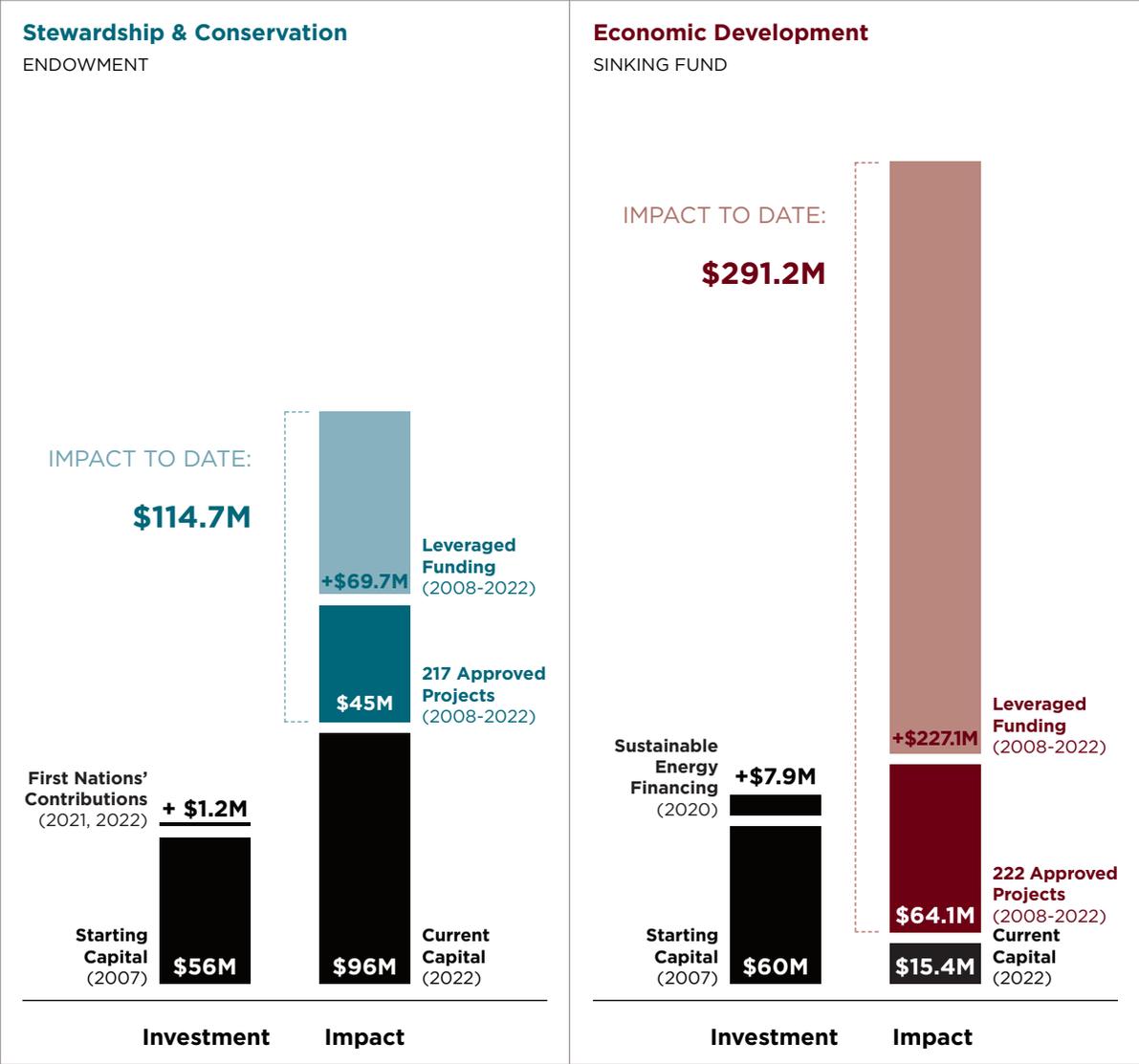
First Nations take the lead in deciding how to manage land and natural resources, and which projects to prioritize. Through investments in Guardian programs, sustainable energy projects, and businesses – like ecotourism, seafood processing, and forest products – First Nations are creating jobs in their communities and protecting the ecosystems that have sustained them for generations.

To date, First Nations have invested:

- **\$45.0 million** into 217 stewardship and conservation projects, and
- **\$64.1 million** into 222 economic development and sustainable energy projects.

For a full list of projects, visit: [coastfunds.ca/resources/annual-reports](https://coastfunds.ca/resources/annual-reports)

\*When Coast Funds was established in 2007, Crown governments contributed \$60 million for economic development and private funders contributed \$56 million for a permanent conservation endowment, \$2 million for conservation planning, and \$2 million for operational start-up.



# Supporting the Growth of Stewardship Programs

Along the coast, First Nations are reasserting their rights and roles as caretakers of the lands, waters, and life in their traditional territories.

To do this important work, First Nations are growing their stewardship and Guardian programs to conduct research, restore damaged ecosystems, gather data, and maintain a presence on their territories.



Wei Wai Kum Guardians install enclosure fencing to protect the Campbell River estuary from non-migratory geese.

PHOTO BY

Deirdre Leowinata / Coast Funds

## STEWARDSHIP PLANNING

First Nations have ambitious plans for growing their stewardship programs in the coming years. Coast Funds works with First Nations, upon request, to develop 10-year stewardship visions, which outline a Nation's stewardship goals and the financing and resources needed to fulfill them.

To create a stewardship vision, hereditary Chiefs, Council members, and stewardship staff members come together to confirm objectives for monitoring, restoration, compliance and enforcement, and to identify long-term human resource, infrastructure, and equipment priorities. The visioning process provides space for Nations to gather feedback from Elders and community members and to consider their stewardship department's structure, capacity, activities, and costs.

Once the goals are agreed upon, Coast Funds works with First Nations to map out the steps, staffing, and revenue needed to scale-up their stewardship programs to meet their vision. After the strategic plan is articulated, hereditary and elected Chiefs and Council members provide final input before formally endorsing it. The completed vision provides a framework for annual workplans and guidance to potential funders and partners. This planning process also identifies any funding gaps.

## CLOSING THE REVENUE GAP

Stewardship visions are ambitious by design. To implement their visions, First Nations need to increase their access to secure, self-determined funding to pay for increased operating costs, staffing, infrastructure, and equipment.

The endowments First Nations hold with Coast Funds generate predictable, long-term revenue. Larger endowments generate higher annual returns. Coast Funds partners with First Nations to develop fundraising strategies to increase their endowments (and the annual returns they can generate) and access other revenue sources.

By contributing to their stewardship endowments, First Nations can leverage Coast Funds' investment expertise and access to capital markets, while sharing management costs across a combined portfolio.



Indigenous peoples make up five per cent of the world's population and protect 80 per cent of the planet's biodiversity.

## UNITED NATIONS

Indigenous Peoples: The Unsung Heroes of Conservation

## INVESTMENT TOOLS FOR FIRST NATIONS

Many First Nations are increasing their access to revenues from forestry, mining, resource development, and other economic activities within their territories. These revenues can help fund up-front costs for stewardship programming or can be added to their endowments with Coast Funds to generate long-term revenue.

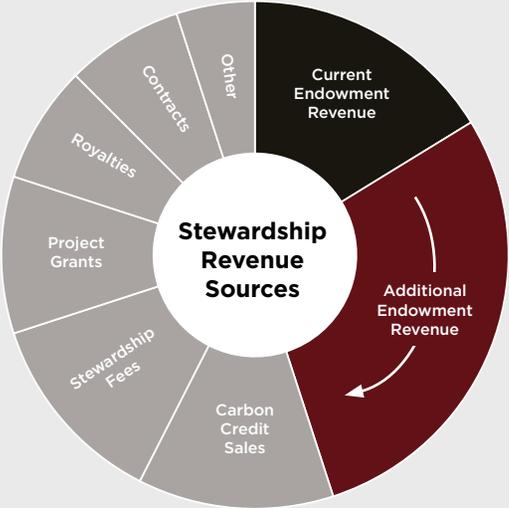
To meet the needs of First Nations that want flexible access to capital, Coast Funds created the One Generation Fund in 2021, a new investment tool that allows participants to receive annual returns, with the option to withdraw the principal investment on a rolling 10-year basis.

	Stewardship Endowment Fund	One Generation Fund
Purpose	Contributions are endowed in perpetuity, generating stable, long-term returns.	Contributions can be withdrawn on a 10-year rolling basis, allowing flexibility.
Time Horizon	Permanent endowment	10 years, or more
Historic Rate of Return	8%	Introduced in 2021
Target Rate of Return	Annual inflation + 5%	Annual inflation + 5%
Minimum Expected Funding	4% of invested funds	4% of invested funds
Management Fees	Up to 1% of invested funds	1.5% of invested funds
Minimum Investment	\$50,000	\$100,000
Inflation Protection	Fund is designed to grow with the rate of inflation (BC Consumer Price Index).	Fund is designed to grow with the rate of inflation (BC Consumer Price Index).

## THE POWER OF ENDOWMENTS

Endowments provide predictable, long-term revenue for First Nations' stewardship programs.

By fundraising, First Nations can grow their endowments - and their annual returns, providing a stable funding base.



Gwaxdlala/Nalaxdlala  
Lull Bay/Hoeya Sound.

PHOTO BY  
Taylor Roades



Workers install penstock, a pipe that brings water from a high-elevation lake down to a turbine to generate clean electricity for the community of Klemtu.

PHOTO BY  
Ben Whyte / Barkley Project Group

# Sustainable Energy Programs

Within the Great Bear Rainforest and Haida Gwaii, there are 11 “off grid” First Nation communities that aren’t connected to British Columbia’s electrical grid. These communities generate their electricity locally and many rely on diesel fuel for all or part of their energy needs.

Together, these communities purchase, transport, and burn approximately 15.3 million litres of diesel fuel each year.

Historically, remote communities have had few opportunities to pursue other energy options and have contended with volatile fuel costs, air and noise pollution, and risks and costs associated with accidents, spills, and delivery delays.

Coast Funds works with First Nations to understand community priorities, support community energy planning, and deliver financing for sustainable energy projects.



RESEARCH:  
**PATHS TO ENERGY  
SOVEREIGNTY**

## COMMUNITY INVESTMENTS

In 2020, we partnered with the Province of BC to deliver the **Renewable Energy for Remote Communities** program delivering \$7.9 million of investment into First Nations’ sustainable energy projects:

- **Dzawada’enuxw First Nation** is completing a 350kW hydropower facility at Pakadus Creek. Once complete, the facility will provide power for 95 people living in U’kwanalis, a village located on Gwa’yi *Kingcome River*, northeast of Broughton Island. The community has relied on diesel for 20 years and will soon be able to reduce their consumption by 97 per cent.
- **Kitasoo Xai’xais First Nation** has upgraded its hydropower facility to deliver up to 1.7MW of power for the 300 people living in Klemtu. With the new capacity, the community will be able to build new homes, upgrade infrastructure, and start businesses.

Building on this success, Coast Funds partnered with the New Relationship Trust and the Province of BC to launch the **Community Energy Diesel Reduction** program in 2022, a three-year, \$29-million investment to support remote communities in implementing sustainable energy projects and reducing their dependence on diesel fuel for electricity.

# Knowledge Sharing and Storytelling

In the spirit of reciprocity, Coast Funds collaborates with First Nations to document their project outcomes, craft project stories, and share what we've learned. Through these activities, Coast Funds helps demonstrate the impact of First Nations' project investments on community well-being, and supports Nation-to-Nation learning and collaboration on stewardship, economic development, and conservation financing.

Beyond the Great Bear Rainforest and Haida Gwaii, Coast Funds supports and participates in knowledge exchanges between the coastal communities we serve and Indigenous peoples from other parts of the world who are interested in using models like Project Finance for Permanence to raise funds for long-term conservation of their lands and waters.



Coast Funds was not only an inspiration for Seacoast Trust here in Southeast Alaska, but the Coast Funds team was a huge support along the way as we got our concept off the ground. As we all know, our Indigenous communities put relationship first. Relationships with the land, the water, and everything that depends on them, including each other. We look forward to reciprocating soon. These waterways will keep us connected.

**JOE NELSON**  
Chair, Sealaska

In recent years, we've met with representatives from the Māori (Aotearoa *New Zealand*); the Tlingit & Haida and Tsimshian (Southeast Alaska); Indigenous tribes in the Amazon (Colombia, Peru); and the Resighini Rancheria, Kashia Pomo, Amah Mutsun, and Tolowa Dee-Ni' (California).

We also engage with academics, conservation and NGO leaders, think tanks, and professional networks to share our progress and learn from others' approaches.

In addition, Coast Funds has made its founding documents, investment policy, and governance documents available on our website for other conservation organizations, like the recently-formed Seacoast Trust, to view and adapt.



## PROJECT FINANCE FOR PERMANENCE

Project finance for permanence (PFP) is a way of structuring large-scale conservation work in globally important ecosystems.

The PFP model is ambitious by design: aiming for **complete, lasting protection**.

The model aims to secure all the components an initiative needs to succeed, at a single closing: strong partnerships and governance systems, secure financing, and clear goals for ecological stewardship.

Coast Funds, established in 2007, is one of the world's first PFP initiatives. Today, the PFP model is being used to protect sensitive ecosystems in the Amazon, Costa Rica, Colombia, and Peru.

PHOTO BY  
Andrew S Wright

## STORYTELLING

Through long-form project stories, Coast Funds celebrates and uplifts the achievements of First Nations, their leaders, and their community members.

Our team works closely with project leads to gather information and perspectives, work with knowledge holders, and craft authentic stories that reflect the experiences of those who lead economic development and stewardship activities.



## TALKING STICK

Coast Funds' magazine, the *Talking Stick*, features First Nations' stories and updates, high-quality photos, and news from the Coast Funds team.

We produce three print editions each year and mail copies to communities and partners in and around the Great Bear Rainforest and Haida Gwaii to ensure community members have access to these stories.

Get the digital edition:  
[coastfunds.ca/news/subscribe-to-talking-stick](https://coastfunds.ca/news/subscribe-to-talking-stick)

The *Talking Stick* is mailed to First Nations leaders and government offices in coastal communities.

PHOTO BY  
Coast Funds

## RECENT STORIES



**In the Steps of Our Ancestors: Wei Wai Kum Guardians Steward Territories**

→ [bit.ly/CF-WWK](https://bit.ly/CF-WWK)

**A Generational Investment: Hañtaqy Acquire Shearwater Resort and Marina**

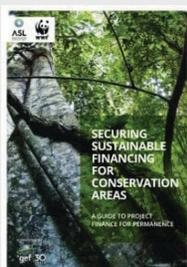
→ [bit.ly/CF-Shearwater](https://bit.ly/CF-Shearwater)



**Powering Klemtu: Kitasoo Xai'xais Upgrade Hydropower System**

→ [bit.ly/CF-Klemtu](https://bit.ly/CF-Klemtu)

## SHARING WHAT WE'VE LEARNED



**Securing Sustainable Financing for Conservation Areas: A Guide to Project Finance for Permanence.** World Wildlife Fund and the World Bank, 2021.

→ [bit.ly/CF-PFPguide](https://bit.ly/CF-PFPguide)



**Innovative Finance for Conservation: Roles for Ecologists and Practitioners.** Ecological Society of America, 2021.

→ [bit.ly/CF-ESA](https://bit.ly/CF-ESA)



**Indigenous Ecosystem Stewardship Exchange Program.** Alaska Venture Fund, The Nature Conservancy, and WWF, 2022.

→ [bit.ly/CF-Alaska](https://bit.ly/CF-Alaska)

In May 2022, a group of Mamalilikulla people travelled to Gwaɣɣdlala/Nalaxɣdlala *Lull Bay/Hoeya Sound* to celebrate their Nation's declaration of an Indigenous Protected and Conserved Area.

PHOTO BY  
Taylor Rodes

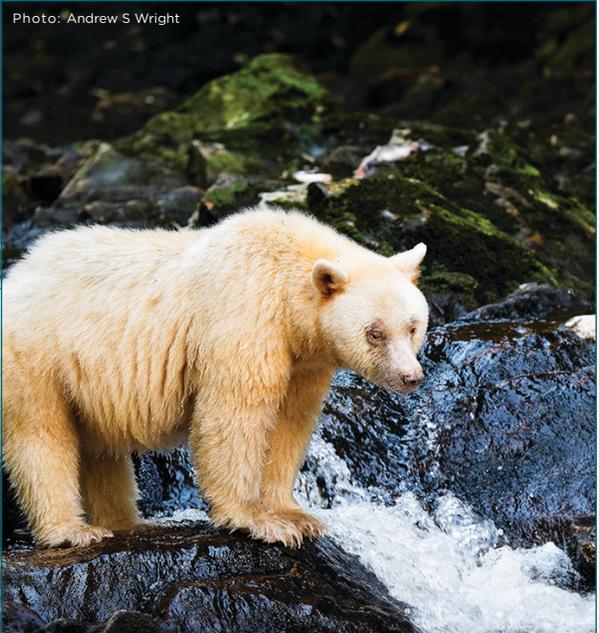
A woman with long dark hair, wearing a traditional Mamalilikulla regalia consisting of a red and white tunic with blue beaded trim and a floral patterned scarf, is captured in a dance pose. Her right hand is raised with fingers spread, and her left hand is positioned lower. The background is a blurred, overcast landscape of a bay or sound.

## COMMUNITY WELL-BEING OUTCOMES

Coast Funds works with First Nations to measure and track the incredible impacts of investments in community well-being. With these measures, communities have a record of their success and data to help inform future investments.

# Environmental Conservation Outcomes

Stewardship of such a vast region with incredible ecological and cultural diversity is a tremendous feat. First Nations are utilizing their stable financing through Coast Funds to address over-extraction, climate change, and biodiversity loss in their territories.

<p><b>RESEARCH</b></p> <p>Since 2008, First Nations have <b>completed</b>:</p> <p><b>389</b> RESEARCH AND HABITAT RESTORATION INITIATIVES,</p> <p>benefitting <b>75 different species</b>.</p>	 <p>Photo: Brodie Guy</p>	<p><b>MANAGEMENT</b></p> <p>First Nations have <b>published</b>:</p> <p><b>26</b> PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT PLANS</p> <p>that include information about how each area should be conserved and managed.</p>
<p><b>GUARDIANS</b></p> <p>First Nations have <b>established</b>:</p> <p><b>18</b></p> <p>GUARDIAN PROGRAMS,</p> <p>which monitor more than <b>7 million hectares</b> of land and marine territory each year.</p> 	<p><b>STEWARDSHIP</b></p> <p>Since 2008, First Nations have carried out <b>stewardship work</b> in:</p> <p><b>127</b> PROTECTED AREAS.</p>	<p>Photo: Andrew S Wright</p> 
<p><b>REFERRALS</b></p> <p>First Nations have <b>organized</b>:</p> <p><b>19</b> REFERRAL PROGRAMS,</p> <p>which assess more than <b>2,400 land, marine, and resource use applications</b> each year.</p>		

# Economic Prosperity Outcomes

In tandem with ecological conservation, with financing through Coast Funds, First Nations are continuing to grow and diversify sustainable and resilient local economies.

## BUSINESSES

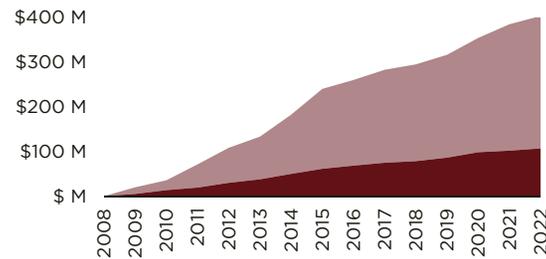
Since 2008, First Nations have **established 61 new businesses**, and **acquired or expanded 62 existing businesses**.

**= 123 INDIGENOUS-OWNED BUSINESSES**



## INVESTMENTS

Since 2008, First Nations have **invested \$107.4 million via Coast Funds** and **attracted an additional \$296.8 million** of investments in their projects.



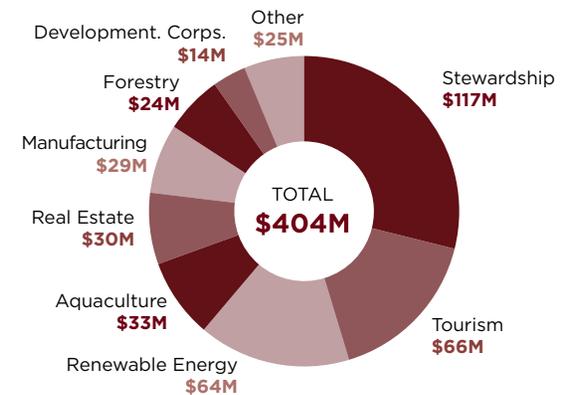
**MORE THAN \$404M INVESTED TO DATE.**

Photo: Coast Funds



## DIVERSIFICATION

Since 2008, First Nations have **diversified local economies** through investments in stewardship, ecotourism, renewable energy, and other businesses.



Figures rounded to nearest million.

## PARTNERSHIPS

Since 2008, First Nations have **formed:**

**1,097 PARTNERSHIPS WITH**  
**447 ORGANIZATIONS AND GROUPS.**

## INFRASTRUCTURE

Since 2008, First Nations have **invested:**

**\$122M INTO INFRASTRUCTURE**

including properties, buildings, and equipment.

# Social Empowerment Outcomes

First Nations are empowering their communities with financing through Coast Funds. This includes creation of permanent jobs and training for community members.

<p><b>JOBS</b></p> <p>Since 2008, First Nations have <b>created 1,253 new permanent jobs, employing 962 community members</b> in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Manufacturing, Processing: 371</li> <li>Stewardship: 346</li> <li>Tourism: 189</li> <li>Development Corporations: 163</li> <li>Aquaculture: 64</li> <li>Small Businesses: 62</li> <li>Forestry, Energy, Transportation: 58</li> </ul>	<p><b>SALARIES</b></p> <p>Since 2009, First Nations have <b>invested \$43.4 million (conservation fund) and \$20.1 million (economic fund) in salaries for local, family-supporting jobs.</b></p> <p><b>\$63.5M TOTAL SALARY INVESTMENT</b></p>	<p><b>TRAINING</b></p> <p>Since 2008, First Nations have <b>conducted 540 training initiatives</b> for <b>1,535 people</b> on topics including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First Aid &amp; Safety</li> <li>Stewardship Techniques</li> <li>GIS &amp; Mapping</li> <li>Vessel Operation</li> <li>Cultural Knowledge</li> <li>Leadership &amp; Management</li> <li>Science &amp; Research Techniques</li> <li>Data Management</li> <li>Guardian Watchman Duties</li> </ul>
<p><b>CERTIFICATIONS</b></p> <p>Since 2008, First Nations have <b>invested in training</b> that has supported workers to obtain:</p> <p><b>943 CERTIFICATIONS AND LICENSES.</b></p>	<p><small>Photo: Coast Funds</small></p>	<p><b>EDUCATION</b></p> <p>Since 2008, First Nations have <b>supported 128 people to attend university, and 137 people to attend college programs.</b></p> <p><b>HIGHER EDUCATION ATTENDANCE: 265</b></p>

# Cultural Vitality Outcomes

Following a long period of repression, First Nations are rebuilding their cultural vitality that is so deeply interwoven with their connection to place. First Nations have used their investments with Coast Funds to revitalize culture and language.

**STEWARDSHIP TRADITIONS**

Since 2008, First Nations have led:

**128 TRADITIONAL STEWARDSHIP PROJECTS**

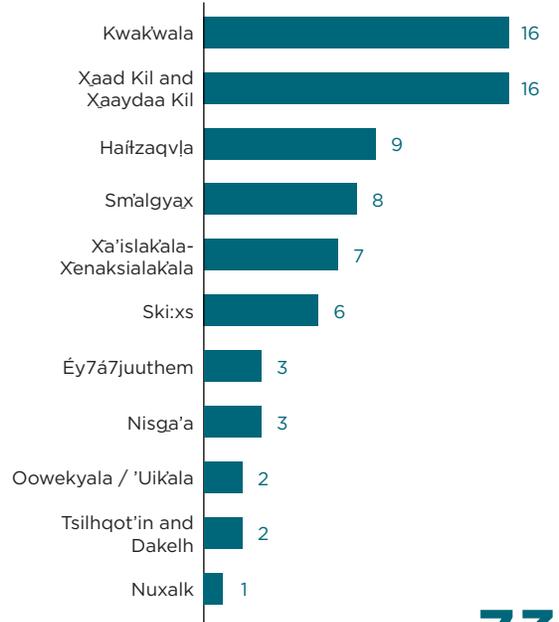
to protect and conserve ecosystems in their traditional territories.



Photo: Brodie Guy

**LANGUAGES**

First Nations have completed 73 projects that increase knowledge of Indigenous languages, including:



**CULTURAL ASSETS**

Since 2008, First Nations have undertaken:

**93 PROJECTS TO IDENTIFY AND PROTECT SACRED SITES AND CULTURAL ASSETS, INCLUDING:**

Fish traps and weirs

Petroglyphs

Culturally-modified trees

Photos: Nanwakolas Council, Andrew S Wright, Nanwakolas Council

**ELDERS AND YOUTH**

Since 2008, First Nations have initiated:

**98 PROJECTS THAT HELP TRANSFER KNOWLEDGE FROM ELDERS TO YOUTH.**

**FOODS**

Since 2008, First Nations have delivered:

**127 PROJECTS THAT SUPPORT ACCESS TO TRADITIONAL FOODS**

through habitat restoration, harvesting, research, education, and businesses.

**73**

**PROJECTS THAT SUPPORT INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE REVITALIZATION**



Oceanside guest cabins at Haida House.

PHOTO COURTESY

HaiCo

# SOUND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

Coast Funds operates like a public trust, investing funds in a diversified, socially responsible portfolio and maximizing returns for participating First Nations.

# Financial Goals

Over 15 years, Coast Funds has built a strong record of success in financial management. In our role as a steward of First Nations’ conservation and economic funding, we aim to maximize returns to First Nations through efficient operations and investments that align with Indigenous rights and values.

Through Coast Funds, First Nations’ investments are managed in a way that’s:

**Cost-efficient** – by supporting 27 First Nations through a combined endowment, Coast Funds can reduce management costs, delivering a higher return to First Nations.

**Diversified** – as an institutional investor, Coast Funds can invest in a wide mix of asset classes, including public equities, bonds, private debt, real estate, private equity, and infrastructure investments.

**Socially responsible** – with input from First Nations, Coast Funds has incorporated Indigenous rights, along with environmental, social, and governance (ESG) factors into its investment policy, screening out companies and funds that profit from activities that cause harm to Indigenous communities and territories.

**Impactful** – as a shareholder, Coast Funds uses its voting power to encourage companies and funds to make choices that are better for communities, natural environments, and Indigenous peoples.

## MINIMIZING OPERATIONAL COSTS

Coast Funds operates as efficiently as possible, while meeting the standards for service and due diligence outlined in our governing documents. In recent years (2018 to 2021), our board of directors approved budgets at substantially lower values than the caps imposed by the fund guidelines.

By leveraging grant funding from founding partners, Coast Funds increased its service offerings in 2020 – supporting First Nations with fundraising, storytelling, and sustainable energy planning – while maintaining a combined operating cost of 1.13% of total assets (2021).

## MANAGING FOR INFLATION

In 2020, the Foundation’s governing documents were amended to strengthen the sustainability of the Foundation for generations to come. In response to these amendments, the Foundation began protecting the endowment funds by saving in accordance with inflation when sufficient earnings are available.



# Socially Responsible Investing and Indigenous Rights

At Coast Funds, we recognize that our investments are not only important in funding conservation efforts in the Great Bear Rainforest and Haida Gwaii, they can be also a tool for positive change. Over the last decade, we have evolved our investment strategy to move beyond typical environmental, social, and governance (ESG) frameworks to further embed Indigenous rights and values in corporate behavior and governance.

## INDIGENOUS + ESG

Our Investment Policy sets parameters for our socially responsible investment approach. This policy excludes both direct and indirect investments in:

- Companies and funds that produce military weapons, weapons-related products, tobacco products, and nuclear power.
- Companies and funds that involve gambling or gambling-related products or services.
- Derive 20 per cent or more of their total production from Alberta oil or tar sands extraction.
- Enbridge Inc. (and related entities), with the exception of renewable power projects.

We use our shareholder voting power to drive companies to obtain free, prior, and informed consent from Indigenous peoples before beginning resource development. Our Investment Guidelines direct our fund managers' proxy votes in relation to:

- Free, prior, and informed consent of Indigenous peoples and social license to operate;
- Human rights and workers' rights;
- International standards for sustainability and social issues;
- Mitigating climate change; and
- Disclosure of ESG responsibilities.

## IMPACT INVESTMENTS

Coast Funds also makes proactive investments in Indigenous-owned infrastructure projects and funds that generate positive social and environmental impacts. Through our investment in First Nations Finance Authority bonds, we have supported:

- Mi'kmaq First Nations Coalition's purchase of a 50 per cent equity share in Clearwater Seafoods;
- Pekuakamiulnuatsh Takuhikan's hydro project in Quebec; and
- Penticton Indian Band's housing development project.

## SHAREHOLDER VOTING SUCCESSES

Recent examples of how our proxy voting has impact include:

- When the Bank of Nova Scotia considered potential impacts on human and Indigenous Peoples' rights, we sought inclusion of respect for free, prior, and informed consent of Indigenous communities affected by their financing.
- Voting to enhance the mandate of Loblaw's Risk and Compliance Committee to assign it with specific responsibility for human rights risk assessment, mitigation and prevention, policy formulation and adoption.
- Requesting Alphabet (the parent company of Google) disclose data on gender and racial pay gaps.
- Requesting TD adopt targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions associated with the company's underwriting and lending activities.

# Fund Performance

## CONSERVATION ENDOWMENT

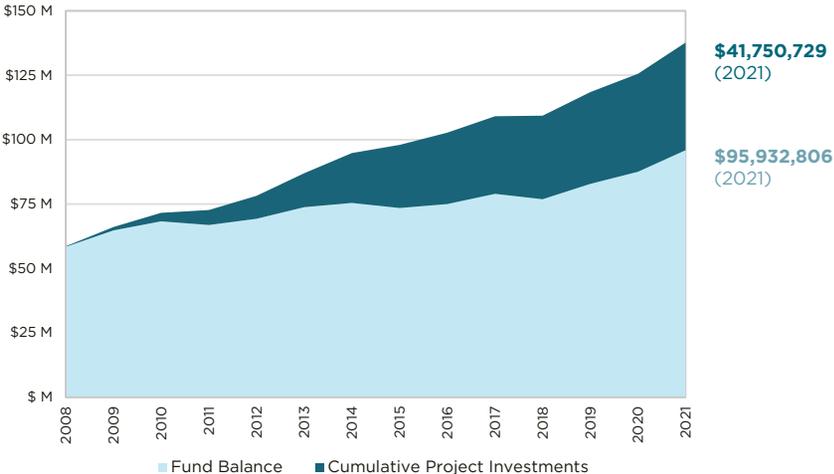
The conservation endowment was created in 2007 with \$58 million contributed by private foundations. In recent years, First Nations have contributed \$1.2 million from fundraising and their own revenue sources.

The endowment is invested in a diversified, socially responsible portfolio designed for growth while protecting capital. Each year, returns are allocated between participating First Nations, who then use their share of returns to support eligible stewardship and conservation projects.

Over the last four years, the endowment has generated an average overall annual return of 9.0% after management fees.

### Conservation Endowment

Balance, Project Investments (2008 - 2021)



## ECONOMIC FUND

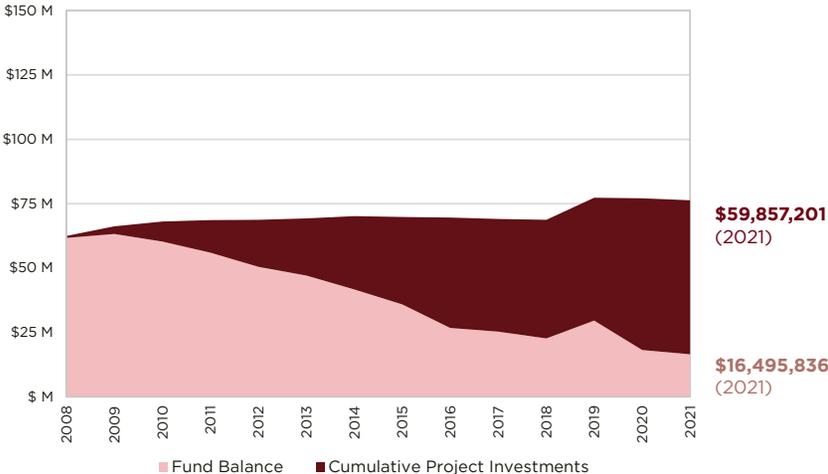
The economic fund was created in 2007 with \$60 million in contributions from the Province of British Columbia and the Government of Canada. In 2019, the Province contributed an additional \$7.9 million through the Renewable Energy for Remote Communities program.

The economic fund is invested in a socially responsible fixed income portfolio designed to maintain the fund's purchasing power. Participating First Nations are spending down their allocations and investing in businesses, infrastructure, and economic development projects.

Over the last four years, the fund has generated an average overall annual return of 2.6% after management fees.

### Economic Fund

Balance, Project Investments (2008 - 2021)



For more information, read our annual reports and financial statements at [coastfunds.ca/resources/annual-reports](http://coastfunds.ca/resources/annual-reports).

An aerial photograph of a coastal waterway. The water is filled with dense, brownish-green kelp beds that form intricate patterns across the surface. In the middle ground, a small motorboat with a white canopy is visible. In the foreground, a white kayak with two people is moving through the kelp. The background shows a calm blue sea, several small islands with green trees, and a range of blue mountains under a clear sky.

# COMPLETING FIRST NATIONS' VISIONS

First Nations on the coast have protected and depended on the wealth of ocean ecosystems for millennia, and their stewardship and economic activities have always included both land and sea.

The Mamallikulla Guardians survey kept in the Broughton Archipelago.

PHOTO BY

Markus Thompson—Thalassia Environmental

# Connecting Land and Sea

During negotiations for the Great Bear Rainforest and Haida Gwaii land use agreements, coastal First Nations won important protections and community investments – through a project finance for permanence (PFP) model – for one of the world’s largest remaining temperate rainforest ecosystems. While this was a significant achievement, further resources are needed to support the increased needs for Indigenous stewardship and economic development.

To make that vision a reality, Coast Funds is supporting regional First Nations with a marine finance strategy that helps to complete First Nations’ vision for the coast, ensuring complete protection from land to sea. This includes efforts to progress a new PFP for the Great Bear Sea.

Through the Marine Planning Partnership (MaPP), First Nations have worked with the Province of BC to develop marine use plans for the Pacific Coast. These plans form the basis for a network of marine protected areas (MPAs), which would enable lasting protection for ocean ecosystems and complete First Nations’ vision for stewardship and well-being across land and sea. In 2021, First Nations formed the Coast Solutions Task Group to develop a marine finance strategy that includes assessing the feasibility of a new PFP initiative for the Northern Shelf Bioregion, also called the Great Bear Sea.

Once implemented, a marine PFP could deliver sustainable financing to uphold First Nations’ inherent authorities and stewardship responsibilities in their marine territories, helping to protect seven million acres through a connected network of new and improved MPAs. Sustained support for Indigenous-led marine ecosystem stewardship, monitoring, restoration, and management will help create jobs and other socio-economic benefits for 15,000 people on the coast.

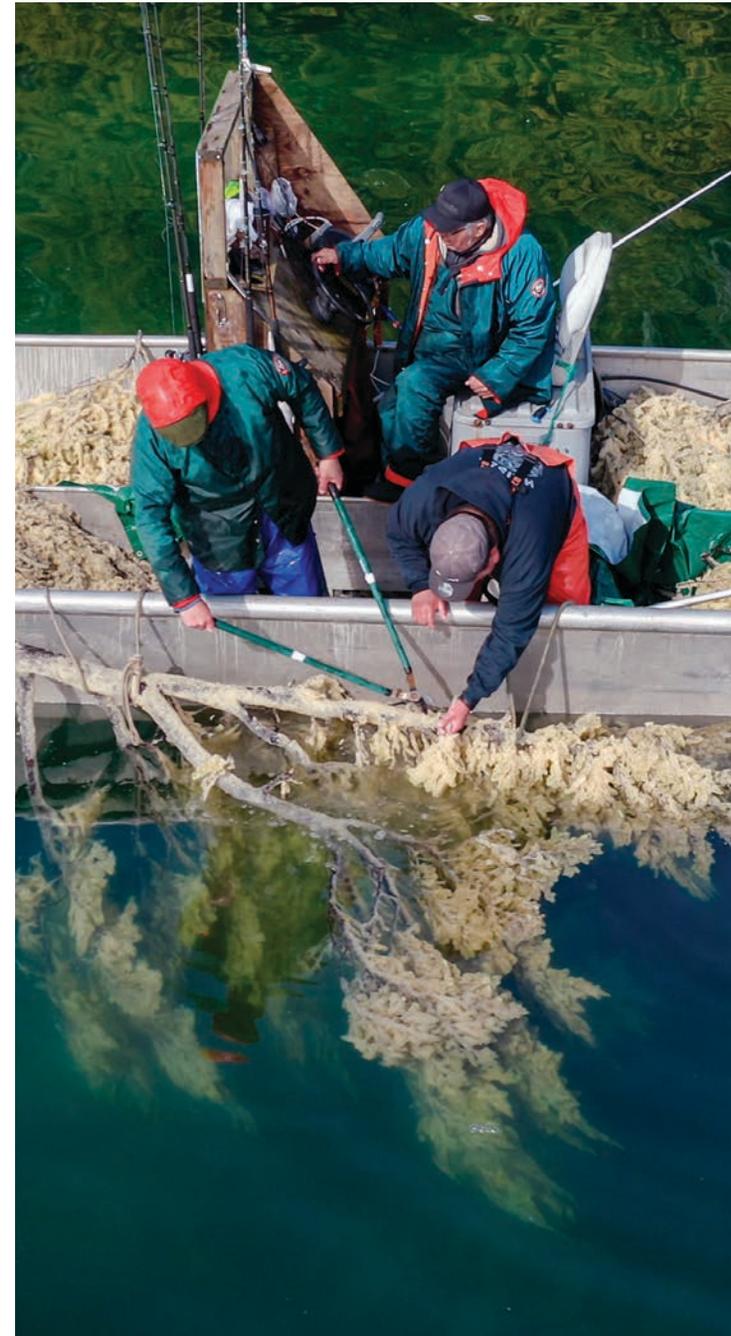


We’re coastal people, and our culture and way of life are connected to the health of our oceans. Until we complete the marine plan, our vision is incomplete.

**DALLAS SMITH**  
Coast Funds Chair

In 2022, Kitasoo Xai’xais Nation declared a Marine Protected Area in Gitdisdzu Lugyek *Kitasu Bay*.

PHOTO BY  
Moonfish Media





# Invest in the Conservation Economy

In the Great Bear Rainforest and Haida Gwaii, First Nations are building a conservation economy that's grounded in traditional knowledge and sustains life and livelihoods. With financing through Coast Funds, First Nations are shaping sustainable local economies and stewarding lands, waters, and wildlife in their territories.

Over the last 15 years, Coast Funds has proven that our conservation finance model works. With stable, secure revenue, First Nations are reasserting their stewardship roles and protecting sensitive ecosystems while, at the same time, creating family-supporting jobs and supporting community well-being. Since 2007, Coast Funds has worked with First Nations to invest in local priorities, track project outcomes, build strong relationships, and share knowledge with partners and allies.

As we look to the future, we're eager to build on this success. At the request of First Nations, Coast Funds is seeking partners in government, industry, and philanthropy who share our commitment to Indigenous self-determination and building a conservation economy that works for all.

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Haisla Nation's fisheries team leads on research and restoration, benefitting eulachon, salmon, and shellfish.

PHOTO BY  
Haisla Fisheries Commission

By investing with Coast Funds, partners can demonstrate their support for First Nations' leadership, economic reconciliation, biodiversity protection, and sustainable development. As a registered charity, Coast Funds can issue tax receipts and is ready to work with you to plan your contribution to Indigenous communities along the coast, or to specific First Nations that we serve.

**Join us for a conversation about investing in a conservation economy:**

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BACK COVER PHOTO COURTESY  
Barb Dinning / Nanwakolas Council



# COAST FUNDS

## COAST FUNDS

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[coastfunds.ca](http://coastfunds.ca)



Our offices are located on the shared territories of the x<sup>m</sup>məθkwəyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tseil-Wautuh) Nations.

